



BPaLM regimen for drug-resistant TB in India

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Context:

Union Health Ministry approves introduction of *new shorter and more efficacious treatment regimen for drug-resistant TB in India.*

BPaLM regimen consisting of **four-drug combination** –

1. **Bedaquiline,**
2. **Pretomanid,**
3. **Linezolid and**
4. **Moxifloxacin,**

has been proven to be safe, more effective and a quicker treatment option than the previous MDR-TB treatment procedure.

1. This move by the Union Government is expected to *significantly boost the country's progress to achieve its national goal of Ending TB* in India

Background:

1. The **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**, previously known as **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)**, aims to *strategically reduce TB burden in India by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals.*
2. This vision was first articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Delhi End TB Summit in March 2018.
3. In **2020**, the RNTCP was **renamed as the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP)** to emphasize the aim of the Government of India to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
4. It reached over a billion people in 632 districts/reporting units and is responsible for carrying out the Government of India's five-year National Strategic Plans for TB elimination along with the States/UTs.
5. The **National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination** was launched to achieve the target of ending TB by 2025 in a mission mode.

About Multi-Drug-Resistant TB (MDR-TB) MDR-TB

- **Multi-Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) MDR-TB:** It occurs when **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**, the bacteria that cause TB, become **resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampicin**, the **two most potent TB drugs**
- **Causes:**
- **Inappropriate or incorrect use of antimicrobial drugs**, or
- **premature treatment interruption** can cause drug resistance, which can then be transmitted, especially in crowded settings such as prisons and hospitals **or Using antibiotics in livestock farming etc.**

India TB Report 2024: Key Statistics

- **Notified TB patients:** 25.52 lakh TB patients in 2023 (increase from 24.22 lakh in 2022).
- **Reporting of cases:** ~67% reporting being done by the public sector and ~33% by the private sector.
- **Treatment Success rate among notified Drug-Resistant TB (DR-TB):** 65%.
- **Increase in Estimated incidence:** The estimated incidence of TB in 2023 is 28.4 lakh, an increase from the previous year's estimate of 27.4 lakh.
- **Mortality Rate:** The mortality due to the infection remained the same at 3.1%.
- **India specific data:** India reached its 2023 target of initiating treatment in 100% of notified TB patients with the infection.
 - It says 58% of those diagnosed were offered a test to check whether they were resistant to the first line drugs, an increase from 25% in 2015.