Combating Tuberculosis (TB)

Syllabus subtopic: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

News: Inaugurating ‘The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health’ in Hyderabad, the Vice President of India has called for developing a new and long-lasting vaccine to combat TB.

Prelims focus: Key facts about TB

Mains focus: India’s efforts in combating TB, challenges and achievements so far.

Main concern:

Inaugurating ‘The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health’ in Hyderabad, the Vice President of India has called for developing a new and long-lasting vaccine to combat TB.

Key Facts

- TB was one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide in 2018.
- It is also the leading killer of people with HIV and a major cause of deaths related to antimicrobial resistance.
- India is among the eight countries that accounted for 66% of the new TB cases: China, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and South Africa are the other nations.
- During 2000-2018, TB mortality rate fell by 42%.

Efforts of Indian Government to eradicate TB

- In 1962, the National TB Programme (NTP) was launched in the form of District TB Centre model, with Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccination. Although BCG immunisation does prevent severe multi-organ TB disease in young children, it does not control TB.

- In 1978, the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) began, giving BCG to all babies soon after birth and achieving more than 90% coverage. However, the NTP and the EPI had not reduced India’s TB burden.
• In 1993, the **Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP)** was launched, offering free diagnosis and treatment for patients rescuing them from otherwise sure death. It brought down TB incidence in India at an annual rate of 1.7%.

• In 2018, India has pledged to **eradicate TB by the year 2025**, 5 years ahead of the global deadline set for 2030.

• The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a National Prevalence Survey to estimate prevalence of tuberculosis at national and sub-national levels.