TB Division of the Health Ministry signs MoU to explore Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions in combating TB:

News

The Central TB Division of the Health Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

Tuberculosis:

- Tuberculosis (TB) remains the biggest killer disease in India, outnumbering all other infectious diseases put together this despite our battle against it from 1962, when the National TB Programme (NTP) was launched.
- All hope was pinned on mass BCG vaccination to prevent TB.
- In 1978, the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) began, giving BCG to all babies soon after birth and achieving more than 90% coverage.
- TB is a curable disease yet the impact of stigma can be long-lasting, often resulting in the breakdown of relationships. Stigma can be more devastating than the disease itself.

What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

"Artificial intelligence is that activity devoted to making machines intelligent, and intelligence is that quality that enables an entity to function appropriately and with foresight in its environment."

India and Tuberculosis

India has the highest TB burden in the world. In 2018, 2.15 million TB case were reported, which is 16% more the 2017.

Private sector has reported 0.54 million cases, which is 35% increase compared with 2017.

National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination (2017–25) has called for increase in private TB reporting to two million patients per year by 2020.

Government of India has said that New tools resulting from greater tuberculosis research and development (R&D) are essential to prevent those projected economic losses.