



## Meghalaya seeks TB survivors' help to battle disease

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Meghalaya government is innovatively pushing for tuberculosis-free State by bring TB survivors into TB control programmes and reskilling them as “TB champions” to promote early detection and treatment adherence among patient.

#### About Tuberculosis (TB)

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a **bacterial infection** spread through inhaling tiny droplets from the coughs or sneezes of an infected person.
- It mainly affects the lungs, but it can affect any part of the body, including the tummy (abdomen), glands, bones and nervous system.
- TB is a potentially serious condition, but it can be cured if it's treated with the right antibiotics.

#### Symptoms of TB

- Persistent cough that lasts more than 3 weeks and usually brings up phlegm, which may be bloody,
- Weight loss,
- Night sweats,
- High temperature,
- Tiredness and fatigue,
- Loss of appetite,
- Swellings in the neck.

#### Types of TB

##### • Pulmonary TB:

- TB that affects the lungs (pulmonary TB) is the most contagious type, but it usually only spreads after prolonged exposure to someone with the illness.
- In most healthy people, the body's natural defence against infection and illness (the immune system) kills the bacteria and there are no symptoms.

##### • Latent TB:

- Sometimes the immune system cannot kill the bacteria, but manages to prevent it spreading in the body.
- You will not have any symptoms, but the bacteria will remain in your body. This is known as latent TB.
- People with latent TB are not infectious to others.

#### Active TB:

- If the immune system fails to kill or contain the infection, it can spread within the lungs or other parts of the body and symptoms will develop within a few weeks or months. This is known as active TB.
  - About one-quarter of the world's population is estimated to be infected by TB bacteria but out of these only 5-15% of people will fall ill with active TB disease.
- Latent TB could develop into an active TB disease at a later date, particularly if your immune system becomes weakened.

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# Cong. calls for repeal of amendment to Data Protection Act

## POLITY

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday told Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw that an amendment leading to the “destruction” of the Right to Information Act, 2005 should be repealed. In a letter to Mr. Vaishnaw, Mr. Ramesh excerpted the original text of Section 8(1)(j) the RTI Act which allows citizens to apply with public authorities for information that is personal in nature as long as there is public interest in doing so. In the excerpt, Mr. Ramesh struck through the text that the amendment had deleted.

### About Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023

The DPDP Act is a **legal framework** introduced in India to **safeguard the personal data of individuals and ensure that their data is shared only with their consent.**

It **regulates the processing of digital personal data** and outlines various provisions to protect individuals’ privacy in the digital age.

#### Applicability:

- It **applies to the processing of digital personal data within the territory of India collected online or collected offline** and later digitized.
- It is **also applicable to processing digital personal data outside the territory of India, if it involves providing goods or services to the data principals within the territory of India.**

#### Evolution:

- The **conceptual basis of the DPDP Act is the report of the Expert Committee** set up under the **chairmanship of Justice BN Srikrishna**, which led to the introduction of the **Personal Data Protection Act in 2019.**
- **After several iterations and consultations, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023,** was introduced and subsequently passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

#### Key Stakeholders:

- **Data Principal (DP): – the data owner.**
  - DP could be **individuals or entities whose data is to be protected.**
  - The DP **has to give written consent to generate and process the data** indicating the specific purpose of its use.
  - DP **can withdraw the consent at any time** or can restrict its use.
- **Data Fiduciary– A data collecting, storing, and sharing entity.**
- A data fiduciary **also acts as a “Consent Manager”** who enables a DP to give, manage, review, and withdraw consent through an accessible, transparent, and interoperable platform.
- The **Central Government may notify any Data Fiduciary or class of Data Fiduciaries**, as Significant Data Fiduciaries, on the basis of an assessment of relevant factors when they turn out to be systemically significant.
- **Data Processor–an entity processing the data on behalf of a data fiduciary. Both Data fiduciary and data processor could also be the same** in certain small entities.
- **Data Protection Officer (DPO): – could be any individual appointed as DPO by a Data Fiduciary** under the provisions of this Act.

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# The complex struggle for 'Kurdistan'

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The story of the Kurdish people is as complex as their existence. A traditionally nomadic society spread across modern day Turkiye, Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Armenia, the Kurdish people have been moving around for more than a century in search for Kurdistan — a state which has been imagined by its people ever since the concept of a 'nation state' trickled down from the West to the Ottoman empire. Kurdish societies were spread across the Ottoman empire, and never managed to unite under a single identity like the Armenians and the Turks. Therefore, they were unable to make a claim for a separate state, as European powers moved in to carve out the region after the First World War, rendering them stateless in modern geopolitics.

### About Kurdistan Region

- It is a broadly defined geographic region traditionally **inhabited mainly by Kurds**.
- It consists of an extensive plateau and mountain area, spread over large parts of what are now eastern **Turkey**, northern **Iraq**, and western Iran and smaller parts of northern **Syria** and **Armenia**.
- **Governorates:** Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, Halabja.
- **Capital:** Erbil

### Geographical Features of Kurdistan Region

- **Mountains:** It includes the mountain systems of the Zagros and the eastern extension of the Taurus.
- **Rivers:** Tigris and Greater Zab Rivers flows through this region and support agriculture and settlements.

### India and Kurdistan region

- India established a **consulate in Erbil**, the capital of the Kurdistan region, in August 2016 to enhance economic and commercial ties with Iraq.
- Several Indian businesses have participated in trade fairs and exhibitions in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah in recent years.
- The Kurdistan region, comprising Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Dohuk, has **seen a steady increase in Indian workers employed in sectors** such as steel mills, oil companies, and construction projects. Workers from India are appreciated for their roles in these industries.

# India imposes anti-dumping duty on Chinese goods for up to 5 years

## ECONOMY

India has imposed antidumping duty on five Chinese goods to protect domestic players from cheap imports from the neighbouring country. These duties were imposed as these products — Soft Ferrite Cores, a certain thickness of vacuum insulated ask, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin — were exported to India from China at below normal prices.

### About Anti-Dumping Duty

- It is a protectionist **tariff** that a **domestic government imposes on foreign imports** that it believes are **priced below fair market value**.
- **Dumping** is a process wherein a **company exports a product at a price** that is **significantly lower than** the price it normally **charges in its home** (or its domestic) market.
- The duty is priced in an amount that equals the difference between the normal costs of the products in the importing country and the market value of similar goods in the exporting country or other countries that produce similar products.
- It is imposed **to protect local businesses** and markets from unfair competition by foreign imports.
- Thus, the purpose of anti-dumping duty is **to rectify the trade distortive effect** of dumping and **re-establish fair trade**.
- The use of anti dumping measures as an instrument of fair competition is **permitted by the WTO**.
- While the intention of anti-dumping duties is to protect local businesses and markets, these tariffs **can also lead to higher prices for domestic consumers**.
- **In the long-term**, anti-dumping duties **can reduce the international competition of domestic companies** producing similar goods.
- In India Anti-dumping and Anti-subsidies are **administered by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)**, which is operated by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, and headed by the "Designated Authority".
- The **Department of Commerce recommends** the Anti-dumping duty, and the **Ministry of Finance levies it**.



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