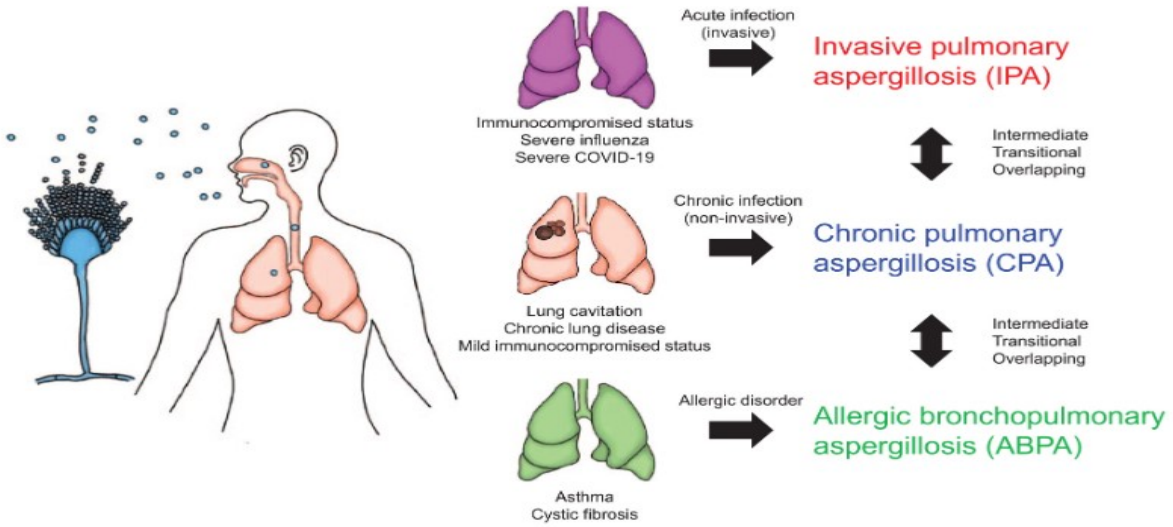
Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis (CPA)

Why in News?

Recently, a new research has identified a Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis (CPA) in tuberculosis survivors among Assam's tea plantation workers.

- **CPA** – It is a serious and ***long-term fungal infection*** that affects the lungs.
- **Caused by** – *Aspergillus fumigatus, a fungus* that strikes individuals with immunodeficiency.
- **Conditions** – It is a chronic lung disease that occurs commonly in ***pre-existing lung cavities***.
- Poverty, poor nutrition, kitchen smoke, close contact with smear-positive patients and living in congested environments.
- **Risk factors** – It mostly occurs in,
  - Post-Tuberculosis (TB) or active TB patients.
  - People with weakened immune system or
  - Lung diseases.
- **Transmission** – It is not a contagious disease.
- It can't be passed from person to person.

According to the National Tuberculosis (TB) Prevalence Survey 2019-2021, TB has been a major public health issue across the tea belts in Assam's Brahmaputra and Barak valleys, afflicting 217 per 1,00,000 population.



- **Incubation period** – *3 months* or more.
- **Symptoms** – Chronic cough, haemoptysis (coughing blood), weight loss or fatigue and other respiratory.
- **Impact** – It causes severe bleeding in the lungs, which lead to be fatal.
- **Treatment** – It vary depending on the severity of symptoms and any underlying conditions.

Using advanced serological testing and radiological imaging, the researchers recorded a CPA prevalence of 17.18% in the year-long study and seropositivity was 18.5% in active TB patients but spiked to 48.9% in those who had completed treatment.

References

1. The Hindu| Assam's tea workers prone to Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis (CPA)
2. Healthline| Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis (CPA)

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