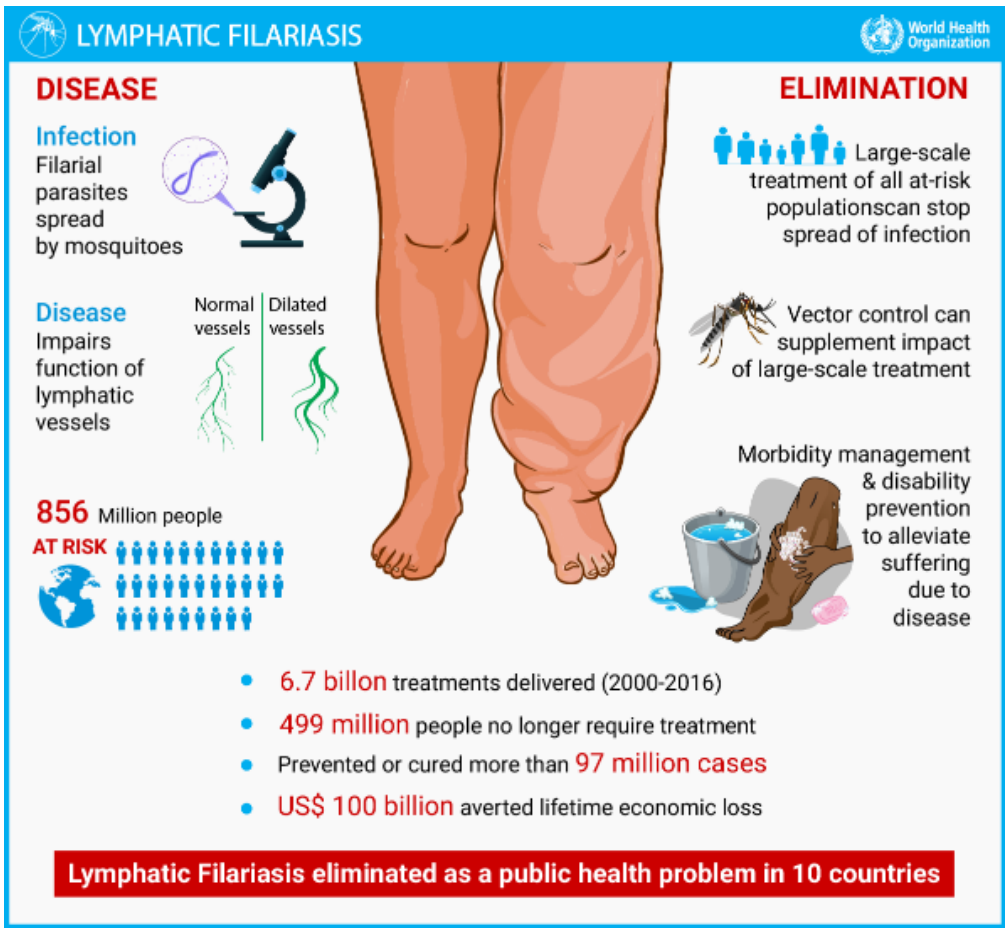
Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)

Why in News?

Union Health Minister launched National Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) across 13 identified LF endemic states.

- **Lymphatic filariasis (LF)** – It is a ***Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)***.
- **Caused by** – Parasites classified as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filariodidea.
- There are 3 types of these thread-like filarial worms
  - *Wuchereria bancrofti*, which is responsible for 90% of the cases
  - Brugia malayi, which causes most of the remainder of the cases
  - Brugia timori, which also causes the disease.
- **Causes** – It damages the lymphatic system and the kidneys and alter the body's immune system.
- It is commonly known as ***Elephantiasis or Hathi Paon***.
- **Symptoms –** Asymptomatic, acute and chronic conditions which leads to,
  - Lymphoedema (tissue swelling) or elephantiasis (skin/tissue thickening) of limbs and hydrocele (scrotal swelling).



- **Transmission** – It enters to human body through the bites of infected mosquitos to humans.
- **Transmitted by** – Different types of mosquitoes,
    - **Culex** – Widespread across urban and semi-urban areas.
    - **Anopheles** – Found in rural areas.
    - **Aedes** – Endemic in the islands of Pacific.
- **Risk factors** – It is usually acquired in childhood.
- **Treatment –** It is possible to stop the spread of the infection through preventive *chemotherapy*.
- **WHO recommendation** – It recommended chemotherapy strategy for lymphatic filariasis elimination is *Mass Drug Administration (MDA)*.

Mass Drug Administration (MDA) *involves administering an annual dose of medicines to the entire at-risk population.*

- 5-pronged strategy to ensure that Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) is eliminated much ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal of 2030.

Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign in India
• **Goal –** To reduce the spread of LF by eliminating the microscopic filarial parasites present in the bloodstream of infected individuals. • **Coverage** – 111 endemic districts across *13 states*, - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. • **Medication regimen** – **Double Drug (DA) –** Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (DEC) and Albendazole. • **Triple Drug (IDA)** – Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (DEC), and Albendazole.

References

1. PIB| Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)
2. WHO| Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)

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