

City TB toll 9,000 in a year

**Sukhada Tatke &
Malathy Iyer | TNN**

Mumbai: Even before the city has recovered from the news of the emergence of extremely drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis, here's another sobering statistic. TB claimed 9,168 lives in Mumbai in 2010-11, a rise of almost 10% over the previous year's mortality figure. In other words, the city saw an alarming 25 deaths every day.

TB's toll has been rising steadily over the last three years. With an increase of 963 deaths compared to 2009-10 and 1,123 deaths (a 14% rise) over the 2008-09 toll, TB-related mortality topped the list among killer diseases (malaria, BP, and diarrhoea) in 2010-11. TB has traditionally been one of the top five killers in the city, but its sting has

ALARMING RISE

Mumbai's TB Toll

2008-09 2009-10 2010-11

8,045	8,205	9,168
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Wards with highest toll over 3 yrs

F/S: 2,775	F/N: 1,712
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M/E: 1,643	G/N: 1,574
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Source: Praja.Org

46,800 Indians died of malaria in 2010

A study by a University of Washington team, published in Lancet, has revealed that deaths due to malaria in India could be 40 times more than the official figure issued. It said 46,800 people had died of the disease in India in 2010. **P9**

worsened in the last couple of years, suggest ward-wise data collected by NGO Praja

Org. While 8,205 people lost their lives in 2009-10, the disease claimed 8,045 in 2008-09.

Blaming government agencies for the spread of TB, Praja founder Nitai Mehta said, "It reflects a failure of the healthcare system. At a time when the disease should be curbed, a new deadly strain has emerged. The people who ultimately suffer the most are those who are poor and have no resources to take care of their health."

The data shows that TB, which spreads through air, is most prevalent in the city's congested quarters. Consider F/North and G/North wards that include Matunga, Sion, Dadar, Mahim and Prabhadevi and account for 1,712 and 1,575 deaths respectively in 2010-11.

► **TB-nutrition link, P 7**