



# नौरक्षय पत्रिका

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## Editorial



Dear Readers,

Tuberculosis is an ancient disease that continues to affect the lives of many Indians every year. India is committed to End TB by 2025, ahead 5 years of the global targets. India is also a signatory to the Declaration of the first-ever United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB last year. Since then, we have accelerated our efforts under the Revised National TB Control Programme to make sure that every single person affected by TB in this country receives the highest quality of care that they deserve. Under Nikshay Poshan Yojana 26.16 lakhs TB patients have received incentive so far for nutritional supplementation during their TB treatment through Direct Benefit transfer. We are working to expand access to new diagnostics and daily treatment regimens for all, including those seeking care in the private sector. We will build an army of TB survivors turned Champions who will work with us to improve awareness of TB and eliminate any stigma associated with the disease. As there is nothing about TB to be ashamed of, I encourage all those with TB to speak boldly and share their stories. TB is a curable disease and nobody should be discriminated against because he or she has TB. I am confident that if we all come together, we will be able to translate our vision of a TB-free India to be a reality in the coming years.

TB Harega Desh Jeetega!

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE:

Patient Corner



Inter-ministerial  
Coordination for TB



State level cascade  
training under  
SAATHII



Digital Health  
Workshop at Geneva



National Capacity  
Building Workshop of  
State IEC officers



Social Media  
Campaign



TB Eliminator  
Photo Gallery





TB Awareness Note Book Distribution in a School Meeting

## Involvement of Religious Guru to raise awareness on TB:

On the day of 'Guru Purnima' (July 27th, 2018) some staffs from the district Surat visited Swaminarayan Temple, Village Sakari, Treatment Unit Bardoli, Gujarat for Information Education and Communication (IEC) activity of TB awareness. They met the main Swami for dissemination of TB awareness activity in the temple grounds. A proper discussion on TB took place with main Swami in the assembly hall itself which helped in raising awareness among all the people who attended the 'Guru Purnima' Celebration in the assembly hall. Approximately 3000 people listened attentively about TB.

As a result, there was an increase in detection of TB cases at Primary Health Centre (PHC), Varad and Treatment Unit, Bardoli. All the patients have taken regular treatment at Primary Health Centre (PHC) Varad, TU Bardoli.



## B. Inter-ministerial Coordination for TB– A step forward towards a TB Free India



To strengthen the efforts towards Tuberculosis-free India by 2025, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has launched multisectoral coordination initiative. Under this, inter-ministerial coordination is being undertaken with various Union Ministries. As a significant milestone of these efforts, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signing ceremony was organized on 18th July, 2019 at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi with three ministries namely Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Railways.



The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan was the Chief Guest at the event. He spoke about the urgency with which India needs to tackle the TB epidemic and importance of convergent actions for addressing TB's social and economic determinants. Dr. Harsh Vardhan also appreciated commitment of Ministry of AYUSH, Defence and Railways for this important initiative. The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, the Guest of honour, congratulated the ministries and reinforced the importance for such joint efforts for other national programmes as well. Senior officials from the concerned ministries, representatives of World Health Organization and MoHFW's technical partners for multisectoral action were also present at the event. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State (Independent charge) for Ministry of AYUSH and MoS for Defence also graced the occasion.

Although being entirely preventable and curable, Tuberculosis is a major obstacle to India's human and economic development. India has the world's highest TB burden with an estimated 27.4 lakh people contracting the disease in 2018 alone (as per Global TB Report 2018). India also has a significant burden of drug resistant TB (DR-TB) and TB-HIV co-morbidity with an estimated 147,000 and 87,000 number of cases annually reported last year. A part from being a public health problem, TB is also associated with poor socio-economic development, marginalization and exploitation. The actions required to tackle the socio-economic and structural determinants of TB lie beyond the purview of the health sector alone, calling for an inter-sectoral coordination of various stakeholders.

By launching TB-Free India campaign on 13th March, 2018 at the Delhi End TB Summit, Prime Minister of India, Sh. Narendra Modi re-invigorated the Government's commitment to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has developed a National Strategic Plan (2017-25) for elimination of TB in the Country by 2025 which also envisages transforming India's Ending TB efforts from an only health sector response to a whole-of-society responsibility.

## C. State level cascade training under SAATHII (Catalyzing Pediatric TB Innovation project)

Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) and Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) have jointly updated the Pediatric TB guidelines and State level Training of Trainers (ToTs) on February 2019. The trainings were conducted by State TB cell in collaboration with Indian Academy of Pediatrics and SAATHII in the logistics and arrangements. Andhra Pradesh: A training was organized on 16th June 2019 in Vijayawada by 4 State-level facilitators for 59 participants across all districts, including representative from Centre of Excellence (CoE) Chennai, 25 Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) representatives, 24 Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme/World Health Organisation representatives and the 10 representatives from SAATHII.

**Maharashtra:** A one-day State level Training of Trainers (ToT) was organized in Mumbai on 13th July 2019 by 7 National & State-level facilitators for 92 participants from 27 districts, including participant from Centre of Excellence JJ Hospital and GMC Mumbai, 62 Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) representatives, 18 Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme /Medical College/ World Health Organisation representatives, 1 Joint Effort for Elimination of TB (JEET) NGO project partner and 11 from SAATHII.

**Telangana:** A State level training was organized in Hyderabad on 14th July 2019 by 5 State-level facilitators for 85 participants, from 26 districts across the state including 37 Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) representatives, 35 Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme representatives, and the remaining 13 from NGO - Joint Effort for Elimination of TB (JEET) project, including SAATHII.



Training of Pediatricians & RNTCP personnel on Updated Pediatric TB guidelines in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on 16th June 2019

## D. Global Fund Strategy for Digital Health Workshop at Geneva:

The Global fund has organized the workshop in Geneva on 28- 29 May 2019, where representations of seven countries from Asia and Africa participated to give the rapid growth in digital health. This was a country consultation for drafting digital health strategy and how best The Global Fund needs to position itself to support deployment of in-country digital health, particularly in terms of best practices and support needed.

**The focus of the workshop was:**

- Challenges faced and lessons learned,
- Best practices, innovation and successful stories
- Partnership with private sector, Universities and foundations

The team comprised of Dr Sudarsan Mandal, Addl. Deputy Director General from Central TB Division, Dr Jyoti Jaju and Dr Manu Mathew (National Consultant) from India presented the best Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) practices (Nikshay) on 28th May 2019. The presentation was highly applauded by participants and Global Fund officials. India is an advanced stage of ICT application for TB in comparison to other countries participated in workshop.



## E. National Capacity Building Workshop of State IEC officers

The National Capacity Building Workshop was organized from 6th - 8th June 2019 at National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI), Bangalore with following objectives:

- Formulation of strategy to reduce stigma and discrimination on TB
- Involving Media personnel for wide coverage of TB related news.
- Identify major barriers, constraints of IEC programme
- Strategy to engage community for demand generation of TB services.

All together 33 Information Education and Communication (IEC) officers of States/UTs were participated to upgrade their skills on planning, implementing and monitoring of Advocacy Communication and Social Mobilization activities. Following major topics were covered in 3 days are:

- How to design any media campaign
- How to use Digital & social media effectively
- How to engage political leaders, elected representatives, policy makers, public & private decision makers and PRI members in TB programme
- How to organize Media Workshop, write Press Release, Opinion article on TB
- How to identify and engage TB Forums at different level
- How to collect success stories from the field
- How to do Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) of media activities



## F. Social Media Campaign

Central TB Division has made massive effort in generating awareness regarding TB through social media. More than 1900 tweets have been posted through DDG-TB twitter handle in last 2 years.



## G. TB Eliminator Setting tunes to End TB

The most connected people in the community such as ASHA's talent as a singer and song composer came out in the limelight in State Telangana. The song is performed by team consisting of five members (2 ASHAs/ANMs, 2 TB Champions and Supervisor/Health Educator). The team penned lyrics on TB, TB symptoms, early detection, treatment adherence and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The team visits village to village and sings self composed TB songs in their local language during community meeting. Ms. Punyavathi (name of Aasha worker), her voice is melodious, acts as lead singer while creating awareness in the community.

Leveraging the real life of TB champions (cured TB patients) narrate their success stories to the current TB patients and exchange their experiences with each other and overcome the challenges in this community meeting. The teams were trained in a phased manner on especially designed training module in local language at State level. This group activity takes place in a planned manner covering 2 villages by each team in a week. The District TB Officer and State team are closely monitoring its progress on regular interval. This strategy has shown promising outcomes in creating awareness and removing stigma from the community.



Ms. Punyavathi, ASHA from Bhadrachalam district, Telangana



Ms. Rojamani, Ms. Kanthamma & Ms. Sharada Field Supervisors from Bhadrachalam district, Telangana

