

25.11.2026 NEWS

INDIA REDUCING THE BURDEN OF TUBERCULOSIS!

- India has achieved a milestone in its fight against tuberculosis (TB), with tuberculosis-related deaths declining by 38% since 2015.
- Globally, the number of tuberculosis deaths has declined by 35%. India has achieved a reduction that is three percentage points higher than the global reduction.

» National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)

- In 2020, the Central Government renamed the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) as the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
- Under this programme, a National Strategic Plan was formulated. Its four pillars are : Detect, Treat, Prevent, Build.
- The major objectives of this programme include identifying missed cases among vulnerable populations and detecting the disease at an early stage; providing quality medicines and timely treatment; reaching patients undergoing treatment in private hospitals; ensuring access to nutritious food for patients; identifying individuals who have been in contact with TB patients; providing preventive treatment to other household members; ensuring adequate treatment for children; and identifying people living with HIV and other high-risk or vulnerable individuals to prevent the spread of infection.

» TB-Free India

- To strengthen the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (TB-Free India Campaign) was launched on 9 September 2022.
- Consumption of protein-rich food helps tuberculosis patients withstand the side effects of medicines.
- In this regard, the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana was introduced in 2015. It provides financial assistance of Rs.1,000 per month to every tuberculosis patient.
- Tuberculosis requires prolonged treatment. A Ni-kshay Mitra refers to a 'Friend for TB Elimination' or a person who supports a patient during the treatment period.
- Individuals, voluntary organisations, corporate establishments, religious and caste-based groups, government officials and celebrities can voluntarily come forward to become friends of tuberculosis patients.
- By providing food to patients, Ni-kshay Mitras can reduce their financial burden. They can also provide emotional support.
- By regularly visiting patients at their homes and enquiring about their well-being, they can help tuberculosis patients rebuild their lives after treatment.

» 100-Day Campaign

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched India's largest initiative to eliminate tuberculosis.
- Named the 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign, it was launched on 7 December 2024, covering 347 high-priority districts across 33 States and Union Territories.
- Subsequently, it was expanded throughout the country. Through this initiative, the identification of high-risk individuals and early detection of tuberculosis were strengthened.
- Based on the experience gained from this campaign, the Central Government launched another 100-day campaign on 24 March 2026.
- Under this campaign, tuberculosis screening was conducted among vulnerable populations in 1.58 lakh high-risk villages and wards.

» What Are the Outcomes?

- More than 25 crore people were identified and subjected to tuberculosis screening.
- More than 11 crore people underwent chest X-rays for early detection of tuberculosis.
- More than 3 crore people underwent rapid and accurate Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT).
- 48.64 lakh new tuberculosis patients were identified.
- Among them, 14.97 lakh patients had asymptomatic tuberculosis.
- With the objective of eliminating tuberculosis, a nationwide social media campaign was launched. It was named JOSH – Joint Outreach for Strengthening Health.
- In October 2026, this initiative was launched on a pilot basis in 55 districts across 11 states.
- Each JOSH team will include volunteers from MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat) and students belonging to the National Cadet Corps (NCC).
- The team will also include an official responsible for creating awareness about timely screening and treatment. This initiative will encourage young people to create awareness among communities at the grassroots level.
- All ministries, departments, healthcare centres, volunteer coordinators, students and citizens have been invited to collectively participate in the tuberculosis elimination campaign.
- Young people, in particular, are encouraged to participate actively in this initiative.
- Everyone has been urged to join the campaign by sharing inspiring stories, photographs and videos on social media platforms relating to awareness creation, early detection of tuberculosis, treatment monitoring and building a stigma-free society.

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