



Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, chaired the World TB Day 2026 national launch event held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Nadda Reaffirms India's Commitment to Eliminate TB Ahead of Global Targets

**Under the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra
Modi, TB elimination has become a Jan Bhagidari movement,
driven by the collective strength of our people: Union Health
Minister**

**India Outpaces Global Progress with 21 % Decline in TB
Incidence and 25% Reduction in TB Mortality Over the Past
Decade**

**Treatment Coverage Reaches 92% as Undetected TB Cases
Drop from Over 10 Lakh to Less Than One Lakh Through
Intensified Case-Finding Efforts**

**Union Health Minister Launches Intensified 100-Day TB Muk
t Bharat Campaign Covering 1.58 Lakh Villages and Urban
Wards with Micro-Planned, Targeted Interventions**

**Since Inception, over 20 Crore Screened, 32.65 Lakh TB
Cases Detected Under TB Muk
t Bharat Abhiyaan, including
10.9 Lakh Asymptomatic Patients—A Major Breakthrough in
Identifying Hidden TB Burden**

**TB Muk
t Bharat App with AI-Enabled 'Khushi' Chatbot
Launched to Strengthen Patient Access and Timely TB Care**

**67,933 TB-Free Gram Panchayats Achieved; TB-Free Urban
Ward Initiative Launched to Replicate Community-Led**

Government Funding for TB Elimination Has Increased Ten-Fold, Strengthening Diagnostics, Treatment and Research Ecosystem: Union Health Minister

“ICMR’s Innovations Like TrueNat Are Transforming TB Diagnosis and Strengthening India’s Global Leadership”

TB is Preventable and Curable; Combating Stigma and Ensuring Early Treatment are Crucial: Shri J.P. Nadda

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Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, commemorated World TB Day 2026 at a national-level event held in Greater Noida, reaffirming India’s unwavering commitment to eliminate tuberculosis (TB), ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goals target. The occasion underscored India’s sustained, multi-pronged efforts to combat TB through strengthened public health systems, enhanced community participation, and adoption of innovative, technology-driven interventions.

Observed annually on 24th March, World TB Day serves as a global call to action to accelerate efforts to end tuberculosis, one of the world’s deadliest infectious diseases. The theme for this year, “Yes! We Can End TB!”, reflects renewed optimism, collective resolve, and intensified action at all levels to achieve a TB-free world, while reinforcing India’s leadership in driving a comprehensive and mission-mode approach towards TB elimination.



Delivering the keynote address, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, described World TB Day 2026 as both a moment of reflection and a renewed call to action in India’s journey towards a TB-Mukt Bharat. He highlighted that over the past decade, India’s TB response has evolved into a transformational, people-centric movement, driven by innovation, equity, and strong political commitment.

Recalling the vision of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Nadda emphasized the role of Jan Bhagidari, noting that TB elimination has transitioned from a Whole-of-government approach to a whole-of-society movement, where communities are active partners. This shift, he stated, has significantly

accelerated progress and strengthened ownership at all levels.

Highlighting key achievements, the Minister noted that India has achieved a 21% reduction in TB incidence and a 25% decline in TB mortality over the past decade—both outpacing global averages. Treatment coverage has reached 92%, while undetected cases have sharply declined from over 10 lakhs annually to less than one lakh, reflecting intensified case-finding efforts.



Emphasizing evidence-based policymaking, Shri Nadda noted that nearly 50% of TB patients do not present typical symptoms, prompting a shift towards symptom-agnostic screening. Under the intensified TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan initially in 347 districts and later scaled nationwide, advanced tools such as portable X-rays, AI-enabled diagnostics, and molecular testing have been deployed. He also informed that since the commencement of the campaign in December 2024, over 20 crore vulnerable individuals have been screened, leading to the detection of 32.65 lakh TB patients across the country.

Underscoring a critical milestone, the Minister noted that this included nearly 10.9 lakh asymptomatic patients who exhibited no classical symptoms at the time of testing. He described this as one of the most consequential advances in India's TB elimination strategy, as it reflects the programme's success in identifying the "invisible" pool of infection that would otherwise have remained undetected and contributed to continued transmission in the community.

Announcing the next phase, Union Health Minister launched the focused and intensified 100-day TB Mukta Bharat campaign, marking a decisive, mission-mode push to accelerate progress towards TB elimination. The campaign will cover 1.58 lakh villages and urban wards, each guided by granular, locally tailored micro-plans, ensuring precision in implementation and measurable outcomes. With a sharp focus on vulnerable populations, including the urban poor, tribal communities, and migrant groups, the initiative aims to bridge last-mile gaps, enhance early detection, and ensure equitable access to TB services, significantly strengthening India's on-ground response.



Highlighting treatment advancements, Shri Nadda noted that the BPaLM regimen for drug-resistant TB has reduced treatment duration from 20 months to six months, significantly improving adherence and outcomes.

On the digital front, the Union Minister launched the TB Mukht Bharat App, featuring “Khushi”, an AI-enabled, multilingual chatbot designed for accessibility even on entry-level smartphones. The platform provides real-time guidance on symptoms, entitlements, and nearest diagnostic facilities, thereby bridging the critical gap between symptom onset and timely care-seeking.

Highlighting increased investments, Shri Nadda stated that Government funding for TB elimination has grown ten-fold from ₹640 crore in 2015-16 to ₹6,356 crore in 2025-26, driving advancements in diagnostics, treatment, research, and social support. He also acknowledged the leadership of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which has emerged as a global leader in TB research, with innovations such as the WHO-endorsed TrueNat molecular diagnostic platform transforming TB detection both in India and globally.



Underscoring the importance of convergence, the Minister also noted that this shift from a government programme to a national movement has changed the trajectory of India's fight against TB, with over 24-line ministries, over 30,000 elected representatives and over 7.16 lakh Ni-kshay Mitras from various walks of life supporting TB elimination efforts.

Addressing stigma, Shri Nadda emphasized that TB elimination requires both medical and social action, reiterating that TB is preventable and curable, and early treatment reduces transmission while community support remains critical.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, highlighted the significant progress achieved under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan and reiterated the Government's commitment to a people-centric and data-driven approach to TB elimination.



She noted that since December 2024, over 20 crore vulnerable individuals have been screened, leading to the detection of 32.65 lakh TB patients, including nearly 10.9 lakh asymptomatic cases, underscoring the effectiveness of proactive and symptom-agnostic screening strategies.

Highlighting key national gains, Smt. Patel stated that India has achieved a 21% reduction in TB incidence and a 25% decline in TB mortality over the past decade, with treatment coverage reaching 92% and a sharp reduction in undetected cases. She emphasized that these achievements reflect strengthened case-finding, improved diagnostics, and enhanced treatment systems across the country.

Emphasizing strengthened last-mile service delivery, she highlighted the deployment of over 3,000 handheld AI-enabled X-ray units to take diagnostics directly to communities. This is complemented by the scale-up of 9,800+ NAAT laboratories and the integration of TB services across 1.8 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, enabling a fully decentralized and patient-centric diagnostic ecosystem.

She further underscored the robustness of treatment systems, noting the uninterrupted availability of quality-assured anti-TB drugs and diagnostics, and highlighted the expansion of TB Preventive Treatment among household contacts and high-risk groups to break transmission chains.

On social support, Smt. Patel noted that under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, over ₹4,590 crore has been transferred to 1.39 crore TB patients since 2018. She also highlighted the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative, which has seen participation from over 7.16 lakh citizens, further strengthened by the integration of MY Bharat volunteers providing psychosocial support.

Highlighting the importance of community ownership, she underscored the role of Jan Bhagidari in transforming TB elimination into a people's movement. She further noted the achievement of 67,933 TB-free Gram Panchayats, demonstrating the effectiveness of decentralized governance. Building on this success, the TB-Free Urban Ward Initiative aims to replicate this model in urban settings, ensuring wider outreach and sustained impact.



In his address, Shri Brajesh Pathak highlighted the critical role of States in implementing TB elimination strategies on the ground. He noted that Uttar Pradesh has intensified its efforts through active case finding, improved diagnostic infrastructure, and enhanced community engagement, and reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to supporting the national goal of TB elimination.

During the occasion, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, also flagged off the Ni-kshay Vahan, aimed at strengthening last-mile outreach and ensuring improved access to TB diagnostic and treatment services, particularly in underserved areas. The Minister further felicitated Ni-kshay Mitras for their exemplary contribution in providing nutritional, social, and emotional support to TB patients, reinforcing the spirit of community participation in the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan.



A Ni-kshay Shapath (pledge) was also administered during the event, reaffirming collective commitment towards eliminating tuberculosis and strengthening the nationwide Jan Bhagidari movement for a TB-free India.

The event was attended by the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Brajesh Pathak; Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Anupriya Patel; and the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, along with senior officials from Union Health Ministry, policymakers, development partners, civil society organisations, and community representatives. The programme also witnessed virtual participation of Governors of States, representatives from various State Health Ministries, and elected representatives from across the country.

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