



**Research Unit**  
Press Information Bureau  
Government of India

## World Tuberculosis (TB) Day – 2025

### Towards a TB-Free India

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

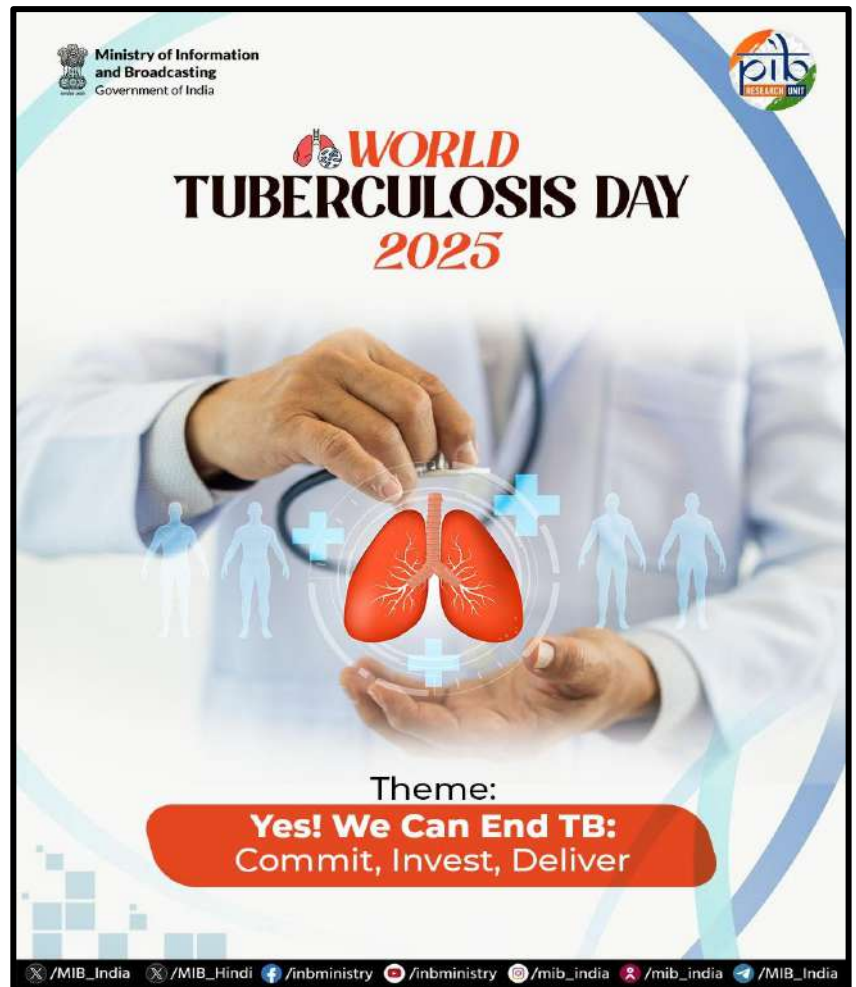
24<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

**“The decline in TB incidence is an outcome of India’s dedicated and innovative efforts. Through a collective spirit, we will keep working towards a TB-free India.”**

**- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi<sup>1</sup>**

### Introduction<sup>2</sup>

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed every year on **March 24th** to raise awareness about the need to eliminate TB, the world’s deadliest infectious disease. The day marks the **discovery of the TB-causing bacterium by Dr. Robert Koch in 1882**. India has been observing this day **since 1982**, along with the global community. Despite progress, TB still impacts millions, posing serious health, social, and economic challenges.<sup>3</sup> This year’s theme, **“Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver”**, highlights the importance of stronger commitments and action, especially against rising drug-resistant TB.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <https://x.com/narendramodi/status/1853008149240066222>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/events/item/2025/03/24/default-calendar/world-tb-day-2025#:~:text=Every%20year%2C%202024%20March%20is,the%20world's%20deadliest%20infectious%20disease>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-tb-day>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-tb-day/2025>

India's **goal to eliminate TB by 2025** is one of the world's most ambitious health missions. Under the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**, India has strengthened its TB response with advanced diagnostics, innovative policies, private sector partnerships, and a patient-first approach. Key drivers include record-high case reporting, better diagnostics, financial support for patients, and strong multi-sector collaboration. However, with global TB funding declining and shifting priorities, continued commitment is vital to meet India's 2025 target and the **UN's goal of ending TB by 2030**.

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**What is TB?**

**Tuberculosis (TB)** is a contagious airborne disease caused primarily by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It most often affects the lungs but can also impact other body parts.

**How TB Spreads?**

**TB spreads** through the air when individuals with lung TB cough, sneeze, or spit, releasing infectious droplets. Alarmingly, inhaling just a few bacteria is enough to cause infection. TB is curable and preventable.

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**The two main types of tuberculosis (TB) are:**

- 1 \*Pulmonary TB\*:** This type of TB affects the lungs. It is the most common form and is contagious, spreading through airborne droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- 2 \*Extrapulmonary TB (EPTB)\*:** This occurs outside the lungs, affecting organs like lymph nodes, bones, brain, kidneys, or the pleura. It is less contagious and usually spreads within the body from the lungs.

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Despite global efforts, TB remains a major public health challenge worldwide, with India bearing the highest burden. Understanding both the global and national estimates is key to gauging the scale of the disease and the urgency of India's elimination mission.

## Estimated Global Burden of TB



According to WHO, tuberculosis (TB) caused **1.25 million deaths** in 2023, making it likely the world's leading infectious killer after COVID-19.

Each day, close to **3425 people lose their lives** to TB, and **close to 30,000 people** fall ill with this preventable and curable disease.

About **10.8 million people** got TB in 2023, including **6 million men, 3.6 million women, and 1.3 million children**. TB affects people of all ages and is found in every country.

**Nearly 87% of new TB cases** were reported in 30 high-burden countries. Bangladesh, China, DR Congo, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the Philippines accounted for over two-thirds of all cases.

## Estimated Global Burden of TB in India

As per the Global TB Report 2023,

India accounts for **27%** of the global TB cases, the highest TB burden in the world.

In 2022, India reported an estimated **2.82 million** new TB cases - **199 cases per 100,000** population.

Estimated TB deaths in 2022: **331,000 - 23 deaths per 100,000** population.

**Drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) Cases:**

- 2.5% in new TB cases
- 13% in previously treated TB cases

Globally, out of **10.6 million** TB cases in 2022, **2.8 million cases** were estimated to be from India alone.

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### KEY INITIATIVES BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO ELIMINATE TB

To tackle this significant burden, the Government of India has implemented a range of focused strategies under its **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**. These key initiatives under NTEP aim to strengthen diagnosis, treatment, and prevention efforts, accelerating progress toward a TB-free India.

### National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)<sup>7</sup>

In **2020**, the Government of India renamed the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP) the **National TB Elimination Program (NTEP)**. This reflects India's goal to **eliminate tuberculosis (TB) by 2025**, five years before the global target of 2030. Here are the key targets for the Eradication of TB



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### KEY TARGETS FOR ERADICATION OF TB (BASELINE 2015) ARE:

- 80%** reduction in TB cases
- 90%** reduction in TB deaths
- No TB patient or their family should face financial hardship due to the disease

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tuberculosis>

<sup>6</sup> <https://dghs.mohfw.gov.in/national-tuberculosis-elimination-programme.php#:~:text=Introduction.a%20result%20of%20TB%20disease.>

<sup>7</sup> <https://dghs.mohfw.gov.in/national-tuberculosis-elimination-programme.php#:~:text=Introduction.a%20result%20of%20TB%20disease.>

The NTEP follows the **National Strategic Plan (2017-2025)**, focusing on four key actions:



**Detect – Treat – Prevent – Build (DTPB)** to control and eliminate TB in India.

### Objectives<sup>8</sup>



### Achievements of the NTEP Programme<sup>9</sup>

The NTEP is making strong strides toward eliminating TB by 2025. Here are its key achievements:

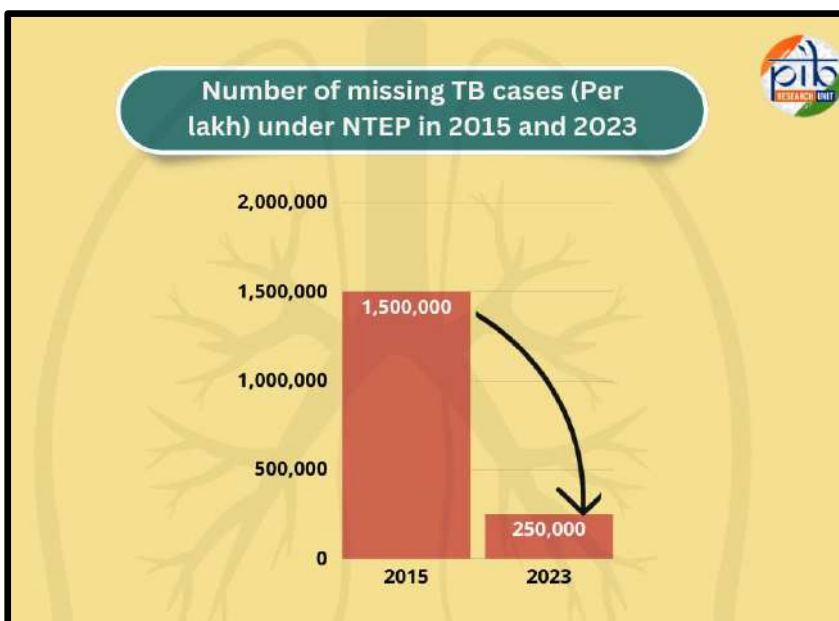
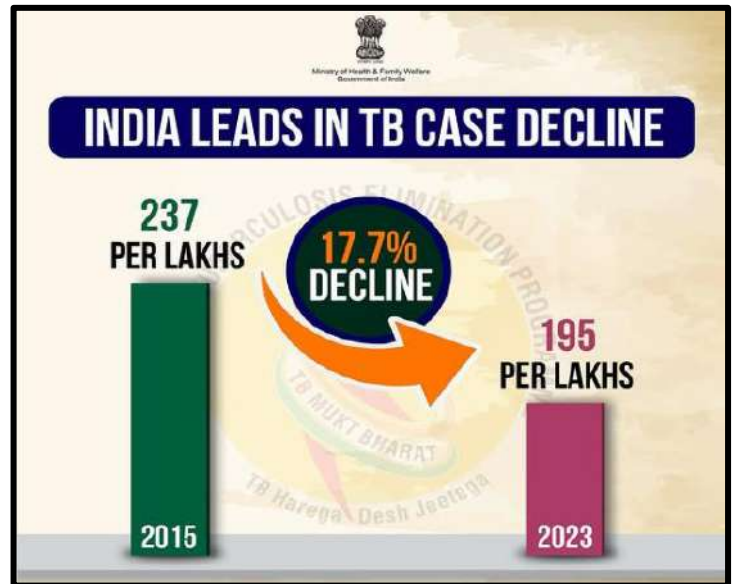
- The programme recorded its **highest-ever case notifications**, reporting **25.5 lakh TB cases** in 2023 and **26.07 lakh cases** in 2024.
- **First-Ever Indigenous TB Burden Model**: India's own mathematical model for state-wise TB estimates.<sup>10</sup>
- **Incentives for ASHAs, TB Champions & Caregivers**: Strengthening patient support systems.
- **3 Lakh Additional Cases Found via House-to-House Screening**: Focus on high-risk groups.
- **Medical College Task Force Active**: 560 colleges supporting TB detection & research.
- **Sub-National Disease-Free Certification Implemented**: Regular surveys, drug sales tracking, and under-reporting assessments.
- **Strong Multi-Sectoral Partnerships**: Collaboration with ministries, industries, NGOs & technical bodies.

<sup>8</sup><https://dghs.mohfw.gov.in/national-tuberculosis-elimination-programme.php#:~:text=Introduction.a%20result%20of%20TB%20disease.>

<sup>9</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2112158#:~:text=Highlighting%20the%20achievements%20of%20the,to%202.5%20lakhs%20in%202023.>

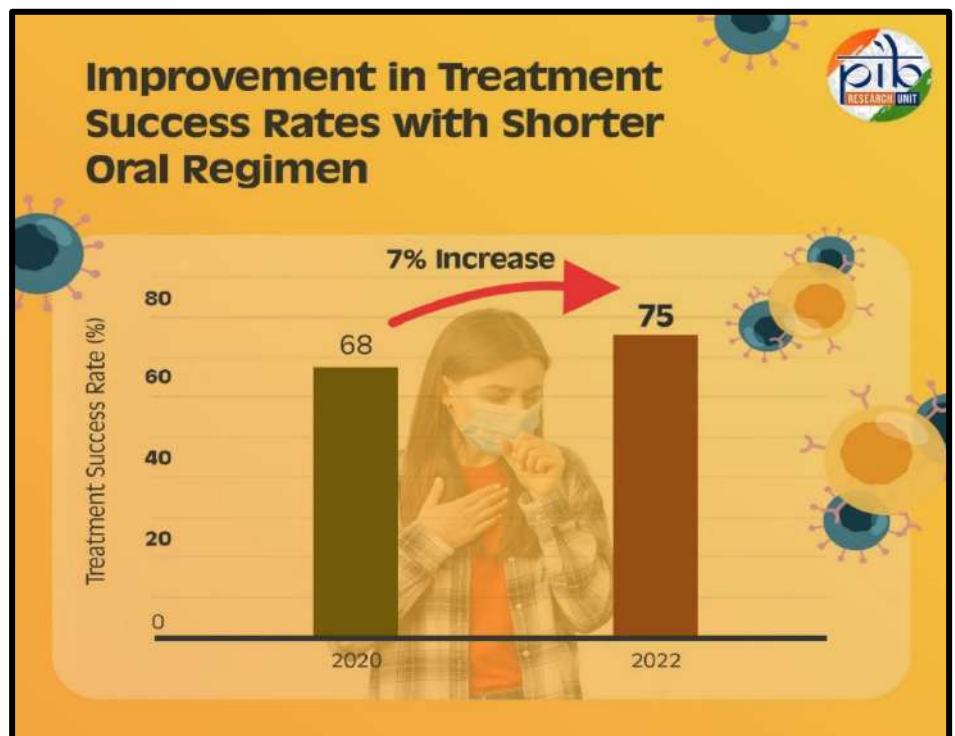
<sup>10</sup><https://dghs.mohfw.gov.in/national-tuberculosis-elimination-programme.php>

According to WHO's Global TB Report, India has made significant progress in fighting tuberculosis. Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), the incidence rate of TB cases have dropped by nearly 17.7%, from 237 cases per 1 lakh people in 2015 to 195 in 2023. TB-related deaths have also reduced, falling from 28 to 22 per 1 lakh people during the same period.



One of its key achievements has been reducing the number of missing TB cases from 15 lakh in 2015 to just 2.5 lakh in 2023 with a decrease of 83%.

Under NTEP, India has rolled out improved drug-resistant TB treatments, including a safer, shorter all-oral Bedaquiline regimen, boosting success rates from 68% (2020) to 75% (2022). The mBPaL regimen (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid) offers 80% success for MDR-TB, cutting treatment to six months.



<sup>11</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/mohfwindia/p/DCIwz7SNLzI/>

## Components Of the NTEP Programme

### Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA)<sup>12</sup>



The **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)**, one of the components of NTEP, aims to unite communities, businesses, and institutions to support TB patients and their families. It focuses on providing **nutritional, diagnostic, and vocational support** to improve treatment outcomes, reduce illness and deaths, and fast-track India's goal of TB elimination. PMTBMBA is also recognized as the **world's largest crowd-sourcing initiative for nutritional support to TB patients**.

#### Key goals include:

- Offering **additional care and support** to TB-affected individuals.
- Promoting **active community participation**.
- Mobilizing **CSR contributions** from businesses and institutions.

### Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)<sup>13</sup>

The **NIKSHAY - TB Notification Incentive for the Private Sector**, launched in **2018** by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, incentivizes private healthcare providers to report TB cases, improving **TB surveillance and treatment**.

Under the **Ni-Kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)**, financial support for TB patients' nutrition has been increased from **₹500 to ₹1,000 per month**, providing **₹3,000 to ₹6,000** per patient throughout treatment. The patient must be registered and notified on the **NIKSHAY portal**.

<sup>12</sup> [https://tbcindia.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TB-Report\\_for-Web\\_08\\_10-2024-1.pdf](https://tbcindia.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TB-Report_for-Web_08_10-2024-1.pdf) - INDIA TB REPORT 2024, p.133-134

<sup>13</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2062928>

The government has introduced **Energy Dense Nutritional Supplementation (EDNS)** for **underweight TB patients (BMI < 18.5)**. Around **12 lakh patients** will receive these supplements during the first two months of treatment to improve recovery rates and overall health outcomes.

### **Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative**

Under the **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukd Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)**, the **Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative** encourages **individuals, NGOs, corporates, faith-based organizations, and**

**others to adopt TB patients for at least six months**, offering them nutritional, social, or economic support.

The scope of this initiative has now been **expanded to include food baskets for household contacts of TB patients**, aiming to boost immunity, lower infection risk, and reduce families' financial burden. Additionally, over **₹3,202 crores** have been disbursed to **1.13 crore beneficiaries** through Direct Benefit Transfer under the **Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)**, supporting better nutrition and treatment outcomes. To further strengthen these efforts, the government has committed an additional **₹1,040 crores (shared 60:40 between Centre and States)**, ensuring enhanced support and reduced TB-related mortality.

### **Ni-kshay Portal**

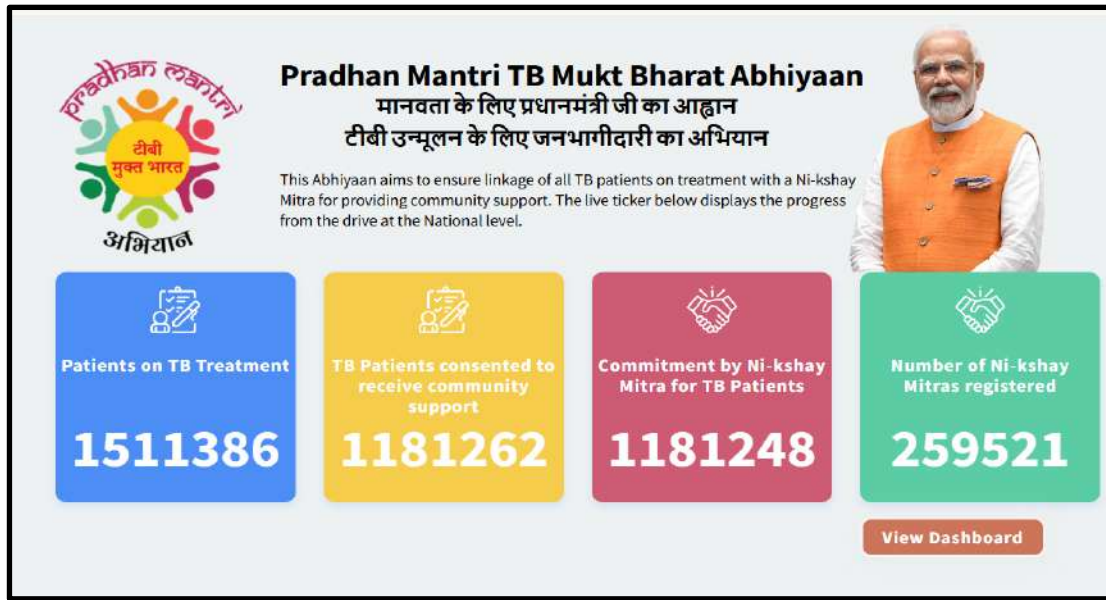
**Ni-kshay Portal** is a web-based patient management and surveillance system under the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**. Developed by the **Central TB Division, MoHFW**, in collaboration with **NIC and WHO India**, it helps health workers in both public and private sectors to register TB cases, order tests, record treatment, monitor adherence, and transfer cases. It also serves as India's **National TB Surveillance System**, ensuring real-time data reporting to the government.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> <https://nikshay.in/Home/AboutUs>

**Key Initiatives under Ni-Kshay Poshan Yojana**

- Nutrition support for TB patients doubled from Rs. 500 to Rs 1,000 per month under Ni-Kshay Poshan Yojana
- TB patients receive ₹3,000 to ₹6,000 nutrition support during treatment
- 12 lakh underweight TB patients (BMI < 18.5) to receive Energy Dense Nutritional Supplements.
- Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative expanded to provide food baskets to patients' families.
- ₹3,202 crores disbursed to 1.13 crore beneficiaries via DBT. ₹1,040 crores additional funding approved (Centre-State 60:40 split)

The infographic features a central illustration of a large human lung with a magnifying glass over it, surrounded by icons of a microscope, a person, and a medicine bottle. A shield with a cross is also present. The background is light yellow with colorful horizontal bands. The logo of the TB Research Unit is in the top right corner.



Source – As of 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025 - [https://dashboards.nikshay.in/community\\_support/overview](https://dashboards.nikshay.in/community_support/overview)

Over **1.51 crore TB patients** are receiving treatment, with approximately **1.18 crore** consenting to receive support. Around **1.18 crore** commitments have been made by Ni-kshay Mitras, and over **2.59 lakh Mitras** are registered. The initiative emphasizes public participation in TB elimination, resonating with the Prime Minister's call for humanity. More details can be found on the Ni-kshay Dashboard<sup>15</sup>

### Conclusion

India is making steady progress in its goal to eliminate TB by 2025 through focused interventions under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). Key initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA) and Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) are driving community participation and ensuring nutritional support, improving treatment adherence. The Ni-kshay Portal further strengthens surveillance and patient care. To sustain momentum, increased investments, innovation, and partnerships are crucial. With continued commitment, India is poised to become a global example in the fight against TB.

### References

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<sup>15</sup> [https://dashboards.nikshay.in/community\\_support/overview](https://dashboards.nikshay.in/community_support/overview)



## INDIA TB REPORT 2024

- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2062928>
- <https://nikshay.in/Home/AboutUs>
- [https://dashboards.nikshay.in/community\\_support/overview](https://dashboards.nikshay.in/community_support/overview)

**Santosh Kumar / Ritu Kataria / Vatsla Srivastava**