

India needs a multilingual, multi-stakeholder awareness effort to ensure that every single Indian knows about the Challenges of Tuberculosis (TB) & to eradicate it by 2025. Elaborate.

India has set an ambitious target to eradicate TB by 2025. However 'Global TB report - 2019' by WHO states that India hosts the largest number of TB patients.

Obstacles in Eradicating TB

- According to WHO's report, only marginally decrease in TB patients
- Low - level of Notification: Only 2.15 million TB cases reports as against 2.69 million case reported in WHO report.
- Diagnosis Time Delay: Low penetration of TB diagnosis centre in rural areas
- Economic burden and out of pocket expenses for diagnosis & treatment.
- Multi-Drug resistance: to 1st line anti-TB medication (Rifampin etc)
- Lack of awareness about Govt. schemes.

Solution to Eradicate TB by 2025

- 1) Awareness Creation: To identify TB symptoms and to seek diagnosis & treatment by empowering communities with TB related knowledge (TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign)
- 2) Govt to collaborate with private sector as it was utilized in Polio eradication
- 3) Look beyond treatment: Utilising the economic support (RS 500) given under Milkshay Poshan Yojana if it will ^{ensure} ~~support~~ nutrition during treatment
- 4) Ending Stigma: associated with TB and end discrimination & ensure dignity among TB patients.
- 5) WHO recommended vaccine (Bedaquiline) for Multi-drug resistance TB and it is being given for free under USAID Programme.

As National Health Family Health Survey-4 pointed out, TB is ~~ages~~ reducing not at the pace to ensure eradication by 2025. Govt, private sector, Society & citizens must work together to eradicate this treatable & curable disease.