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# World Tuberculosis Day — India's TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and 100-Day Campaign

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**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator •

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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## World Tuberculosis Day — India's TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and 100-Day Campaign

*The President of India, on World Tuberculosis Day (March 24, 2026), highlighted India's 21% reduction in TB incidence under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and launched a 100-day intensified campaign combining AI-powered diagnostics with community participation (Jan Bhagidari).*

### INDIA'S TB BURDEN — THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE

India carries the world's highest tuberculosis burden, accounting for approximately 26% of all global TB cases. According to the WHO Global TB Report 2024, India reported an estimated 27 lakh new TB cases annually and approximately 3.2 lakh TB-related deaths.

## Progress Under TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT
TB incidence reduction	21% since 2015 (nearly double the global rate)
TB mortality reduction	25% decline since 2015
People screened	Over 20 crore
Cases detected through active screening	32 lakh
AI-powered X-ray units deployed	3,000+ handheld units
Asymptomatic patients identified	50% of detected cases

India's TB elimination target is **2025** — five years ahead of the UN Sustainable Development Goal target of 2030. While the 2025 target may not be fully met, the intensified campaign demonstrates continued political commitment.

## THE 100-DAY INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN

The newly launched campaign focuses on three pillars:

### 1. Technology-Driven Diagnosis

- **AI-powered portable X-ray units:** 3,000+ devices deployed in remote and tribal areas
- **Molecular testing:** TruNat and CBNAAT machines for rapid drug-susceptibility testing
- **Ni-kshay platform:** National TB information system for case tracking and notification

### 2. Jan Bhagidari (People's Participation)

- **Ni-kshay Mitras:** Community volunteers who "adopt" TB patients for emotional and nutritional support
- **Gram Panchayat involvement:** Local bodies conducting house-to-house surveys
- **Private sector partnership:** Mandatory notification of TB cases by private practitioners (since 2012)

### 3. Nutritional and Financial Support

- **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana:** Rs 500/month Direct Benefit Transfer to every notified TB patient
- **Ni-kshay Vahans:** Mobile diagnostic vans reaching underserved populations
- **Ayushman Bharat coverage:** TB patients eligible for treatment under PM-JAY

## UNDERSTANDING DRUG-RESISTANT TB

TYPE	DEFINITION	TREATMENT DURATION
DS-TB	Drug-Susceptible TB (responds to standard drugs)	6-9 months
MDR-TB	Multi-Drug Resistant (resistant to rifampicin + isoniazid)	18-24 months
XDR-TB	Extensively Drug Resistant (MDR + fluoroquinolone resistance)	Up to 30 months
TDR-TB	Totally Drug Resistant (resistant to all first and second-line drugs)	Experimental regimens

India has approximately **1.19 lakh MDR-TB cases** annually — among the highest globally. The BPaL regimen (bedaquiline, pretomanid, linezolid) has shown promise for XDR-TB treatment.

## THE ASYMPTOMATIC CHALLENGE

The revelation that **50% of TB patients are asymptomatic** is significant. These individuals do not cough or show classic symptoms but still spread the bacterium (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) through droplets. This underscores the importance of:

- Active case finding rather than passive reporting
- AI-powered chest X-ray screening in high-burden districts
- Contact tracing of known TB patients' family members and co-workers

## GLOBAL CONTEXT

COUNTRY	ESTIMATED TB CASES (2024)	SHARE OF GLOBAL BURDEN
India	27 lakh	26%
Indonesia	10.6 lakh	10%
China	7.4 lakh	7.1%
Philippines	6.5 lakh	6.3%
Pakistan	6.1 lakh	5.8%

The **End TB Strategy** (WHO, 2015) aims for a 90% reduction in TB deaths and 80% reduction in incidence by 2030 compared to 2015 levels.

## CHALLENGES AHEAD

### Structural Challenges

- **Urban overcrowding:** Slums and informal settlements are TB hotspots
- **Migrant workers:** Difficult to track across states, often miss treatment
- **Malnutrition:** India's high malnutrition rates (BMI < 18.5 in 21.6% of adults) fuel TB susceptibility
- **Co-infections:** HIV-TB co-infection adds complexity (India has ~90,000 HIV-TB cases)

### Health System Gaps

- **Private sector fragmentation:** 50%+ of TB patients first visit private practitioners who may not notify
- **Diagnostic delays:** Average 2-3 months between symptom onset and diagnosis
- **Treatment adherence:** 6-9 month courses lead to dropout, especially once symptoms improve

### UPSC RELEVANCE

World TB Day (March 24), BCG vaccine, MDR-TB definition, Ni-kshay portal, TruNat/CBNAAT

#### MAINS GS-II:

Health infrastructure, TB elimination strategy, public-private partnership in healthcare

#### MAINS GS-III:

AI in healthcare diagnostics, biotechnology (BPAL regimen)

## ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

### WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY:

Date: March 24 (annually since 1982)

Commemorates: Robert Koch's announcement of discovering *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (March 24, 1882)

Koch received Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1905)

### TB MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAN:

Launched: 2018 by President Ram Nath Kovind

India's target: TB elimination by 2025

UN SDG target: 2030

Annual budget: ~Rs 4,500 crore

Ni-kshay portal: [ni-kshay.gov.in](http://ni-kshay.gov.in)

### KEY DRUGS AND VACCINES:

BCG vaccine: *Bacillus Calmette-Guerin* (developed 1921, given at birth in India)

First-line drugs: Rifampicin, Isoniazid, Pyrazinamide, Ethambutol (RIPE)

BPaL regimen: Bedaquiline + Pretomanid + Linezolid (for XDR-TB)

M72/AS01E: Promising TB vaccine candidate in Phase III trials

### NI-KSHAY ECOSYSTEM:

Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana: Rs 500/month nutritional support via DBT

Ni-kshay Mitras: Community adoption programme

Ni-kshay Vahans: Mobile diagnostic vans

Tele-MANAS: Mental health helpline (Ministry of Health)

### OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

India's National TB Prevalence Survey (2019-21): First ever, confirmed high burden

TB notification mandatory since 2012 (Section 269 IPC, now Section 270 BNS)

DOTS: Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (WHO-recommended strategy)

India ranks 111th out of 190 countries in healthcare spending (% of GDP)

HIV-TB co-infection: ~90,000 cases in India annually

Sources: [WHO](#), [PIB](#), [Insights on India](#)

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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