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Foreword

India's dedication to realising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is evident in its ambitious policies and strategies spanning multiple sectors. Specifically, Goal 8 of the SDGs focuses on ensuring full and meaningful employment as well as decent work opportunities for all individuals. India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) has made significant strides in combating the scourge of Tuberculosis (TB) across the nation. Despite the considerable burden of TB, with a comprehensive approach encompassing prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care, the NTEP has achieved commendable progress in its mission to combat TB.

By leveraging partnerships, adopting innovative approaches, and prioritising the well-being of affected individuals, the NTEP remains steadfast in its commitment to achieve End TB in India. Over the years, the NTEP has emerged as a beacon of hope in our fight against Tuberculosis. Through tireless dedication and unwavering resolve, we have witnessed significant strides in raising awareness, improving access to diagnosis and treatment, and reducing TB-related morbidity and mortality. Our collective efforts have not only saved lives but also paved the way for a healthier and more prosperous India.

In the last few years, the NTEP has become an increasingly multi-sectoral approach in its fight to End TB and prioritising social determinants of TB. This focus is further extended by creating ownership of employers and organisations to strive for a TB-free workplace. The workplace can play a pivotal role in combating TB in India. Therefore, employers must take responsibility by implementing TB-free workplace initiatives.

Creating a healthy work environment not only boosts productivity but also benefits the industry and its employees. Organisations adopting successful TB-free workplace models become leaders in the national effort to End TB. By pledging to a TB-free workplace, we can reaffirm our commitment to creating safe, healthy, and productive work environments for all.

Dated 23rd March, 2024

(Apurva Chandra)



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Message

As we chart our course towards the ambitious goal of ending TB in India, let us draw inspiration from the remarkable progress made by India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). The programme has constantly been evolving, introducing innovations and reinforcing strategies at all levels—expansion of diagnostics services, employing newer treatment modalities, scaling up TB-preventing treatment, DRTB management and last-mile support, amplifying the Ni-kshay ecosystem, and synthesising integration across sectors and ministries, bridging the divide of the public and private sector—to name a few. Through a robust policy framework, the NTEP is also addressing social determinants of TB by focusing on nutritional support through the provision of the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (Direct Benefits Transfer) and launching the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan initiative.

The NTEP's achievements are a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and perseverance. We have successfully implemented strategic interventions such as engaging with various industries, both public and private, to reach out to workers for TB awareness and prevention activities. By implementing robust TB-related workplace safety measures, such as proper ventilation, infection control protocols, and health education initiatives, employers can create environments that are inhospitable to TB transmission. Moreover, by promoting a culture of health and safety, organisations can empower employees to take proactive measures to protect themselves and their colleagues from TB infection.

Initiatives on TB-free workplaces are more than just suggestive measures; they are catalysts for change, driving organisational transformation and fostering a culture of health and safety. By institutionalising best practices and standards, they can create an enabling environment where TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment are prioritised and integrated into the fabric of our workplaces. I congratulate the NTEP and all those who have contributed to the development of this Guidance Document.

I am confident by harnessing these guiding principles, we can catalyse positive change, foster inclusive growth, and create a world where every worker can thrive free from the burden of TB. As we embark on this journey, let us remain steadfast in our commitment, unwavering in our resolve, and united in our pursuit of a healthier, more prosperous future for all.

TB Harega, Desh Jitega!

(Ms. L. S. Changsan)













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Message

The Government of India is committed to End TB as a public health challenge. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) is better equipped than ever before to address the challenge of Tuberculosis. Ending TB in India is a key to ending the global TB epidemic.

This journey requires a collective and integrated effort, with meaningful engagement and participation from all key stakeholders. We are grateful for the invaluable support we have received from various sectors, including Ministries, Public Sector Undertakings/ Enterprises (PSUs/PSEs), private sector, corporates, and civil society organizations in the fight against TB.

Many corporates have stepped forward and partnered with NTEP, extending their support to TB awareness and prevention activities. Through workplace interventions, CSR-led projects, and by becoming Ni-kshay Mitra for additional nutritional support to TB patients under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA), corporates are making significant contributions to the fight against TB.

Recognizing the importance of industry participation, we have developed a 'Guidance Document on TB Free Workplace'. This document aims to provide guidance and assistance to industries and organizations committed to creating a TB-free workplace. It outlines practical steps and activities that can be implemented to scale up TB interventions at the workplace to pave the path toward the overarching mission of TB-Free India.

I am confident that more industries and organizations will come forward and join hands for ending TB and enabling workplace prosperity.

'TB Heraga Desh Jeetega'

(K. K. Tripathy)

Dated: 01-04-2024





Dr. Rajendra P. Joshi
Deputy Director General
Central TB Division





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Tuberculosis continues to be one of the major public health challenges in India. The country has the highest TB burden. TB, apart from being a health problem, is also associated with several socioeconomic determinants including poverty, marginalization, and undernutrition. The Government of India has committed to achieve End TB targets and also envisioned TB-Free India. Achieving this ambitious target needs collaborative and convergent actions. Efforts have been intensified to collaborate with large numbers of stakeholders for partnering with the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The engagement of corporates is crucial. Industries have bigger roles to play as there are enormous possibilities and scope with them for meaningful engagements and partnerships. Strategic interventions at the workforce provide an opportunity to reach a large number of people for TB awareness & prevention activities, early TB detection, reduce stigma & discrimination, and provide a supportive environment for people infected and affected by TB.

I am delighted that many corporates have joined hands with NTEP. Several Corporates and organizations have come forward to implement the TB-free workplace policy, TB screening, socio-economic support to people infected and affected by TB.

The 'Guidance Document on TB Free Workplace' will certainly add value in building a conducive environment at the workplace for TB-related intervention. I am confident that the program managers of various corporates, and governments at state & district will find this document useful. The guidance document provides information and understanding like How to establish a free Workplace, key suggested activities for a free Workplace, etc. The use of this guidance document will certainly be helpful and guide industries for their continued engagement and ensure high-quality TB Workplace intervention. Let's join hands toward TB-Free Workplace.

TB Harega, Desh Jetega

(Dr Rajendra P. Joshi)





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The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) has gained momentum in the recent past with the evolvement of newer strategies and focused intervention toward the mission of achieving the End TB. The NTEP has demonstrated a strong commitment to accomplishing SDG targets related to health and well-being. To that end, efforts are being made to engage various stakeholders for a collective and integrated response.

India has a huge workforce and more than 500 million workforces are engaged in formal and informal sectors. The incidence of Tuberculosis among the working population is one of the major concerns. TB infection among workers doesn't only affect their health & well-being, but, it has also adversely impacted organizational productivity and economic growth.

Thus, industry engagements have been viewed with great importance in NTEP. Industries are being engaged in TB-related intervention both at the workplace and it's beyond. We have experienced that several industries have come forward and initiated intervention at the workplace and reaching out to vulnerable communities through CSR-led intervention.

I am pleased to share the document 'Guidance Note on TB Free Workplace'. I believe that the documents provide insights and guidance toward establishing a 'TB Free Workplace'. I am confident that industries and all key stakeholders will find this guidance document useful in establishing a 'TB Free Workplace'. I also take this opportunity to thank each of the contributors for their technical support in preparing this guidance document. Continued and meaningful engagements of industries are very much needed for an inclusive & comprehensive national response against Tuberculosis.

Let us all work together to build TB-Free India

(Dr Sanjay Kumar)

टीबी हारेगा, देश जीतेगा / TB Harega, Desh Jeetega