



सत्यमेव जयते

Address of the Hon'ble Governor
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan,
as Chief Guest at the inauguration of
the '71st TB Seal Sale Campaign'
on 18th December, 2020 at 11.00 AM at Raj Bhavan

Dr. Arun Kumar Kanti Mohanty, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning to you all.

It gives me immense pleasure to be amongst you all this morning to inaugurate the 71st TB Seal Sale Campaign. It is almost 138 years ago since the causative organism of Tuberculosis was discovered by Sir Robert Koch in 1882. Nevertheless, TB continues to be a killer disease. The spread of Tuberculosis has become a cause for concern even in the developed world.

The World Health Organization has declared Tuberculosis as a Global emergency. As the second most populous country in the world, India has a burden of almost one fourth of the global TB Cases. It is estimated that 26.9 lakh TB cases were notified in India in 2019.

In the olden days, there was really no cure for Tuberculosis and the patients were sent to Sanatoria situated on Hills for treatment by giving high rich protein diet to increase the resistance of the patients. The discovery of several effective drugs has given a hope of recovery from the dreaded disease among the patients.

In India, the National TB Control Programme was launched in the year 1962. Till 1985, the duration of the treatment was for 12 to 18 months. Subsequently the duration of the treatment was reduced to 6 to 8 months, with the introduction of Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) since 1996 onwards, by using most potent anti-TB Drugs.

The Revised National TB Control Programme with Directly Observed Treatment, has been implemented in Andhra Pradesh since 1997 and all the districts in the State have been covered under the programme by 2004 with the objective to attain 90% success rate.

It is estimated that a total of nearly one lakh people are suffering from this dreaded disease in Andhra Pradesh.

I am happy to note that the success rate in the recovery of patients from TB in our State is 91%. I am also told that with the added danger of HIV/AIDS disease prevailing in our country, the problem of Tuberculosis has become much more serious as the HIV/AIDS patients are most commonly affected initially by the Tuberculosis.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi has said that *"the global target for eliminating TB is 2030, but I announce that the target for India to eliminate TB is 2025, five years before the global target."*

Keeping this in view the Govt. of India has been implementing the programme with 'End TB Strategy'. Now more focus is given on Active Case Finding, Introduction of Highly specific and sensitive Molecular diagnostic in the programme, Introduction of daily treatment regimen, Universal Drug susceptibility testing and introduction of new drugs for drug resistant TB like, Bedaquiline and Delamanid. Digital recording and reporting system has also been introduced into the programme.

TB has been declared as a notifiable disease by all health care providers in either public or private sector.

It is a known fact that Government alone cannot do total justification to any Health Programme, more particularly to TB control. Voluntary Organisations like TB Association, Indian Medical Association, Red Cross, Lepira India, TB Alert, World Vision, AMG India International and Arogyavaram Medical Centre, etc. have to play an important role in the Control of Tuberculosis.

The Notification rates and success rate can be achieved only by scaling up of programme activities from the grass root level. This can

only be achieved by active participation of community by increasing the awareness levels of TB and its complications. It is emphasised that all the Programme Managers to bestow their attention towards intensified Information, Education and Communication /Advocacy Communication Social Mobilisation (IEC/ACSM) programme through which the awareness levels in the community can be increased.

The Tuberculosis Associations of Andhra Pradesh and their District branches are doing their best for the Control of TB ever since its inception, by supplementing and complementing the efforts of the Government particularly, in the field of Health Education and participating in the TB Elimination Programme.

In addition, the TB Association is also conducting the Annual Conferences, Refresher Courses, Seminars, C.M.E. Programmes etc., for the benefit of doctors in service, Medical Officers and Private Medical Practitioners etc.

Further, the Association is also conducting case-finding Camps for the detection of new TB cases and organizing the Anti-TB Week celebrations during which, incentives were distributed to the patients who have completed full course of treatment and got cured of the disease, so as to encourage other TB patients for taking regular treatment.

The Association is extending financial assistance to poor MDR TB Patients by giving Rs.500 per month to 25 patients in 13 districts and AMG India International, Arogyavaram Medical Centre by transferring the amount directly to the patients bank account.

The TB Association has contributed sum of Rs.2.00 lakhs to Chief Minister's Relief Fund to fight against COVID-2019.

The Association has purchased and donated CBNAAT Machine (Gene Expert Edge machine) to the Joint Director's Office, Gollapudi, Vijayawada for installation in the ACF Mobile van at a sum of Rs.11.68 lakh for screening of suspected TB patients.

I wish the efforts of the Medical & Health Department of Andhra Pradesh and the TB Association of Andhra Pradesh and their district branches will be successful in reducing and finally eradicating the spread of TB disease in the State. I appeal to everyone to contribute generously to the TB Seal Sale Campaign.

Let us all join together in the efforts to eradicate Tuberculosis in the country by 2025.

TB Haarega – Desh Jeetega.

JAI HIND