



# गौरीइरापु पत्रिका

A Quarterly publication of NTEP A & N Islands  
Edition: Sri Vijaya Puram, Issue 1 : April 2025, Volume : 1

**T**uberculosis (TB) remains one of the most pressing public health challenges in our country. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, we are committed to accelerating efforts to eliminate TB and ensure healthier lives for all our citizens.

Through sustained community engagement, early detection, and effective treatment strategies under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), we are making significant strides. Our healthcare workers, especially those operating in remote and tribal areas, deserve special recognition for their dedication and service.

We envision a future where TB is no longer a threat to our communities. Let us strengthen our resolve, foster inter-sectoral collaboration, and work in unity to achieve a TB-free Andaman and Nicobar Islands ahead of the national target.

Together, we can and we will eliminate TB.

**Dr Anil Agarwal**

Secretary (Health)  
A & N Administration



## Highlights

**Message Corner p1**

**World TB Day p2**

**IEC Programs p9**

**Nikshay Mitras p14**

**Supervision &  
Monitoring p17**

**ACF p19**

**New development –  
CyTB p21**

**Trainings p22**

# World TB Day 2025, Special Programs

## MESSAGE

Every year, on March 24<sup>th</sup>, World Tuberculosis Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm across our Islands, alongside the rest of the country, under the theme: " Yes! We can end TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver".

World Tuberculosis Day serves as a crucial opportunity to raise awareness about the significant health, social and economic impacts of tuberculosis, while also amplifying global efforts to end the TB epidemic.

Tuberculosis continues to be a major public health challenge, affecting millions worldwide and impacting families, workplaces, and entire communities. Through investment in prevention, early detection and effective treatment, we can break the cycle of transmission and save countless lives. Conquering TB requires strong leadership, innovative solutions and sustainable investments in both healthcare and community support.

It is essential that we engage communities, organizations, healthcare workers and citizens alike in this collective fight. Strengthening health systems, improving access to care and addressing social determinants such as nutrition and living conditions are critical steps toward a TB-free future.

I urge institutions and individuals from all sectors of society to step forward and lend their support to the cause to TB elimination. Together, we can make significant strides in eradicating tuberculosis from our Islands and beyond.



(Admiral D K Joshi)

PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)

Lieutenant Governor

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

&

Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency



# Sand Art Competition highlighting the theme for World TB Day 2025 organized by District Health Society at Corbyn's Cove

## 14 teams showcased their artistic talents through sand art



**Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 23** — In commemoration of World TB Day 2025, the District Health Society of South Andaman organized a vibrant Sand Art Competition at Corbyn's Cove. Held under the theme **"YES! WE CAN END TB: Commit. Invest. Deliver"**, the event was supported by various line departments and aimed at spreading awareness about Tuberculosis (TB) and its global impact.

The competition drew enthusiastic participation from 14 teams, each bringing forward their creativity and commitment through powerful sand art installations. Participants crafted thought-provoking pieces that visually communicated the global resolve to end TB and emphasized the critical need for continued investment in TB prevention and control programs.

The artworks vividly reflected the event's core messages — the importance of awareness, improved health services, and active community involvement in the ongoing fight against the disease. The creative initiative not only engaged the public but also highlighted how art can serve as a compelling medium for health advocacy.

The event served as a meaningful platform for the local community to come together in support of a TB-free world, reinforcing the message that ending TB is possible with collective effort and commitment.



# World TB Day 2025 observed

## District Administration (SA) organizes auto rally with the theme 'YES! We Can END TB - Commit. Invest. Deliver'



**Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 24** — Continuing the observance of World TB Day 2025, the District Administration of South Andaman, through its District Health Society, organized an impactful auto rally under the theme "YES! We Can END TB – Commit. Invest. Deliver."

The rally flagged off from the District Administration office, featured a vibrant procession of decorated vehicles that carried powerful messages

on TB awareness and eradication. Covering various areas across Sri Vijaya Puram, the rally aimed to amplify public consciousness about Tuberculosis and the urgent need to eliminate it.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from government officials, healthcare workers, and local residents. Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman), flagged off the rally and led the gathering in taking the **TB-Free Pledge**, reaffirming a collective commitment toward a TB-free district.

In his address, Shri Arjun Sharma emphasized the critical importance of joint efforts in the fight against TB. "Our commitment towards a TB-free South Andaman is unwavering. The efforts of the District Health Society, along with the participation of our local communities, are crucial in our fight against TB," he stated.

He further added that the pledge symbolizes the shared determination of all stakeholders — from administration to grassroots — to invest in awareness, healthcare services, and sustained action against tuberculosis.

The rally also featured a prize distribution ceremony for the **Sand Art Competition** held a day earlier on March 23 at Corbyn's Cove Beach. The competition drew creative entries that visually conveyed the importance of TB awareness, combining art with advocacy in an engaging format.

The District Health Society's multifaceted World TB Day observance served as a compelling call to action, blending public engagement with artistic expression to drive home the message that ending TB is possible — with commitment, investment, and collective delivery.



# State Level function organized to mark World TB Day observance



**Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 24** — A NTEP State-Level function was organized at the Auditorium of ANIIMS (Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences) to commemorate **World TB Day 2025**. The event was graced by **Dr. Anil Agarwal, Secretary (Health), A&N Administration**, who attended as the chief guest.

The function witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including the Director of Health Services, the Medical Superintendent of G.B. Pant Hospital, Heads of Departments, faculty members of ANIIMS, Programme Officers from the Directorate of Health Services, and

students from ANIIMS and other local health institutions.

During the event, **Dr. Anil Agarwal** officially launched the **Annual TB Report 2025**. In his keynote address, he stressed the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, promoting accurate dissemination of TB-related information, and conducting regular screening, especially among vulnerable groups. He reaffirmed the A&N Administration's strong commitment to eliminating TB, in line with national goals.

The programme began with a **welcome song by students of the School of Nursing**, setting a spirited tone for the day. **Dr. P. Lal, State TB Officer**, presented a comprehensive overview of **Tuberculosis symptoms, diagnosis, treatment**, and highlighted ongoing efforts under the **National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)** as aligned with the **National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination**.

Adding an academic perspective, **Dr. Natraj, Associate Professor, Department of Respiratory Medicine, ANIIMS**, spoke about **recent advances in TB treatment**, emphasizing innovation in therapeutic approaches. To enhance public engagement, **volunteers from Nehru Yuva Kendra performed a skit** illustrating the journey of TB diagnosis and treatment, which was well-received by the audience.

The event also featured **distribution of certificates to winners of various competitions** held as part of the World TB Day observance. The programme concluded with a **vote of thanks by Dr. Keerthivasan, Microbiologist, NTEP**, who appreciated the collective efforts of all stakeholders in promoting TB awareness.

# District TB Unit, N&M Andaman organizes Bike Rally for TB Awareness on World TB Day



**Mayabunder, Mar. 24** – In a strong show of commitment to public health and awareness, the District TB Centre, District TB Unit, and District Health Society of North & Middle Andaman observed **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day** with a series of impactful events under the global theme **"Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver."**

A key highlight of the day was a **motorcycle rally** flagged off by **Ms Nandini Maharaj, IAS**, Deputy Commissioner of North & Middle Andaman. The rally, which saw the participation of around **70 motorcyclists**, passed through **Mayabunder Bazaar** and **Webi Junction**, spreading awareness about TB with banners and placards. A mobile van also accompanied the rally, delivering TB prevention messages across surrounding villages. Later, a **felicitation program** was held at the Conference Hall of **Dr. R.P. Hospital**, where local leaders and health workers were recognized for their outstanding efforts in TB elimination. Ms. Maharaj presented **TB-Free Certificates** and **mementos** to the **Pradhan and Up-Pradhan** of **Basantipur** and **Chainpur** Gram Panchayats respectively, acknowledging their crucial role in maintaining TB-free status for the year **2024**.

In her address, Ms Maharaj emphasized the importance of collective action, stating, *"Today, we stand united in our fight against tuberculosis. The theme emphasizes our shared responsibility; with commitment, investment, and diligent delivery of healthcare services, we can envision a TB-free future."*

**Dr. Alice Bwa**, the Medical Officer In-Charge, briefed attendees on the current TB status in North & Middle Andaman and urged community participation in the **Ni-Kshay Mitra** initiative to help eliminate TB. As part of the program, **Nikshay Mitras** associated with Dr. R.P. Hospital were also awarded **Certificates of Appreciation** and **mementos** for their invaluable support to TB patients, ensuring consistent care and treatment. The event drew a crowd of approximately **100 participants**, including **Medical Officers, hospital staff, ASHA workers, PRI members**, and members of the general public—reflecting a unified regional effort to combat TB and promote better public health.

# World TB Day observed at BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar



**Car Nicobar, Mar. 25** – Aimed at strengthening the fight against tuberculosis, the **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day** programme was held at the **Conference Hall of BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar**. The event brought together key stakeholders, health professionals, and community leaders in a shared mission to raise awareness about TB, its prevention, and treatment.

Gracing the occasion were **Shri Amit Kale, IAS**, Deputy Commissioner of Nicobar District, and **Shri Lioneld Nicomed**, Chieftain of the Tribal Council, alongside Tribal Council members, departmental heads from various sectors, medical staff, and a host of invited guests.

Themed "**Yes! We Can End TB – Commit, Invest, Deliver**", the event emphasized the power of collective effort in eradicating a disease that is both preventable and curable. The programme began with the **ceremonial lighting of the lamp**, led by the chief guest and dignitaries, symbolizing hope and renewed commitment to the TB-free vision.

In his address, **Shri Amit Kale**, who also serves as a **Nikshay Mitra** in Car Nicobar, lauded the relentless efforts of the **District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO)**, **NTEP staff**, and frontline health workers. He encouraged more community members to come forward as **Nikshay Mitras**, reinforcing grassroots involvement in the elimination drive.

**Dr. Silvester Titus**, Medical Officer, welcomed the gathering and stressed the need for continued public awareness and collaboration in the fight against TB. The event also honoured dedication and excellence with **Certificates of Appreciation** presented to **three ASHAs**, **winners of an essay writing competition**, and **25 Nikshay Mitras** for their contributions to TB control and patient support.

Delivering a detailed progress report, **Dr. Anwar Moosa**, District TB Officer, presented a PowerPoint highlighting **Nicobar District's strides** in TB case detection, treatment, and community engagement under the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP)**.

**Dr. Johnson Sameer**, Medical Superintendent (i/c), BJR Hospital, reaffirmed the **Government's goal of eliminating TB by 2025** and urged participants to join the Nikshay Mitra initiative and remain proactive in community awareness and patient support.

The programme concluded with a **vote of thanks by Dr. Ruth Christopher**, Dental Surgeon at BJR Hospital, who acknowledged the unwavering efforts of health workers, volunteers, and officials in advancing the mission of a TB-free Nicobar.



# Deputy Commissioner, SA declares Gram Panchayat Collinpur as 'TB Mukta Panchayat'



**Sri Vijaya Puram, Mar. 24** – In a remarkable stride toward a healthier future, **Gram Panchayat Collinpur** was officially declared a **‘TB Mukta Panchayat’** (Tuberculosis-Free Panchayat) by **Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS**, Deputy Commissioner of **South Andaman District**, during the **World TB Day** observance.

This recognition marks a significant milestone in the district’s ongoing efforts to eliminate tuberculosis and aligns with the national goal under the **"TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan"**, which aims to eliminate TB by **2025**.

During the event, the Deputy Commissioner felicitated **Shri Babul Baroi**, Up-Pradhan of Gram Panchayat Collinpur, and **Smti. Anulekha Biswas**, Samiti Member, Collinpur, with a **TB Mukta Panchayat Certificate** and a **Bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi** — symbolizing selfless service and dedication to the community. The recognition celebrates the collaborative efforts of the local administration, healthcare workers, and the community in achieving TB-free status.

**“Collinpur Panchayat’s commitment to ensuring a TB-free environment is truly commendable,”** said Shri Sharma. **“This is a significant achievement in our ongoing efforts to improve public health, and it sets an inspiring example for other regions to follow.”**

Health officials present at the ceremony also outlined plans for **ongoing monitoring** and **community awareness programs** to maintain the TB-free status and inspire similar initiatives in neighbouring panchayats. These include educational outreach, early detection efforts, and community engagement activities.

**Collinpur is now the third village in succession** within South Andaman to be declared TB-free, reinforcing the district’s strong commitment to public health and setting a positive precedent for other regions.



# IEC Programs

## TB Screening & Awareness Camps in schools

- a) **Nicobar, Teressa, Feb 01.** An awareness camp was conducted at **Govt. Secondary School, Bengali Village, Teressa, Nicobar**, to educate students and teachers about tuberculosis (TB). During the session, vital information about TB was shared. The Medical Officer, Dr. Johnson Jackson, elaborated on the disease, explaining how it spreads, its symptoms, and its impact. Additionally, the Senior Treatment Supervisor, Mr D Suresh Kumar, highlighted the importance of DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course), necessary precautions, dietary recommendations, and the treatment process.



- b) **SVP, Bathubasti, Jan. 18.** A crucial awareness and screening camp was organized by **NTEP (SA)** under the supervision of Dr. Arjun Sivadas KK (NTEP), at **GSSS, Bathubasti** to educate and screen students for tuberculosis (TB). A total of **74 children** were screened, with **29 identified as presumptive TB cases**.



*From the Joint Secretary's (NTEP) Desk,*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of Nikshay Patrika – Sri Vijaya Puram Edition, the quarterly publication of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This initiative aims to keep you informed about key developments, IEC activities, notable achievements, and the ongoing efforts towards realizing a TB Mukt Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

c) **Ferrargunj, Kanyapuram, Jan. 04.** A TB awareness program on Tuberculosis (TB) was conducted at GMS Kanyapuram, by Mr Dilip Kumar, Senior Treatment Supervisor (STS), Ferrargunj Tehsil and Mr Tapan Kumar Roy, IEC Officer (NTEP)



## *TB Screening & Awareness Camps in Work Places*

a) **SVP, Mohanpura, Feb. 04.** The District Health Society, South Andaman, conducted an awareness session on tuberculosis (TB) at the Directorate of Transport, Sri Vijaya Puram, chaired by Dr Dency Tony (NTEP). The session focused on educating participants about TB, including its signs, symptoms, treatment options, and key government initiatives such as the Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) and Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PM-TBMBA). This initiative aimed to enhance community awareness and encourage early detection and treatment of TB.





b) **Rangat, Kaushalya Nagar, Jan. 21.** A TB awareness and screening session was conducted among NH workers at the NH Plant, Kaushalya Nagar, Rangat supervised by Ms Meenakshi Paul, STS Rangat. A total of 42 workers were screened for tuberculosis (TB), and four presumptive TB cases were identified, who tested negative for TB.



## *TB Screening & Awareness Camps in the Community*

a) **Ferrargunj, Ograbraj, Jan. 15.** An awareness program on Tuberculosis (TB) was conducted at Ograbraj Community Hall for Anganwadi workers under the jurisdiction of PHC Tushnabad. The session began with a pledge to fight against TB, followed by discussions on TB signs and symptoms, preventive measures, tuberculosis preventive therapy (TPT), and the new treatment strategy under DOTS. Additionally, participants were briefed on the role of Nikshay Mitra in supporting TB patients through nutritional assistance.





b) **Nancowrie, Kamorta, Jan. 06.** During the Island Tourism Festival Mela at Nancowrie Ground, a health stall was set up to raise awareness about TB and its prevention. The STS Mr D Suresh Kumar, briefed attendees, including the Chief Guest, Assistant Commissioner, CTC, and Navy Commander, on TB-related initiatives, focusing on the Nikshay Mitra program and the importance of nutrition kits for TB patients.



c) **Ferrargunj, Jan. 16 and 31.** NTEP South Andaman (SA) and the students of Tagore Government College of Education, SVP conducted an awareness session on tuberculosis (TB) for the residents of **Old Age Home, Ferrargunj**, on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. An additional TB Screening camp was conducted by Dr Arjun Sivadas KK (NTEP) of the residents on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>.





d) **Ferrargunj, Chouldari, Jan. 23.** An awareness programme on Tuberculosis, including screening, was conducted at **Anganwadi Centre (AWC) Dam Pahad** under Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) Chouldari. The event featured a health talk on the signs and symptoms of Tuberculosis, along with an introduction to the Nikshay Mitra initiative. TB screening was carried out by intern doctors from ANIIMS. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Priya Sara Biji, Medical Officer, HWC Chouldari.



e) **Mayabunder, Karmatang, Feb. 20.** As part of the **100 Days Intensified TB Campaign to sensitize religious leaders**, an awareness programme on Tuberculosis (TB) was organized at G.E.L. Church, Karmatang, by Mr Y Madhava Rao, DPC (NTEP). The session was aimed at educating both religious leaders and the general public about TB, focusing on its causes, prevention, treatment options, and the critical importance of early detection and treatment adherence. The programme witnessed active participation from 51 individuals, including several influential religious leaders. Their involvement is expected to play a pivotal role in spreading awareness within the wider community, further strengthening the collective effort towards a TB-free society.



# Nikshay Mitras

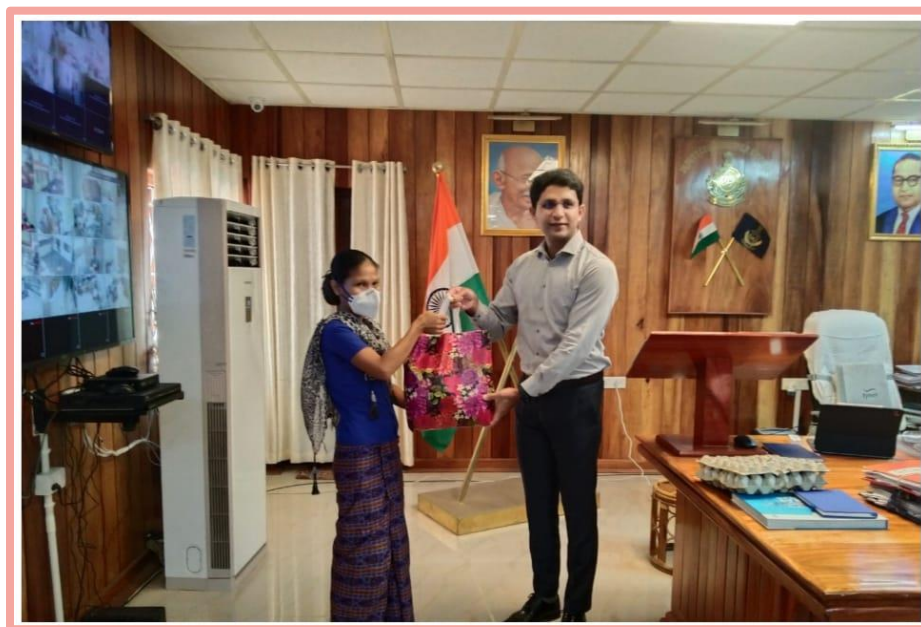
## *Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan*

The *Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan* is a nationwide campaign launched by the Government of India with the goal of eliminating tuberculosis (TB). This initiative focuses on enhancing community engagement, strengthening health systems, and improving TB diagnosis, treatment, and patient support across the country.

## *Role of Nikshay Mitras*

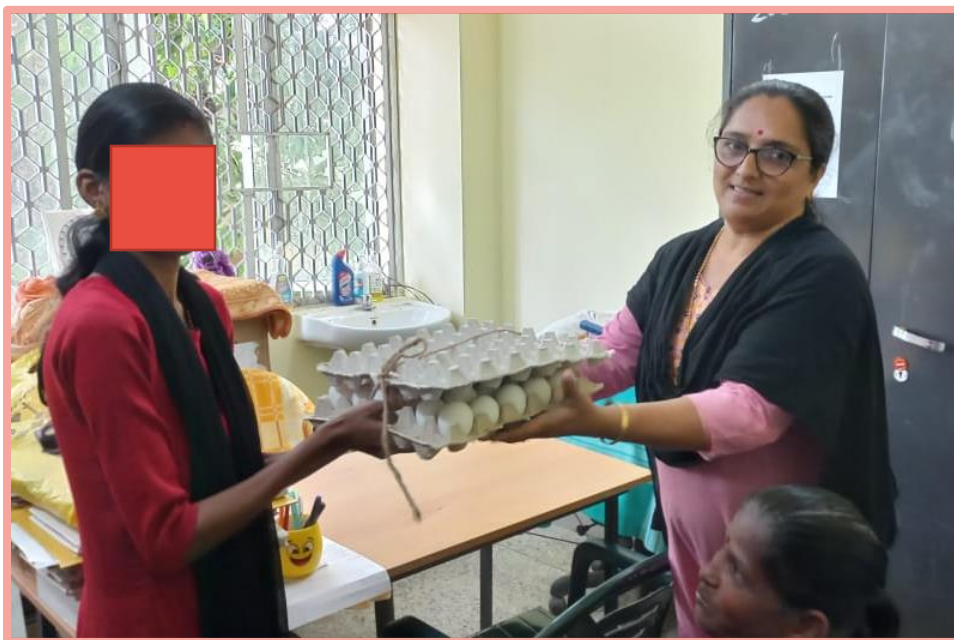
**Nikshay Mitras** are individuals, organizations, or institutions who voluntarily adopt TB patients and provide them with nutritional, vocational, diagnostic and psychosocial support. Under this initiative, they ensure patients receive necessary food kits and emotional support during their treatment. This public-private partnership model helps in reducing stigma, improving treatment adherence, and accelerating India's progress toward a TB-free nation.

In A & N Islands, we have registered Nikshay Mitras from all walks of life, from the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, the Member of Parliament, Senior Officers of A & N Admin., PRI & ULB members, Doctors, Nurses, Canara bank, ANIIDCO, small businesses, private individuals, NGOs like Guru ki Rasoi, TSG Foundation, Laksh Institute of Shiksha Educational Society, Sammati, Human Touch, Gaytri Chetna Kendra, Laksh, With You, Good Samaritan Club, Thomas Care Foundation, Ration Rasheed Foundation etc.



*Shri Amit Kale, IAS, The Deputy Commissioner of Nicobar District, providing supplementary nutrition kits to TB patients on 19/01/2025*





*Smti. V. Leena (ICTC Counsellor,) giving Nutritional support kits to a TB patient, Rangat, 03/01/2025*



*ANM Smti. Vijay Laxmi, giving Nutritional support kits to a TB patient, Diglipur, 20/02/2025*



*Mr. Durga Rao, Senior Treatment Supervisor (NTEP), Car Nicobar, canvassing for enrollment of new Nikshay Mitras in local shops and small businesses, 07 January 2025*

## **A&N Administration speeds up efforts under 'PM TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'**

### **People encouraged to contribute to this noble cause by registering as 'Nikshay Mitra'**

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 4

The District Health Society under the aegis of South Andaman District Administration conducted a camp at Kaitan Kalyana Mandapam, Junglighat and distributed nutritional kits to TB patients under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman), distributed nutritional kits to TB patients at an event held at Kaitan Kalyana Mandapam, Junglighat. The programme was aimed to motivate the community to adopt TB patients and raise awareness about TB prevention, early detection, and



treatment.

In his address, Shri Arjun Sharma emphasized the collective responsibility in the fight against TB. He highlighted the importance of early diagnosis, consistent treatment, and active community participation to eradicate the disease. Shri Sharma stressed that addressing the

social stigma associated with TB is equally crucial, as fostering awareness and community engagement can significantly reduce the disease's prevalence and improve patient outcomes.

Additionally, the DC (SA) shared that 41 Nikshay Mitras have already registered under the initiative and

presently 133 TB patients have been adopted under South Andaman District. He encouraged the public to contribute to this noble cause by registering as a Nikshay Mitra through the Nikshay portal at <https://reports.nikshay.in/FormIO/DonorRegistration>.

Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary and other senior officers of Andaman & Nicobar Administration have registered themselves as Nikshay Mitras and adopted TB patients under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, a press release from Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman said.



# Supervision, Monitoring & Evaluation

The NTEP, A&N Islands, conducts Supervision, Monitoring, and Evaluation (SME) visits at various levels to ensure the effective implementation of the program and to regularly assess diagnostic and laboratory performance.

1. **Monthly Review Meetings:** Conducted at the state and district levels by the State TB Officer and District TB Officer, respectively, to evaluate program progress and address challenges.
2. **Treatment Adherence Monitoring:** Senior Treatment Supervisors (STS) and District TB HIV Coordinators routinely visit health facilities to review TB patient treatment cards and ensure adherence to prescribed regimens.
3. **Patient-Provider Meetings:** Organized by the STS and conducted by the Medical Officer-TB Control (MO-TC), these meetings focus on patient counselling, providing essential TB-related information, improving treatment adherence, and addressing stigma and discrimination.
4. **Patient Home Visits:** Medical Officers, District TB HIV Coordinators, STS, and TB Health Visitors (TBHV) conduct home visits to assess patients' overall health, monitor treatment adherence, provide dietary guidance, reinforce cough etiquette, and encourage completion of the treatment regimen.
5. **Laboratory performance monitoring and Quality Assurance:** Microbiologists (EQA) and Senior TB Laboratory Supervisors (STLS) conduct regular onsite evaluations at TB Detection Centres (TDC) and NAAT sites. They also facilitate external quality assessments conducted by National Reference Laboratories (NRL) to maintain diagnostic accuracy and quality standards.



*Ms. Anubha Rani Das, TBHV, Sri Vijaya Puram, addressing TB Patients and Treatment supporters during Patient Provider Meeting at HWC Dairyfarm on 21/01/2025*



*Senior TB Laboratory Supervisors, Mr Ezekhel (Left at BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar) and Ms Sudha Rani (Right at HWC Chouldari), giving hands-on training to LTs on TrueNat testing and AFB Sputum Microscopy, February 2025*



*Dr Jerome Thampi, leading a team from World Health Organization (WHO) during a supervisory visit interacting with Doctors and Staff of HWC Garacharma, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025*



## Active Case Finding (ACF)

Many TB prevalence surveys have suggested that not all chest symptomatic seek care and many ignore the symptoms. This necessitates the need to make special efforts for reaching the unreached. Hence, it was highly imperative to shift from only passive to (Passive + Active) case finding. The vulnerable target groups have been well defined, thus, mapping and reaching such vulnerable populations in a campaign mode is being carried out regularly. This creates mass awareness about the signs and symptoms of TB in the general population.

**Active Case Finding (ACF)** is a planned activity with the primary objective of detecting TB cases early by actively screening targeted vulnerable groups in the community and initiating treatment promptly. Thus, it helps in identifying TB cases that would have remained undiagnosed and unreached by the programme due to various reasons.

### *TB Case Detected During ACF Campaign at District Prison, Prothrapur*



**Sri Vijaya Puram, Prothrapur, Jan 08:** An Active Case Finding (ACF) campaign for Tuberculosis (TB) was recently conducted at the District Prison in Prothrapur, South Andaman (SA), as part of ongoing public health efforts to detect and treat TB at an early stage.

During the campaign, a total of 361 inmates underwent chest X-ray and clinical examination as part of the initial screening. Of these, 40 individuals who showed symptoms suggestive of TB were subjected to further diagnostic testing using the Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT).

The testing led to the identification of one case of drug-sensitive TB. The patient has since been started on appropriate treatment as per NTEP guidelines. Health authorities emphasized the importance of such proactive screenings in closed settings like prisons to curb the spread of TB and ensure timely medical intervention.

*In Picture from Left to Right: Mr. Farooque (NTEP Driver), Ms Sini (District Program Coordinator, SA), Ms Sudha Rani (STLS SA), Dr Arjun Sivadas KK (MO NDRTBC), Ms Barkha (TBHV, GB P Hospital), Mr Ramesh (STS, Sri Vijaya Puram)*

## *TB Case Detected During Screening at IAF Labour Camp, Car Nicobar*

**Car Nicobar, Jan 11:** An Active Case Finding (ACF) session for Tuberculosis (TB) was carried out at the IAF Labour Camp in Car Nicobar under the supervision of Dr. Sylvester, Medical Officer for Tuberculosis Control (MOTC).

As part of the screening, all inmates of the camp were examined for TB symptoms. Eleven individuals were identified as presumptive TB suspects and were subsequently tested using the Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT). The screening led to the detection of one confirmed case of TB.

The diagnosed patient was promptly admitted to the TB ward for treatment. Dr. Sylvester provided the patient with detailed counselling on TB, including guidance on treatment protocols, precautions to prevent the spread of infection, personal hygiene, and the importance of maintaining a high-protein diet to support recovery.

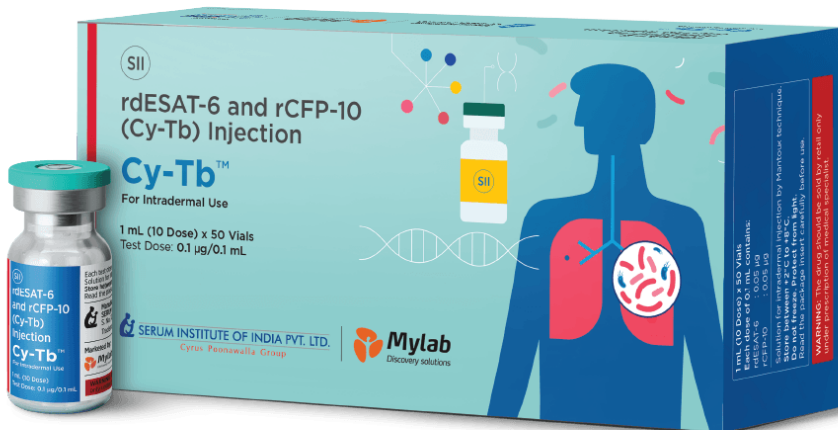




# New development – CyTB Test

The **Cy-TB intradermal test** is a newer diagnostic tool developed for the detection of **latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI)**. It is a type of **skin test based on recombinant antigens** (ESAT-6 and CFP-10), which are specific to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and absent in BCG strains and most non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM). This specificity helps reduce false-positive results due to prior **BCG vaccination** or exposure to NTMs.

In contrast, the **Mantoux test** (Tuberculin Skin Test or TST), which was used earlier, uses **purified protein derivative (PPD)** which lacks specificity and often yields **false positives** in BCG-vaccinated individuals or those exposed to NTMs. The Mantoux test also requires careful interpretation, and its results can vary due to subjectivity and cross-reactions.



The Cy-TB test is a promising alternative to the Mantoux test, particularly in countries like India with widespread BCG vaccination, offering **greater specificity** for diagnosing **latent TB infection**.

NTEP A & N Islands, have rolled out Cy TB test in South Andaman district, this will be further implemented in other districts in a phased manner.



*Cy-Tb skin test administered to a House Hold Contact of a DS TB patient at GB Pant Hospital, on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025.*

# Trainings



*Cy-TB Training for ANMs was conducted on 05.02.2025 at DHS conference Hall, SVP, by Dr P. Lal, State TB Officer and Dr Arjun Sivadass KK, MO NDRTBC*



*TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan – 100 days Campaign data collection sensitization session for all CHOs, ANMs and ASHAs of Sub Centres and HWCs of Car Nicobar, by Dr Anwar Moosa, District TB Officer, Mr Loknathan, District PMDT Coordinator and Ms Ansavi, TBHV, on 18.02.2025 at Conference Hall, BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar*

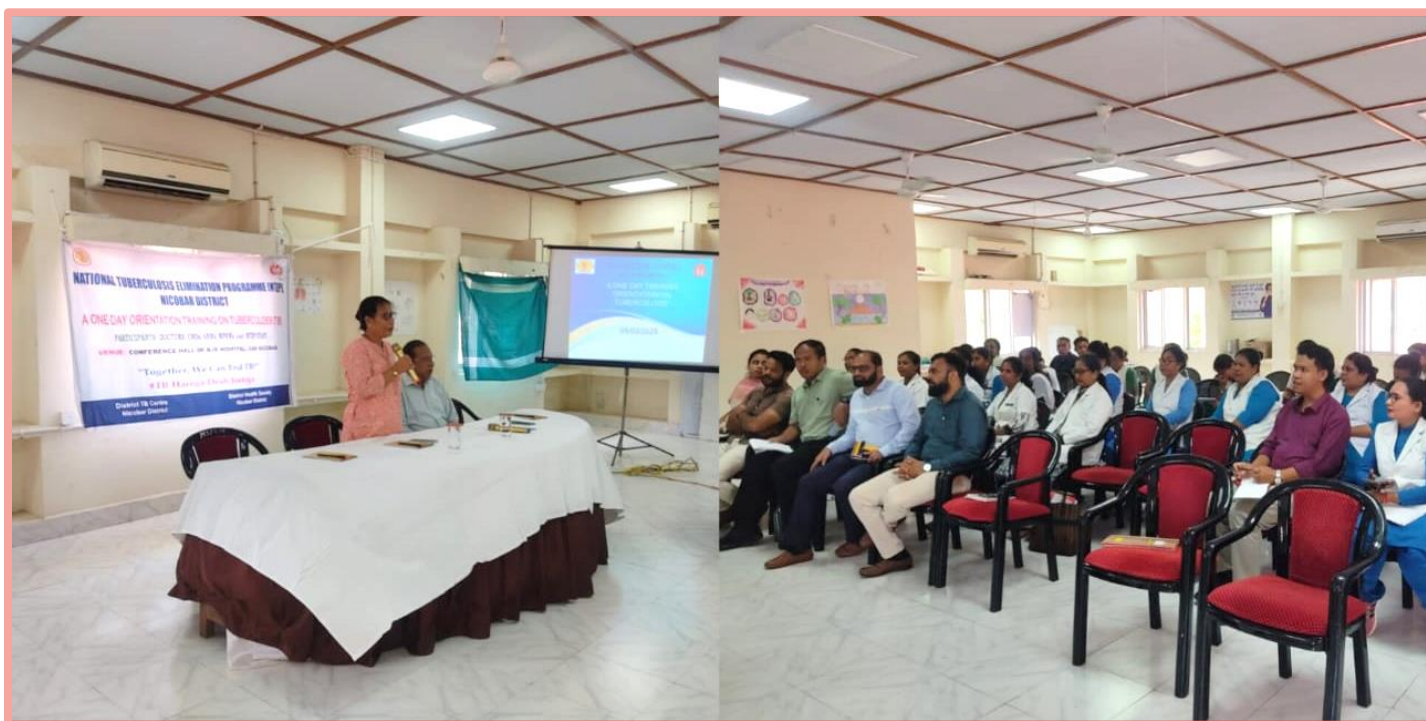




*Dr Dency Tony, MO-DTC, South Andaman, conducted an introductory training session on TB screening, sputum collection & TB awareness for the members Jan Lok Kalyan Parishad (NGO), on 18/02/2025, at South Andaman District TB Centre, GB P Hospital, Sri Vijaya Puram.*



*A half day training session on Anti-TB drugs & Dispensation for the Pharmacists of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, was conducted by by Dr P. Lal, State TB Officer and Dr Dency Tony, MO-DTC, South Andaman, at DHS Conference Hall, SVP, on 11.03.25. The Pharmacists from N & M Andaman and Nicobar District attended the training session virtually*



### **One-Day Orientation Training Programme for all Health care professionals Conducted under 100-Day Intensified TB Campaign at BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar**

**Car Nicobar, March 05:** As part of the 100-Day Intensified Tuberculosis (TB) Campaign, a One-Day Orientation Training Programme was conducted at the Conference Hall of BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar. The training aimed to enhance awareness and strengthen the capacities of health professionals in the fight against TB.

Dr. Grace, Medical Superintendent of BJR Hospital, inaugurated the programme and addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in TB elimination. The session began with a pre-test to assess participants' existing knowledge, followed by a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Anwar Moosa, District TB Officer. His session covered a wide range of topics including an introduction to tuberculosis, global versus Indian TB burden, symptoms, diagnosis, prevention strategies, government initiatives, and the crucial role of health workers in TB elimination.

Dr. Sylvester Titus, MOTC, elaborated on the importance of screening vulnerable populations and highlighted the benefits and framework of the NIKSHAY Mitra Scheme, aimed at providing support to TB patients. Further, Shri S. Loknathan, PMDT/HIV Coordinator, presented a briefing on the various treatment regimens available for TB patients. Shri R. Durga Rao, Senior Treatment Supervisor (STS), demonstrated the proper techniques for sample collection, packaging, and transportation, ensuring quality and safety in the diagnostic process.

The training saw active participation from approximately 40 health workers including Senior Medical Officers, Medical Officers, Health Educators, Male Health Workers, Community Health Officers (CHOs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) from various Sub-Centres and Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) across Car Nicobar.

The orientation concluded with an interactive doubt-clearing session, followed by a post-test to evaluate the learning outcomes of the participants. The programme marks a significant step in empowering grassroots health workers in the mission to eliminate TB from the region.