

# MAKE ANTI-TB CAMPAIGN A MASS MOVEMENT: PRESIDENT

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Draupadi Murmu during the launch of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

President Droupadi Murmu virtually launched the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said it was the duty of all citizens to give high priority to the anti-tuberculosis campaign and make it a mass movement.

Tuberculosis caused the largest number of deaths among all other infectious diseases in the country. India has a little less than 20% of the world's population, but has more than 25% of the total TB patients of the world. "This is a matter of concern," said the President, adding that most of TB-affected people came from the poor sections of society.

The President said that the thinking and methodology of 'New India' was to make India a leading nation of the world. India had set an example for the world in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

The policy of 'New India' to move forward with confidence was also visible in the field of TB eradication. "According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, all nations have set the goal of eradicating TB by the year 2030. But the Government of India has set the target of eradicating TB by the year 2025 and efforts are being made at every level to fulfil this resolution," she added.

Ms. Murmu said that to make this campaign a mass movement, awareness about TB should be created among the people. "They have to be informed that prevention of this disease is possible. Its treatment is effective and accessible and the government provides free-of-cost facilities for prevention and treatment of this disease," she said.

She said that in some patients or communities, there was an inferiority complex associated with this disease, and they viewed it as a stigma. "This illusion also has to be eradicated. Everyone should be aware that TB germs are often present in everyone's body," she added.

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