

## **High-Level Meeting Convened to Accelerate TB Mukht Panchayat Initiative in Ladakh.**

Leh, July 9 : Aligning with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, a high level meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), UT Ladakh, to discuss strategic interventions for achieving TB-Free Panchayats across Ladakh.

The meeting witnessed the presence of Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM) Ladakh, Director Health Services, Deputy Commissioner Leh, Additional Commissioner Revenue Kargil, Chief Medical Officers of Leh and Kargil, District Tuberculosis Officers Leh/Kargil other concerned State and District TB officials.

During the meeting, both districts presented their current strategies and action plans aimed at eliminating Tuberculosis at the grassroots level. Principal Secretary H&ME emphasized the need for scaling up active TB screenings, especially focusing on the identification of cases based on the 10 common TB symptoms, and prioritizing vulnerable populations for timely intervention.

The Principal Secretary issued strict directions to intensify efforts at the Panchayat level by implementing focused strategies aligned with the six key indicators of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Further, directions were issued to ensure timely disbursement of benefits under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, to support the nutritional needs of TB patients during the course of their treatment. The District Commissioners of Leh and Kargil were instructed to prepare comprehensive Panchayat-level action plans aimed at achieving TB-free status in a mission-mode approach.

Additionally, Mission Director NHM Ladakh directed both districts to enhance the distribution of nutritional food baskets under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA) within the coming days and to ensure that all eligible TB patients receive the full spectrum of care and support during their treatment. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to work collaboratively and decisively toward the goal of eliminating TB from every Panchayat of Ladakh.

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