

DC Kargil launches JOSH initiative to strengthen TB detection and eradication efforts



Kargil, October 8: Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar (IAS) on Wednesday attended the launch ceremony of JOSH (Joint Squad for Health), an initiative of the District TB Officer, Kargil, aimed at strengthening efforts towards making the district TB-free. The programme was held at the Syed Mehdi Memorial Auditorium Hall, Kargil, in the presence of ADC Ghulam Mohd; CMO Kargil, Dr.

Fatima Banoo; CMO Drass, Dr. Asif Hussain; Medical Superintendent, Dr. Farzana Batool; District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Fatima Nissa; DySP Kargil, Shri Tundup Dorje; Tehsildar Kargil; and all Block Medical Officers.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said tuberculosis had historically been associated with social stigma, which often prevented patients from coming forward for diagnosis and treatment. He stressed the need to replace stigma with awareness, early detection and community support.

Referring to the TB Mukht Abhiyan, the DC said the JOSH initiative would further strengthen ongoing efforts to identify TB cases at the community level and ensure timely treatment.

Under the initiative, teams will undertake door-to-door screening and identification of suspected TB cases in villages, using modern technologies and available digital tools. He said more than 20,000 people have already been screened in identified villages as part of the ongoing TB detection campaign.

The DC said that after identification, TB patients are provided financial assistance and nutritional support. He highlighted the provision of food baskets for six months to help patients maintain adequate nutrition and strengthen their immunity during treatment. He also urged people to make use of the TB Mukht Bharat app and AI chatbot for information, assistance and awareness related to TB. The JOSH teams, he said, would also undertake community-level awareness and outreach activities.

Calling for greater community participation, the DC urged youth, health professionals and other stakeholders to work as ambassadors of the TB-free campaign, spread awareness, encourage people to undergo screening and coordinate with health teams in identifying and supporting patients.

The programme also included the distribution of appreciation certificates to doctors, health workers and others for their contributions towards TB detection, treatment and awareness efforts in Kargil.