



Gram Panchayats Declared TB-Free in Haryana

Why in News?

The Health Department has declared **sixty-six gram panchayats in Karnal district in Haryana tuberculosis (TB)-free** based on six key indicators.

Key Points

- **Assessment and Awards:**
 - A state-level team conducted an assessment in March 2025 to evaluate the panchayats.
 - Recognized panchayats were **honored by the Additional Deputy Commissioner**.
 - To receive TB-Free Gram Panchayat status, a panchayat must meet the required conditions for one year.
- **Award Categories:**
 - 14 panchayats **received a silver statue of Mahatma Gandhi** with an appreciation certificate for being recognized TB-free for the second time.
 - 52 panchayats were **awarded a bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi** and certificates for achieving TB-free status for the first time.
- **Key Criteria for TB-Free Status:**
 - **Annual sputum sample collection:** At least 30 samples per 1,000 population.
 - **TB prevalence:** Fewer than 1 TB patient per 1,000 people.
 - **Treatment success rate:** At least 85%.
 - **Diagnostic testing:** Minimum 60% of TB patients must undergo CBNAAT or TrueNAAT testing.
 - **Financial aid distribution:** 100% disbursement under the [Nikshay Poshan Yojana](#).
 - **Nutritional support:** Provision of nutrition kits to all TB patients.
- **Role of Nikshay Mitra Yojana:**
 - **Nikshay Mitra Yojana**, launched under TB-Free India, allows citizens, [NGOs](#), corporates, and public representatives to support TB patients.
 - Contributors (Nikshay Mitras) provide monthly nutrition kits to aid TB patients in their recovery.

Tuberculosis

- **About:**
 - Tuberculosis is an infection caused by ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis***. It can practically affect **any organ of the body**. The most common ones are lungs, pleura (lining around the lungs), lymph nodes, intestines, spine, and brain.
- **Transmission:**
 - It is an airborne infection that spreads through **close contact with the infected**, especially in **densely populated spaces** with poor ventilation.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Common symptoms of active lung TB are cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.

