



# drishti

## Scheme to Screen Children for Leprosy & TB

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 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/scheme-to-screen-children-for-leprosy-tb](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/scheme-to-screen-children-for-leprosy-tb)

The Union government has rolled out a scheme for universal screening of children below 18 years for leprosy and tuberculosis (TB).

- It is going to benefit almost 25 crore children and adolescents annually. This will help in ensuring timely screening for the diseases and will put them on treatment (if required).
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) Mobile Health teams** will act as the delivery agent for the scheme. They will perform the screening of children for TB and Leprosy.

Earlier, the screening of children of age group 0-6 years was done at **Anganwadis** and children of 6-18 years group were enrolled in government and government-aided **schools**.

- RBSK is aimed at **early identification and intervention** of diseases in children from their birth to 18 years of age so as to cover the **4 Ds**—
  - Defects at birth,
  - Deficiencies,
  - Diseases, &
  - Developmental delays, including Disability.

## Leprosy & TB burden in India

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- *India eliminated leprosy* in 2005. All states except Chhattisgarh and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli have eliminated leprosy, but still, 1.15-1.2 lakh new **leprosy cases are detected every year**.
- *Tuberculosis* kills an estimated **4.8 lakh Indians every year** and more than 1,400 every day.
  - India has the highest TB burden in the world.
  - More than a million missing cases are notified every year.
  - Most such cases remain either undiagnosed, or are inadequately diagnosed, and are treated in the private sector.

## Way Forward

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- There is still stigma attached to leprosy, because of which authorities need to **administer preventive medication** to all the peer groups- family, parents, etc, very discreetly.
- Early detection and timely intervention will help in preventing disability and completely curing the disease.

**Source: IE**