

Medanta organises multi-stakeholder meeting to optimise 'TB Free Block Pataudi'

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Gurugram,

In continuation of its commitment to make India TB free, "Mission TB Free Haryana", a flagship initiative of Medanta in collaboration with the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Central TB Division of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and the Government of Haryana launched "**TB Free Block Pataudi**" in November 2019 to eradicate tuberculosis in the block through diagnosis and treatment. To optimise the program, a multi-stakeholder meeting was held at Medanta which was attended by local Government officials and over 150 village *Sarpanchs* from Pataudi.

The objective of the multi-stakeholder meeting was to sensitize the *sarpanchs* about the importance of screening for effective management of the disease. Evangelizing the initiative, these *sarpanchs* will encourage residents in their respective villages to undergo screening for timely detection and treatment of TB.

"TB Free Block Pataudi" aims to screen a population of 6 lakh in the Pataudi block over the next two years. As part of this initiative, volunteers from Medanta along with ASHAs, the grassroots health workers in villages have been conducting door-to-door screenings for detecting people who are at potential risk. The ones who screen positive for cough attend treatment camps with X-ray, sputum and geneXpert facilities available at point of care in a mobile van and the diagnosis is confirmed on the same

day.

Dr Naresh Trehan, Chairman & Managing Director, Medanta said, "TB is a serious challenge that has been plaguing the nation and a multi-stakeholder approach is required to tackle this disease. Screening and detection play a crucial role in the prevention and management of the disease and there should be collaborative efforts towards making India TB-Free by ensuring no one goes undiagnosed or untreated".

Internationally acclaimed respiratory disease expert, **Dr Bornali Datta, Director, Pulmonary Medicine, Respiratory & Sleep Medicine, Medanta** said, "As part of our commitment to making India TB free, we have screened 25,000 patients through *Mission TB-free Haryana* over the last six years. Strongly partnered and supported by the Government, the *TB Free Block Pataudi* program is based on the Active Case Finding Methodology which focuses on proactively looking out for and screening people who are at high disease risk rather than waiting for them to develop symptoms of an active disease. Our volunteers are working in collaboration with ASHA workers towards the objective of screening 6 lakh people in the Pataudi block over the next two years."

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