

Replace sputum smear testing with advanced testing for TB treatment: Experts

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Every 1 rupee invested in TB diagnostic and treatment yields benefit of over Rs 100 for the country



IHMR University, Jaipur in association with Consocia Advisory along with technical support from NITRD Copenhagen Consensus Center, Human Diagnostics GNBH recently hosted a session on meeting India's target of TB eradication by 2025.

Over 600+ participants, experts, health care professionals, policymakers, NGOs and consultants across India and Globe joined the webinar.

Dr Ravindra Kumar Dewan, Director, National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, "While the report shows the decline in TB incidence achieved in previous years have slowed almost to a halt, this trend will be much worse in 2021 and 2022, driven by the ongoing variants of corona, however, the government remains steadfast on its goals."

According to Dr Arvinder Singh, Country Manager, India Region, HUMAN Diagnostics, "Diagnostics remains a very critical area so far as reducing the chain of transmission of TB is concerned. In the last seven years, the sector has come up with a lot of molecular platforms in the identification of TB disease both in public and private sector."

Dr Praveen Aggarwal, Co-Founder of Consocia Advisory concluded by highlighting the need for putting appropriate "value" to each life and making proportional national investment to eradicate TB, create PPCPs, bringing new techniques, new management, new treatment regimen, and Technology led smart and affordable solutions to remove most of the barriers such as TB-LAMP in order to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment. While stating that target of 2025 is 100% achievable, Aggarwal emphasized joint efforts to remove the biggest barrier - early diagnosis - and how technologies like TB Lamp which are far more superior to commonly used diagnostic test like Sputum Smear should be deployed at PHC, CHC and Health and Wellness Centers across India.