

## NEWS AT A GLANCE

REACH is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the fight against TB since 1999. Our mandate is to provide care and treatment support to those affected by TB as well as work in areas of advocacy, communications, research and publication education on TB.

### Three REACH Projects Merge with TB-Free Chennai Initiative

In an effort to eliminate TB from Chennai, a new initiative—TB-free Chennai – has been designed, which is spearheaded by the Chennai Corporation, National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, and REACH, and is implemented currently in Chennai.

Pharmacy Initiative, IMPACT Initiative and Project EQUIP have merged with the TB-free Chennai Initiative and continue their TB care services to develop a patient friendly private health care system that improves access towards TB diagnosis and treatment.

Through this initiative, REACH is working closely with chest and general physicians, consultants, private hospitals, patients, community groups and RNTCP to design a collaborative model for TB diagnosis, treatment and control. Nakshatra Centres are being set-up in private hospitals to function as Nodal centres, where a REACH TB Nanban has been made available for facilitating TB diagnosis, treatment and other TB care services for TB symptomatic cases and patients.

### REACH Holds 18th Annual General Meet

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, September 21, 2017: REACH held its 18th Annual General Body Meeting at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, former Rajya Sabha Member, renowned Agricultural Scientist and Chairman, REACH said, “REACH has come a long way from that first meeting I remember almost 20 years ago. There is still a lot of work to be done and involving the community is a priority to achieve TB control”.



Dr P.R. Narayanan, Former Director, National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, presided over the meeting as the special guest and acknowledged the achievements of REACH, particularly in demonstrating a model of private sector engagement. Read more [here](#).



### REACH Launches Annual Report 2016-17

REACH unveiled its Annual Report 2016-17 at the 18th Annual General Meet. The Annual Report can be downloaded [here](#).

### Project EQUIP Organizes TAG Meeting

Chennai, September 15 2017: A meeting of the Technical Advisory Group of Project EQUIP was organized to inform the members of the successful transition of the project to TB-free Chennai Initiative. The Project was being guided by a Technical Advisory Group during its implementation years. The members of the group have several years of public and private sector experience working as pulmonologists, paediatricians, microbiologists, infectious disease specialists, and researchers.

About five meetings were conducted every three months to discuss the progress of the project. The members gave their inputs on sensitization, documentation, patient management, contact screening, data analysis, MDR-TB management and referrals, notification, and communication materials.

REACH thanks all members of the Technical Advisory Group – Dr Lavanya. J, Dr Sridhar. R, Dr P.K. Thomas, Dr Krishnarajasekar, Dr Ezhilan. N, Dr R. Narasimhan, Dr Supriya Sundaram, Dr U.V. Ramakrishnan, Dr Santha Devi, Dr Uma Devi, Dr M.S. Jawahar, Dr Ravi Shankar, Dr Balasubramanian. M, Dr Jeyanthi Viswanathan, Dr Selvapandian, Dr Janani Shankar, and Dr Vaidehi. T.



### Engaging Pharmacists to Spread Awareness

Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, July 30 2017: REACH participated in the Tamil Nadu Chemist and druggist Association’s (TNCDA) quarterly review meeting. During the meeting, REACH team members addressed the gathering of 470 pharmacies from across the state and sensitized them about the Pharmacy Initiative. The members were aware of TB care services provided by the initiative. Most of the district representatives showed willingness to organize TB awareness programs for their staff members post the meeting.



### RNTCP Adopts IMPACT’s Household Contact Tracing Program

Chennai, 2017: IMPACT Initiative’s household contact tracing program in Chennai will be implemented by RNTCP moving forward. Household contact tracing was the brainchild of REACH and was run by IMPACT in approximately 100 DOTS centres, which fall under the purview of the Chennai Corporation. The initiative in this quarter successfully integrated all the DOTS centres as part of the exit plan. Health visitors were sensitized about the process of household contact tracing and support for chest X-ray through private facilities working with REACH was provided in areas where there was no availability of government X-Ray centres. Overall, 7000 household got themselves screened as part of the IMPACT initiative between April 2016 and May 2017. The initiative will continue to provide support to Chennai Corporation until December this year.



### Project Axshya Spreads Reach of Pharmacy Initiative

Tamil Nadu, 2017: Based on the success of the Pharmacy Initiative being implemented in Chennai District, Project Axshya extended the initiative to other districts of Tamil Nadu. In association with Pharmacy Project, pharmacy sensitization program was conducted in three districts – Villupuram, Thiruvallur and Vellore. REACH sensitized 258 pharmacists in those districts between June and August 2017. The team received information of 89 patients from 14 pharmacists for follow-up. Furthermore, two new TB patients were identified through pharmacies’ referrals. Pharmacists in the community often serve as the first point of contact for people with cough and there is a demonstrable success in involving pharmacists in TB control and care.



### Hon’ble Governor Launches TBC2A Project in Assam

Guwahati, 24 August 2017: The TB Call to Action project was formally launched in Assam at an event presided over by Shri Banwarilal Purohit, the Honourable Governor of the state. The launch event was preceded by a consultative meeting on Employer Led Model (ELM) for TB Care and Prevention, which brought together senior representatives from tea garden associations to discuss the need for industries and corporates to work towards the welfare of their employees. Read more about the launch [here](#).



### Jharkhand Forms Task Force for Mainstreaming of TB

Ranchi, Jharkhand, August 2017: For the first time in India, a State Task Force for mainstreaming of TB has been established. This was done by the order of Shri Sudhir Tripathy, the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare, Government of Jharkhand. The announcement for the task force notes the need for convergence of various departments towards TB elimination. The formation of the task force was facilitated by REACH, which is one of its members. The other members include the Departments of Industries, Mining, Social Welfare, Welfare and Labour and representatives from PSUs such as CCL, BCCL and CIL, Medanta Hospital along with CSR representatives. The state task force will work towards policy modifications, social protection schemes and creating an enabling environment for TB patients.

### Model for Greater Involvement of Private Pharmacies in India’s Response to TB Gains Momentum

August, 2017: REACH, building on learnings from its pharmacy engagement initiative in Chennai, expanded this to TBC2A project states. This model seeks to strengthen private sector engagement by involving pharmacies, often a primary point of contact in the community, for early TB identification, referrals and counselling of patients. In Assam, the pharmacy model was officially launched and will be piloted in three districts: Kamrup, Darrang and Baxsa. In Bihar, trainings were conducted with over 100 private pharmacists in four districts. In Jharkhand, an advocacy workshop was held with Drug Inspectors from across the state to present the pharmacy engagement model and get their inputs. In Odisha, a pharmacy committee comprising the Director of Health Services and State TB Officer among other members was set up. The committee held its first meeting and decided to pilot the model in the urban districts of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Read in detail about the model [here](#).

Other important events of the TBC2A Project include national consultation on role of nurses in response to TB, rollout of national advocacy mentorship programme, and meeting of the ‘Touched by TB’ group. Read all the reports [here](#).



## REACH IN NEWS

- [CM launches Tuberculosis Free Chennai programme](#)
- [CM launches TB Free Chennai project](#)
- [Daily Regimen for TB Launched](#)
- [Assam Governor Launches TB Call To Action Project](#)
- [Governor launches project on TB](#)
- [India’s battle with TB continues to take lives. And treatment is still hard to manage](#)



## TB IN THE MEDIA

- [Pandemic alert: Tuberculosis is world’s No. 1 infectious killer](#)
- [India saw most number of tuberculosis deaths, patients in 2016: WHO report](#)
- [Drug-resistant tuberculosis cases on rise in India](#)
- [Nutritional deficiencies, tuberculosis – How to stop India’s two most common health issues](#)
- [India can only contain its TB epidemic with cash and commitment](#)
- [WHO gears up to help India eliminate tuberculosis by 2025](#)

### REACH-The News Minute Collaborate for #TBChampions Video Campaign

In collaboration with The News Minute, REACH launched its first-ever video interview series with TB Survivors and Champions. Through this series of eleven short videos, each one featuring a TB Champion, REACH hopes to increase the visibility of TB. This stems from the conviction that the fight against TB is best led by those whose lives have been personally affected by the disease. To watch the videos, click [here](#) or visit us on Facebook.

