

## Editorial

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**T**he Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) has treated over 19 million patients and thus saved an additional three million lives. The cure rates under RNTCP have consistently been above 85%. TB Millennium Development Goals of 50 per cent reduction in the prevalence of TB and reducing TB death by 50 % have been achieved. The New Strategic Plan of RNTCP (2017-2025) emphasizing End TB by the year 2025. This issue of NTI Bulletin is addressing some of the priority areas such as PMDT, Bio Safety, TB HIV and End TB Strategy.

In spite of good performance and achievement by the programme, the emergence of drug resistance TB has become a major challenge in our country. The article, **overview of Programmatic Management of Drug resistance TB (PMDT)**, is emphasizing the burden of drug resistance TB in India, classification of TB based on drug resistance and various diagnostic tools, algorithms and treatment regimens under the PMDT services.

*M. tuberculosis* is an airborne and the incidence of the disease among the laboratory personnel is higher as compared to the other Health care workers. Considering the high risk of Laboratory acquired infection (LAI) for personnel manipulating samples potentially containing *M. tuberculosis* it is mandatory to ensure highest level protection for human health and environment. The article on **Bio Safety and Bio Risk precautions in TB Laboratories** attempts to specify the bio safety regulatory framework currently in force by providing substantial details about the available containment measures, safety equipment and the various work practices to be applied in TB research and diagnostic laboratories.

India has second highest TB HIV burden in the world. The RNTCP and the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) of Government of India jointly implement TB HIV collaborative activities in India. Co-ordination mechanisms between both the programs are established at national, state and district level. The article on **Integrated, patient centred model of HIV-TB care and prevention** highlights the National Framework for HIV TB in India that recommends Intensified TB case finding, Infection control and TB preventive therapy as important activities to reduce the mortality and morbidity due to TB among PLHIV.

Each country is expected to strengthen strategies appropriate to its needs to achieve the target of The END TB strategy. With a declining TB incidence, and being one of the low TB prevalence states, strong health system Kerala is ready for a final push towards TB elimination. This article **contextualising The End TB Strategy for push toward TB elimination in Kerala** describes the readiness of the Kerala state for TB elimination and state specific END TB strategy and the activities.



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