

DOCUMENTATION REPORT

Inauguration of Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients

Towards TB Mukht Bharat Through

Government-CSR-Civil Society Partnership



Financial Support by Cochin Shipyard Ltd., A Government Enterprise

Implemented by Sonarpur Progatir Pathe, Sonarpur, Kolkata 700150

In Collaboration with

Department of Health & Family Welfare, GoWB, and District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata

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Kolkata

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Prepared by:

Dr. Abdur Rafique

Sonarpur Progatir Pathe

Nowapara Main Rd, near Bichitra Pathagar, Mandirtala, Rajpur Sonarpur, Kolkata,
West Bengal 700150

Acknowledgement

Sonarpur Progatir Pathe (SPP) expresses its sincere gratitude to Cochin Shipyard Limited for extending Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support towards strengthening nutritional care for tuberculosis (TB) patients in Kolkata. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing India's vision of a TB Mukht Bharat through collaborative action.

SPP also gratefully acknowledges the invaluable cooperation extended by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, and the District Health and Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata, whose guidance and technical support have been instrumental in implementing this initiative.

The organisation extends its appreciation to the Hon'ble Minister, distinguished guests, health officials, representatives from Cochin Shipyard Limited, development professionals, volunteers, and all participants who enriched the inauguration ceremony with their presence and thoughtful deliberations.

Above all, SPP expresses its respect and solidarity to every tuberculosis patient whose courage and determination inspire collective efforts towards building a healthier and more compassionate society.

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Executive Summary

Tuberculosis continues to pose a major public health challenge in India despite remarkable progress in diagnosis, treatment, and community awareness. Recognising that adequate nutrition plays a critical role in successful treatment outcomes, the Government of India has integrated nutritional support into the National TB Elimination Programme through the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and the Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative, encouraging partnerships among government institutions, corporate organisations, civil society, and local communities. The national campaign emphasizes that nutritional support, community participation, and coordinated action are indispensable for reducing TB-related mortality and achieving a TB-free India.

Responding to this national call, Sonarpur Progotir Pathe (SPP), with financial support from the CSR initiative of Cochin Shipyard Limited, launched a nutritional support programme for 200 tuberculosis patients from Kolkata. The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, and the District Health and Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata, demonstrating a model of effective partnership between the public sector, corporate social responsibility, and a grassroots development organisation.

The inauguration ceremony was held on 22 July 2026 at the historic Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre in Kolkata. The event brought together representatives from the Government of West Bengal, Cochin Shipyard Limited, the State TB Programme, public health professionals, social activists, and members of civil society to reaffirm their collective commitment to the vision of a TB Mukta Bharat. The programme was anchored by noted All India Radio news reader Shri Raktim Bhattacharya, who highlighted the historical burden of tuberculosis, the importance of nutritional care, and the need for collaborative action involving government, corporate institutions, and voluntary organisations.

The ceremony was graced by Smt. Purnima Chakraborty, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of West Bengal, who emphasised that tuberculosis is not merely a medical condition but also a social and economic challenge. She observed that providing nutritional support to TB patients represents far more than the distribution of food; it restores dignity, confidence, and hope while strengthening the collective resolve to build a healthier Bengal and a healthier India.

In his welcome address, Dr. P. K. Mohanty, former Additional Director of Health Services, Government of West Bengal, reflected on SPP's longstanding contribution to public health, particularly its work in underserved areas of the Sundarbans. He underlined that while effective medicines are available for tuberculosis, sustained nutritional support remains indispensable for successful treatment and recovery. He further acknowledged SPP's credibility, integrity, and commitment to community service, describing these qualities as the foundation of the organisation's growing partnerships and public trust.

Representatives from Cochin Shipyard Limited reaffirmed their organisation's commitment to social responsibility and explained how the CSR initiative of the Ship Repair Unit had made the nutritional support programme possible. Officials from the State TB Programme reiterated the importance of the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana, the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative, and digital innovations such as the TB Mukta Bharat App, all of which are designed to complement medical treatment with nutrition, counselling, and community support.

The programme concluded with the symbolic distribution of nutritional support kits to TB patients, representing a meaningful step towards ensuring that treatment is accompanied by adequate nutrition and compassionate community care. Beyond its immediate benefits to 200 beneficiaries, the initiative demonstrates how strategic collaboration among government, corporate CSR, and civil society organisations can contribute to the national goal of eliminating tuberculosis.

This report documents the proceedings of the inauguration ceremony, highlights the key messages emerging from the deliberations, and presents the significance of the initiative within the broader framework of India's commitment to achieving a TB Mukht Bharat. It also serves as a record of an evolving partnership that places human dignity, public health, and community participation at the centre of development practice.

Chapter 1: Background

1.1 Tuberculosis: A Continuing Public Health Challenge

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the world's most serious infectious diseases despite being both preventable and curable. For decades, the disease has posed enormous public health, social, and economic challenges, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where poverty, undernutrition, overcrowding, and limited access to healthcare increase vulnerability.

In India, tuberculosis has long been recognised not merely as a medical condition but as a development challenge that affects individuals, families, communities, and the nation's economy. A person diagnosed with TB often experiences not only physical suffering but also loss of income, nutritional insecurity, social stigma, and psychological distress. These interconnected challenges frequently become barriers to treatment adherence and complete recovery.

Recognising the multidimensional nature of tuberculosis, the Government of India has adopted a comprehensive strategy that combines early diagnosis, quality treatment, nutritional support, community participation, and social protection to accelerate progress towards eliminating the disease.

1.2 India's Vision of a TB Mukht Bharat

The Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan with the ambitious objective of eliminating tuberculosis through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Building upon the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), the campaign seeks to significantly reduce TB incidence and mortality through early detection, prompt treatment, improved nutrition, preventive care, and active community engagement.

The campaign initially began as a focused intervention in high-priority districts before being expanded nationwide following encouraging results. Under the campaign, vulnerable populations are systematically screened using advanced diagnostic technologies, including AI-enabled handheld X-ray systems and molecular testing. Simultaneously, efforts are made to strengthen nutritional support, improve treatment adherence, and involve communities in supporting TB patients throughout their recovery journey.

The campaign recognises that successful TB elimination cannot rely solely on medical interventions. Sustainable progress requires coordinated action among government departments, local communities, development organisations, academic institutions, corporate entities, and citizens.

1.3 Nutrition: An Essential Component of TB Care

Adequate nutrition is universally acknowledged as one of the most important determinants of successful tuberculosis treatment. Undernourished individuals are more susceptible to developing active TB disease, while inadequate nutrition during treatment can delay recovery, weaken immunity, and increase the risk of treatment failure.

Recognising this critical relationship, the Government of India has significantly strengthened nutritional support under the National TB Elimination Programme. The Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana provides direct nutritional assistance to TB patients, while additional community-led initiatives encourage citizens and organisations to supplement governmental support through locally appropriate nutritional interventions. The national campaign also emphasises routine

nutritional assessment and special support for undernourished patients as an integral component of differentiated TB care.

However, nutrition extends beyond financial assistance. It requires sustained community engagement to ensure that patients receive balanced food, psychosocial encouragement, and continued care throughout the treatment period. This understanding has shaped many innovative partnerships across the country.

1.4 The Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative: Community Participation in Action

One of the most innovative features of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan is the Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative, which encourages individuals, institutions, corporate organisations, educational institutions, civil society organisations, and community groups to voluntarily support TB patients during their treatment journey.

Under this initiative, Ni-kshay Mitras provide nutritional assistance, psychosocial support, counselling, and encouragement to consenting TB patients and their families. The initiative reflects the belief that eliminating tuberculosis requires not only an efficient healthcare system but also compassionate social support that enables patients to complete treatment with dignity and confidence.

The national campaign explicitly encourages CSR initiatives and voluntary organisations to participate as Ni-kshay Mitras, thereby strengthening collaboration between government programmes and community-based organisations. This approach transforms TB elimination from a government programme into a collective social movement.

1.5 Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Health

Corporate Social Responsibility has emerged as an important partner in addressing complex public health challenges in India. By mobilising financial resources, managerial expertise, innovation, and community outreach, CSR initiatives complement governmental efforts and expand the reach of essential health services.

The partnership between Cochin Shipyard Limited and Sonarpur Progarir Pathe (SPP) represents an excellent example of this collaborative approach. Through financial support provided under its CSR programme, Cochin Shipyard Limited has enabled the implementation of nutritional support for tuberculosis patients in Kolkata, directly contributing to the national objective of strengthening treatment outcomes through improved nutrition and community care.

Such partnerships illustrate how responsible corporate citizenship can contribute meaningfully to national development priorities while creating measurable social impact at the community level.

1.6 Sonarpur Progarir Pathe: Strengthening Community-Based Public Health

SPP is a nonprofit organisation committed to improving the lives of vulnerable communities through integrated development initiatives. Over the years, the organisation has worked closely with government departments, local institutions, and community stakeholders to deliver programmes in health, education, livelihood, social development, and community empowerment.

Among its diverse initiatives, public health has remained an important area of engagement. As highlighted during the inauguration ceremony, SPP began its journey by extending health services to underserved and geographically difficult areas of the Sundarbans, complementing the efforts of the Government of West Bengal in reaching communities where access to health

services remained limited. The organisation's commitment, integrity, and community-centred approach have earned the confidence of both government institutions and development partners.

Building upon this experience, SPP has partnered with Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, to implement nutritional support for tuberculosis patients in Kolkata. The initiative reflects the organisation's continuing commitment to strengthening community health through collaborative action and inclusive development.

1.7 About this Documentation Report

This report documents the inauguration of the Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients programme held on 22 July 2026 at the Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, Kolkata. The event marked the formal launch of nutritional support for 200 tuberculosis patients under the financial assistance of Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSR) and implementation by SPP in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, and the District Health and Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata.

Beyond recording the proceedings of the inauguration ceremony, this document seeks to capture the spirit of partnership that brought together government institutions, a public sector enterprise, healthcare professionals, civil society, and community leaders in support of a common national mission. It stands as a testament to the belief that the journey towards a TB Mukt Bharat is strengthened when public institutions, corporate organisations, and communities work together with a shared sense of purpose.

Chapter 2: About the Programme

2.1 Introduction

The fight against tuberculosis demands far more than medical treatment. It requires sustained nutritional support, psychosocial care, community participation, and strong institutional partnerships that place the well-being of patients at the centre of public health interventions. Recognising this need, SPP, with financial support from the CSR initiative of Cochin Shipyard Limited, launched a programme to provide nutritional support to tuberculosis patients in Kolkata.

The programme is going to be implemented in close collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, and the District Health and Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata, aligning local action with the national vision of TB Mukht Bharat. The initiative complements the Government of India's emphasis on integrating nutritional care with tuberculosis treatment and encouraging wider participation through the Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative.

The formal inauguration of the programme was held on 22 July 2026 at the Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, Kolkata, bringing together representatives from government, the corporate sector, healthcare institutions, civil society organisations, and the media to reaffirm their shared commitment towards eliminating tuberculosis.

2.2 Programme at a Glance

Particulars	Details
Programme Title	Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients
National Mission	TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan
Date of Inauguration	22 July 2026
Venue	Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, Kolkata
Financial Support	Cochin Shipyard Limited (Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative)
Implementing Organisation	Sonarpur Progotir Pathe (SPP)
Government Partners	Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal; District Health & Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata
Target Beneficiaries	200 Tuberculosis Patients
Nature of Support	Nutritional Support Kits
Programme Theme	Strengthening Nutritional Care for a TB-Free India
Master of Ceremonies	Shri Raktim Bhattacharya, News Reader, All India Radio

2.3 Objectives of the Programme

The programme was designed with the following objectives:

- To strengthen nutritional support for tuberculosis patients undergoing treatment.
- To complement the Government of India's efforts under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan by promoting community participation and collaborative action.
- To demonstrate an effective partnership model involving government institutions, corporate social responsibility, and a grassroots voluntary organisation.
- To create greater public awareness regarding the importance of nutrition, treatment adherence, and community support in successful tuberculosis management.
- To encourage individuals and organisations to become active partners in the national movement towards a TB Mukht Bharat through initiatives such as Ni-kshay Mitra.

2.4 Partnership for Public Good

One of the distinguishing features of this initiative is the strength of the partnership that made it possible. The programme demonstrates how organisations from different sectors can combine their respective strengths to address a complex public health challenge.

Sonarpur Progotir Pathe

As the implementing organisation, SPP will coordinate programme planning, beneficiary mobilisation, event management, stakeholder engagement, and overall implementation. Building upon its long experience of working with underserved communities, SPP has positioned itself as a trusted partner in community-based health interventions. During the inauguration, senior public health experts acknowledged the organisation's longstanding contribution to delivering health services in difficult-to-reach areas and appreciated its integrity and commitment to community welfare.

Cochin Shipyard Limited

The initiative received financial support through the CSR programme of Cochin Shipyard Limited, specifically through its Ship Repair Unit. Representatives of the organisation explained that while Cochin Shipyard operates both shipbuilding and ship repair divisions, the support for this initiative was extended through the Ship Repair Unit. They also highlighted the company's growing engagement with Kolkata through its regional operations over the past several years.

Government of West Bengal

The Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, together with the District Health and Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata, provided institutional collaboration to ensure that the programme complemented ongoing tuberculosis control efforts. Officials from the State TB Programme emphasised that nutritional support has become an indispensable component of comprehensive tuberculosis care and welcomed the active participation of voluntary organisations and CSR partners in strengthening patient support systems.

2.5 Why Nutritional Support Matters

Successful tuberculosis treatment depends not only on timely diagnosis and uninterrupted medication but also on adequate nutrition throughout the treatment period. Malnutrition weakens immunity, delays recovery, and increases the risk of poor treatment outcomes. Recognising these challenges, the Government of India has strengthened nutritional interventions under the National TB Elimination Programme through enhanced nutritional assistance, differentiated care for vulnerable patients, and wider community participation.

During the inauguration ceremony, speakers repeatedly highlighted that nutritional support should not be viewed merely as food assistance. Instead, it represents an investment in

human dignity, treatment success, and social inclusion. Several speakers noted that the distribution of nutrition kits symbolises hope, solidarity, and collective responsibility towards those undergoing the difficult journey of tuberculosis treatment.

2.6 A Collective Commitment Towards TB Mukht Bharat

The inauguration of the programme represented more than the launch of a CSR-supported health intervention. It reflected a shared commitment to the national vision that tuberculosis can be eliminated only when government programmes are reinforced by responsible corporate citizenship, active civil society organisations, healthcare professionals, and informed communities.

The event therefore served not only as the distribution of nutritional support to 200 tuberculosis patients, but also as a public affirmation that health challenges of national importance require collective ownership and sustained partnerships. The presence of senior government representatives, corporate leaders, public health professionals, and development practitioners demonstrated the growing momentum behind the TB Mukht Bharat movement and the expanding role of collaborative action in achieving public health goals.

Chapter 3 : The Inauguration Ceremony

3.1 A Meaningful Beginning

The inauguration of the Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients programme was held on 22 July 2026 at the Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, Kolkata. The choice of venue was particularly significant. The ancestral home of Swami Vivekananda, whose philosophy of "*Service to Man is Service to God*" continues to inspire generations, provided an appropriate setting for launching an initiative dedicated to restoring health, dignity, and hope among persons affected by tuberculosis.

The programme brought together representatives from government, public health institutions, corporate leadership, civil society organisations, development practitioners, media professionals, and community members. Their collective presence reflected a shared understanding that the elimination of tuberculosis demands collaborative action that extends beyond the healthcare system and embraces society as a whole.

The event was conducted by Shri Raktim Bhattacharya, eminent News Reader of All India Radio, whose thoughtful moderation maintained both the dignity and the purpose of the occasion throughout the programme.

3.2 Setting the Context

Welcoming the gathering, Shri Raktim Bhattacharya introduced the audience to the significance of the programme within the broader national movement towards TB Mukta Bharat. He reminded the audience that tuberculosis has historically been one of humanity's deadliest diseases, claiming countless lives before effective treatment became available.

Drawing upon history and literature, he referred to eminent personalities such as Poet Sukanta Bhattacharya, the English Romantic poet John Keats, and freedom fighter Batukeshwar Dutt, all of whom succumbed to tuberculosis during periods when effective treatment options were either unavailable or inadequate. These references served as poignant reminders of the devastating human cost of the disease and the remarkable progress achieved through modern medical science.

He observed that while medicines have transformed tuberculosis into a curable disease, complete elimination requires sustained commitment from every section of society. Government institutions, voluntary organisations, corporate houses, healthcare professionals, and ordinary citizens all have an important role to play in ensuring that India achieves the vision of a TB Mukta Bharat. His introductory remarks effectively set the tone for the proceedings by linking the day's programme with a larger national mission rooted in compassion, collective responsibility, and social partnership.

3.3 Welcoming the Distinguished Guests

Following the introductory remarks, the dignitaries were ceremonially welcomed to the dais.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Smt. Purnima Chakraborty, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of West Bengal, Department of Information and Cultural Affairs and Department of Tourism, and Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly representing the Shyampukur Assembly Constituency.

Senior officials representing the Government of West Bengal, the State Tuberculosis Programme, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Sonarpur Progitir Pathe, public health institutions, and distinguished members of civil society also joined the occasion.

The ceremonial welcome symbolised the coming together of diverse institutions united by a common purpose – the elimination of tuberculosis through partnership, compassion, and community participation.

3.4 A Musical Tribute to Swami Vivekananda

The formal proceedings commenced with a devotional musical presentation by Swami Stutanandaji Maharaj, who rendered the inspiring Bengali song:

"Veer Senapati Vivekananda, Oi Je Dakichhe Aay Re Aay..."

The song invoked the ideals of Swami Vivekananda – service, courage, compassion, and dedication to humanity. More than a cultural performance, it created an atmosphere of reflection and commitment, reminding participants that public service is fundamentally an expression of human compassion.

The musical tribute harmoniously connected the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda with the central purpose of the programme – serving vulnerable members of society through collective action.

3.5 Honouring a Lifetime of Social Service

As part of the inaugural ceremony, eminent guests including President's Awardee social activist Shri Samar Chakravarti were felicitated with *uttariya*, floral bouquet, and commemorative memento in recognition of their distinguished contribution to social development and community service.

The felicitation served as a reminder that meaningful social transformation is built upon the lifelong commitment of individuals who dedicate themselves to improving the lives of others. It also reflected SPP's tradition of recognising exemplary leadership and voluntary service in the development sector.

3.6 Welcome Address: Building Trust Through Community Service

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. P. K. Mohanty, former Additional Director of Health Services, Government of West Bengal, and currently Adviser (Finance), West Bengal State Legal Services Authority, reflected upon the journey of Sonarpur Progotir Pathe and its longstanding contribution to community health.

He recalled that many of the individuals associated with SPP had been working among vulnerable communities long before the organisation was formally established. Their commitment to grassroots development, honesty, dedication, and tireless service had gradually earned the confidence of government institutions as well as local communities.

Dr. Mohanty observed that SPP's journey began by extending services including healthcare services to remote areas of the Sundarbans where access remained difficult despite governmental efforts. Rather than replacing public institutions, the organisation complemented government initiatives by reaching communities that required additional support. Over time, this consistent commitment established SPP as a trusted development partner capable of implementing socially significant programmes with professionalism and integrity.

Drawing upon his extensive experience in public health administration, Dr. Mohanty also reflected on the evolution of tuberculosis care in India. He reminded the audience that previous generations often travelled to specialised sanatoria, including those in Ranchi, in search of treatment. Today, remarkable advances in diagnosis and medication have transformed the

management of tuberculosis. Yet, he cautioned that medicines alone cannot guarantee recovery.

One of the most compelling observations in his address concerned the central role of nutrition in successful TB treatment. He noted that while nutritional support is increasingly recognised within public health programmes, an important practical challenge remains: ensuring that patients themselves receive and consume the nutritious food intended for them. Economic hardship often compels families to share these food items among all household members, thereby reducing their intended therapeutic benefit for the patient. Addressing this challenge, he suggested, requires innovative community-based approaches that combine nutritional assistance with continuous counselling, monitoring, and family engagement.

Concluding his address, Dr. Mohanty expressed confidence that SPP's sincerity, professional competence, and commitment to public service would enable the organisation to continue making valuable contributions to the national effort towards eliminating tuberculosis.

3.7 Leadership Message:

Tuberculosis is Not Merely a Disease; It is a Social Responsibility

As mentioned above the inauguration ceremony was graced by Smt. Purnima Chakraborty, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of West Bengal, Department of Information and Cultural Affairs and Department of Tourism. Her presence underscored the Government's continuing commitment to strengthening partnerships that advance public health and community welfare.

Beginning her address, the Hon'ble Minister reflected upon the significance of the venue itself. Swami Vivekananda, she observed, has remained a constant source of inspiration throughout her life. His teachings on service, compassion, and courage have provided strength during many personal and professional challenges. She remarked that organising a programme dedicated to serving vulnerable members of society at his ancestral home carried profound symbolic importance.

Welcoming the initiative undertaken by Sonarpur Progatir Pathe in partnership with Cochin Shipyard Limited, she congratulated the organisers for bringing together government institutions, corporate leadership, and civil society in support of tuberculosis patients.

The Minister emphasised that tuberculosis should never be viewed only as a medical problem. Rather, it represents a social and economic challenge that affects entire families and communities. Illness often deprives individuals of their livelihoods, weakens household economies, and creates psychological distress alongside physical suffering. Therefore, addressing tuberculosis requires a compassionate response that extends beyond clinical treatment.

She observed that the nutritional support programme represented far more than the distribution of food baskets. Each nutritional kit symbolised society's concern for individuals undergoing treatment, reassuring them that they were not alone in their struggle. By restoring hope, dignity, and confidence, such initiatives strengthen patients' determination to complete treatment successfully.

Calling for greater public participation, the Minister urged all sections of society to contribute towards the vision of a healthier West Bengal and a healthier India. She expressed confidence that collaborative initiatives like this would accelerate progress towards achieving the national goal of a TB Mukta Bharat, where every individual has access not only to treatment but also to the care, nutrition, and social support necessary for complete recovery.

3.8 Corporate Social Responsibility in Action

A significant feature of the inauguration ceremony was the participation of senior representatives from Cochin Shipyard Limited, whose CSR initiative made the nutritional support programme possible.

The delegation included Shri Sambath Kumar P. N., Head (CSR), Shri K. K. Harikrishnan Namboodiri, Manager (CSR), Ms. Soumita Ghosh, Manager (HR & IR), and Shri Yusuf A. K., Senior Manager (CSR). Their participation reflected the organisation's commitment to engaging directly with communities benefiting from its CSR initiatives.

During the interaction, representatives of Cochin Shipyard Limited introduced the organisation's operations, explaining that the company serves the nation through two principal business divisions – shipbuilding and ship repair. They informed the gathering that financial assistance for the present initiative had been extended through the Ship Repair Unit, which has been strengthening its operational presence in Kolkata over the past several years.

The representatives reaffirmed their belief that CSR extends beyond financial assistance. Meaningful CSR, they observed, involves building partnerships that create measurable and sustainable improvements in people's lives. Supporting nutritional care for tuberculosis patients therefore aligns with the company's broader commitment to contributing to national development through socially responsible business practices.

Their participation demonstrated how public sector enterprises can become valuable partners in addressing complex public health challenges by complementing governmental programmes and supporting credible community-based organisations.

3.9 Strengthening TB Care Through Nutrition and Community Participation

Representing the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, Ms. Susmita Goswami, ACSM, for the State Tuberculosis Programme, highlighted the growing importance of community participation in India's tuberculosis elimination strategy.

Quoting the timeless philosophy that "service to humanity is service to the Divine," she reminded the audience that caring for tuberculosis patients is not merely a public health responsibility but also a humanitarian obligation.

She explained that the Government of India has progressively strengthened nutritional assistance under the National TB Elimination Programme. Initially, eligible TB patients received ₹500 per month under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana, which was subsequently enhanced to ₹1,000 per month, recognising the vital role that adequate nutrition plays in successful treatment outcomes.

She further emphasised that nutritional support provided by government programmes alone cannot achieve the desired impact unless communities actively participate. This philosophy forms the foundation of the Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative, which encourages individuals, institutions, educational organisations, industries, and civil society organisations to voluntarily support tuberculosis patients by providing nutritional assistance, emotional encouragement, and social care throughout their treatment journey.

Her address reinforced one of the central themes emerging from the programme: eliminating tuberculosis requires both medical excellence and compassionate community engagement.

3.10 Innovation and Digital Support for TB Mukht Bharat

Adding another important dimension to the discussion, Mrs. Juhi Chakravarti, State Consultant associated with the tuberculosis initiative, introduced participants to recent digital innovations supporting the national TB elimination programme.

She informed the audience about the TB Mukht Bharat mobile application, which includes an interactive chatbot designed to respond to queries related to tuberculosis. The application provides information on symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, nutrition, treatment adherence, and frequently asked questions, making reliable health information more accessible to patients, caregivers, and the general public.

She encouraged participants to make greater use of digital platforms to improve awareness, reduce misconceptions, and promote timely healthcare seeking. Such innovations, she observed, complement field-level interventions by enabling continuous communication between health systems and communities.

The presentation highlighted how technological innovation is increasingly becoming an integral component of India's strategy for eliminating tuberculosis.

3.11 Voices from the Public Health Community

The programme also benefited from the participation of several distinguished public health professionals and development practitioners, including Dr. Hemangshu Choudhury, District Programme Officer, Kolkata and Alipore Zone, and Shri Joy Chakrabarty, who shared perspectives on community innovation and the potential contribution of women's collectives in advancing the objectives of the TB Mukht Bharat movement.

Their observations reinforced the importance of strengthening local institutions, encouraging community ownership, and developing innovative approaches that enable vulnerable populations to participate actively in health promotion activities. The discussion reflected a broader understanding that tuberculosis elimination is not solely the responsibility of the health sector but requires contributions from multiple stakeholders across society.

3.12 A Symbolic Act of Hope

The highlight of the inauguration ceremony was the ceremonial distribution of nutritional support kits to tuberculosis patients.

Although simple in appearance, the distribution represented a powerful message of solidarity. Each kit symbolised the collective concern of government institutions, corporate leadership, civil society organisations, healthcare professionals, and local communities for individuals undergoing tuberculosis treatment.

The ceremony translated policy into practice. National commitments articulated under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan found tangible expression through nutritious food reaching patients who require it most. For the beneficiaries, the programme represented not only material assistance but also recognition, encouragement, and renewed confidence that society stands beside them during their recovery.

The event therefore served as a reminder that effective public health interventions are ultimately measured not by policies alone but by their impact on people's lives.

3.13 Concluding Reflections

As the programme drew to a close, one message resonated consistently across every address delivered during the inauguration: the journey towards a TB-free India demands partnership.

Government institutions provide leadership, policies, and health services. Corporate organisations contribute resources and innovation through CSR. Civil society organisations extend outreach, build trust within communities, and ensure that support reaches vulnerable households. Healthcare professionals contribute technical expertise, while citizens strengthen the movement through compassion, awareness, and voluntary participation.

The inauguration of the Nutritional Support Programme for tuberculosis patients thus became much more than a ceremonial event. It represented a shared commitment to a future where no individual is denied the opportunity to recover because of nutritional deprivation or social neglect.

In bringing together diverse institutions under a common purpose, the programme demonstrated that the vision of TB Mukht Bharat is not merely a government aspiration – it is a collective national responsibility.

Chapter 4 : Key Messages and Reflections

From the Inauguration Ceremony

The inauguration of the Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients programme was more than the formal launch of a CSR-supported health initiative. The deliberations throughout the programme highlighted several important themes that are central to India's ongoing efforts to eliminate tuberculosis. Collectively, these messages underscored the importance of integrating medical care with nutrition, community participation, institutional collaboration, and compassionate social support.

The following key reflections emerged from the discussions.

4.1 Tuberculosis is Both a Medical and a Social Challenge

One of the strongest messages emerging from the programme was that tuberculosis cannot be viewed solely through the lens of medicine.

Although significant advances have transformed TB into a curable disease, patients often continue to face multiple social and economic hardships. Loss of income, food insecurity, stigma, emotional stress, and reduced access to nutritious food frequently undermine treatment adherence and delay recovery.

Several speakers observed that successful TB elimination therefore requires a holistic response that addresses both the biological and social dimensions of the disease. This broader understanding reflects the evolving philosophy of India's National TB Elimination Programme, which increasingly integrates healthcare with nutrition, counselling, and community support.

4.2 Nutrition is an Integral Part of Treatment

A recurring theme throughout the programme was the indispensable role of nutrition in tuberculosis care.

While anti-tuberculosis medicines eliminate the disease-causing bacteria, recovery depends significantly upon the patient's nutritional status. Adequate nutrition strengthens immunity, improves treatment adherence, accelerates recovery, and reduces the likelihood of adverse treatment outcomes.

Speakers repeatedly emphasised that nutritional assistance should not be regarded as an optional welfare measure but as an essential component of comprehensive tuberculosis management. The programme's focus on providing nutritional support to 200 TB patients therefore represents a practical investment in improving treatment outcomes and enhancing patients' quality of life.

4.3 Partnership is the Foundation of a TB-Free India

Another major lesson emerging from the inauguration was the importance of partnership.

No single institution possesses all the resources, expertise, and community reach necessary to eliminate tuberculosis. Government agencies provide policy direction and healthcare services; corporate organisations contribute financial resources and innovation through CSR; voluntary organisations facilitate community engagement; healthcare professionals provide technical expertise; and local communities offer sustained support to patients.

The programme demonstrated how these diverse stakeholders can work together towards a common national objective. The partnership between Cochin Shipyard Limited, Sonarpur Progatir Pathe, and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, illustrates an effective model of collaborative public health action.

4.4 Corporate Social Responsibility Can Strengthen Public Health

The inauguration showcased CSR as an important enabler of inclusive development.

By supporting nutritional care for tuberculosis patients, Cochin Shipyard Limited demonstrated how responsible corporate citizenship can complement public health programmes without duplicating governmental efforts. Rather than functioning independently, CSR initiatives can generate greater impact when aligned with national priorities and implemented in collaboration with experienced community-based organisations.

The programme therefore serves as an example of how CSR investments can create meaningful and measurable improvements in the lives of vulnerable populations while contributing to broader Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to health, well-being, and reducing inequalities.

4.5 Community Participation Makes Public Health Sustainable

The discussions repeatedly reinforced that tuberculosis elimination cannot succeed through government action alone.

The philosophy underlying the Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative recognises that communities have an important role in supporting patients throughout their treatment journey. Nutritional assistance, emotional encouragement, counselling, and social inclusion all contribute to improving treatment adherence and restoring confidence among patients.

This community-centred approach transforms TB elimination from a government programme into a people's movement. It encourages citizens, educational institutions, industries, faith-based organisations, and voluntary groups to become active partners in improving public health.

4.6 Civil Society Organisations Serve as Bridges Between Communities and Institutions

The programme highlighted the important role played by voluntary organisations in translating public policy into community-level action.

Organisations such as Sonarpur Progatir Pathe possess strong relationships with local communities and understand the social realities that influence health outcomes. Their ability to mobilise beneficiaries, coordinate stakeholders, build trust, and facilitate programme implementation complements the technical and administrative strengths of government institutions.

The discussions recognised that effective public health interventions increasingly depend upon such partnerships, where civil society organisations function as bridges connecting communities with government programmes and development partners.

4.7 Technology Can Improve Access to Information

The presentation on the TB Mukh Bharat mobile application highlighted the growing importance of digital innovation in healthcare.

Digital platforms now enable patients, caregivers, and communities to access reliable information regarding symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, nutrition, and frequently asked

questions. Such innovations improve awareness, reduce misinformation, and strengthen communication between healthcare providers and beneficiaries.

While technology cannot replace direct human interaction, it has become an important complement to field-level public health interventions by expanding access to timely and accurate information.

4.8 Compassion is the Most Powerful Medicine

Perhaps the most enduring message emerging from the programme was that compassion remains central to effective healthcare.

Throughout the inauguration, speakers emphasised that nutritional support represents much more than the distribution of food. It conveys solidarity, restores dignity, reduces isolation, and reassures patients that society stands beside them during one of the most difficult periods of their lives.

The ceremonial distribution of nutritional kits therefore symbolised far more than material assistance. It reflected a collective affirmation that every person affected by tuberculosis deserves not only treatment but also respect, care, encouragement, and hope.

To sum up, the inauguration ceremony generated a number of valuable insights extending beyond the immediate programme. It demonstrated that eliminating tuberculosis requires an integrated approach that combines quality healthcare, nutritional support, responsible corporate engagement, community participation, technological innovation, and strong institutional partnerships.

The programme also illustrated how collaborative action can translate national policy into meaningful support for individuals and families. In doing so, it reinforced the central message of the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan – that a tuberculosis-free India can only be achieved when government, the corporate sector, civil society, healthcare professionals, and citizens work together with a shared sense of purpose.

Chapter 5 : Programme Highlights and Immediate Outcomes

5.1 Introduction

The inauguration of the Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients programme on 22 July 2026 marked the beginning of a collaborative initiative designed to strengthen nutritional care for tuberculosis patients in Kolkata. While the ceremony formally launched the programme, it also served as a platform for reaffirming a shared commitment to the national mission of TB Mukht Bharat.

The event brought together policymakers, healthcare professionals, corporate leaders, civil society organisations, and community representatives, creating an enabling environment for dialogue, partnership, and collective action. The immediate outcomes of the programme extended well beyond the ceremonial distribution of nutritional support kits, reflecting a broader commitment to improving treatment outcomes and promoting community participation.

5.2 Launch of a Collaborative Public Health Initiative

One of the most significant achievements of the inauguration was the formal launch of a partnership that combines the strengths of multiple institutions in addressing tuberculosis.

The initiative demonstrates how public institutions, corporate social responsibility, and community-based organisations can work together to address complex health challenges. Financial support from Cochin Shipyard Limited, programme implementation by Sonarpur Progotir Pathe, and technical collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, and the District Health and Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata, collectively represent a model of collaborative governance in public health.

This partnership lays the foundation for sustained support to tuberculosis patients while reinforcing the importance of multi-sectoral cooperation in achieving national development goals.

5.3 Nutritional Support Extended to 200 Tuberculosis Patients

The central outcome of the inauguration was the commencement of nutritional support for 200 tuberculosis patients in Kolkata.

The distribution of nutritional support kits represents a practical intervention aimed at complementing medical treatment with adequate nutrition, thereby contributing to improved recovery and treatment adherence. By addressing one of the key social determinants of health, the programme supports the broader objectives of the National TB Elimination Programme and the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

Beyond the material value of the nutritional kits, the initiative conveys an important message of solidarity and reassurance. It affirms that patients are supported not only by the healthcare system but also by a wider network of institutions committed to their well-being.

5.4 Strengthening the Role of Corporate Social Responsibility

The programme highlighted the growing contribution of CSR in advancing public health initiatives.

By investing in nutritional support for tuberculosis patients, Cochin Shipyard Limited demonstrated how CSR resources can be aligned with national priorities to generate meaningful social impact. Rather than operating in isolation, the initiative complements existing government programmes, thereby enhancing their reach and effectiveness.

The programme offers an encouraging example for other public and private sector enterprises seeking to contribute to India's health and development agenda through strategic CSR investments.

5.5 Reinforcing Community Participation

An important outcome of the inauguration was the renewed emphasis on community participation as an essential component of tuberculosis elimination.

The discussions throughout the programme encouraged wider involvement of voluntary organisations, educational institutions, community groups, and responsible citizens in supporting tuberculosis patients. This aligns closely with the philosophy of the Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative, which recognises that compassionate community engagement can significantly improve treatment adherence and patient well-being.

By promoting collective responsibility, the programme strengthened public understanding that eliminating tuberculosis requires active participation from every sector of society.

5.6 Increasing Public Awareness

The inauguration also served as an important awareness-building platform.

Through speeches, presentations, and discussions, participants gained deeper insights into:

- the continuing burden of tuberculosis in India;
- the importance of early diagnosis and uninterrupted treatment;
- the critical role of nutrition in recovery;
- government initiatives such as the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana and Ni-kshay Mitra;
- the contribution of CSR initiatives in strengthening public health; and
- the importance of combating stigma associated with tuberculosis.

By bringing together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, the programme contributed to creating a more informed and supportive environment for TB patients.

5.7 Showcasing a Replicable Partnership Model

One of the most valuable outcomes of the programme lies in the partnership model it represents.

The initiative demonstrates that successful public health programmes can emerge when:

- Government provides policy direction and technical leadership;
- Corporate organisations contribute financial resources through CSR;
- Civil society organisations ensure effective implementation and community engagement; and
- Communities actively participate in supporting vulnerable individuals.

This integrated approach has considerable potential for replication in other districts and states seeking to strengthen nutritional support for tuberculosis patients.

5.8 Strengthening Institutional Relationships

The inauguration created opportunities for closer interaction among government officials, CSR representatives, healthcare professionals, and civil society organisations.

Such engagements contribute to building trust, improving coordination, and identifying opportunities for future collaboration. Strong institutional relationships are essential for sustaining public health initiatives beyond individual projects and for responding effectively to emerging health challenges.

5.9 Advancing the Vision of TB Mukht Bharat

Every initiative supporting tuberculosis patients contributes incrementally towards India's larger aspiration of eliminating TB.

Although modest in scale, the nutritional support programme launched through this partnership represents a meaningful contribution to that national effort. By integrating nutrition, community participation, institutional collaboration, and responsible corporate engagement, the programme reflects the core principles of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

The inauguration therefore marks not the conclusion of an activity, but the beginning of a sustained journey towards healthier communities and improved quality of life for persons affected by tuberculosis.

Key Programme Highlights

Achievement	Significance
Formal inauguration of the programme	Official launch of a collaborative public health initiative
Financial support by Cochin Shipyard Limited	Demonstrates responsible CSR aligned with national priorities
Implementation by Sonarpur Progotir Pathe	Community-based execution through an experienced nonprofit organisation
Collaboration with the Government of West Bengal	Strengthens integration with the National TB Elimination Programme
Nutritional support initiated for 200 TB patients	Enhances treatment support and patient well-being
Participation of senior dignitaries and health experts	Reinforces institutional commitment to TB elimination
Public awareness generated	Promotes understanding of nutrition, treatment adherence, and community participation
Partnership model showcased	Provides an example for replication in other regions

As a whole, the inauguration of the Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients programme represents a significant milestone in strengthening collaborative action against tuberculosis. The programme successfully brought together government agencies, a public sector enterprise, healthcare professionals, and a grassroots development organisation around a common objective – improving the lives of people undergoing TB treatment.

Its immediate outcomes include the launch of nutritional support for 200 patients, strengthened institutional partnerships, increased public awareness, and the demonstration of an effective CSR–government–civil society collaboration. More importantly, the initiative reaffirmed that the journey towards a TB Mukht Bharat depends not only on medical interventions but also on compassion, partnership, and sustained community engagement.

Chapter 6 : The Road Ahead – Sustaining the Momentum Towards TB Mukta Bharat

6.1 Looking Beyond the Inauguration

The inauguration of the Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients programme marks the beginning of a meaningful journey rather than the completion of an activity. While the ceremonial launch symbolised the commencement of nutritional support for 200 tuberculosis patients, its broader significance lies in demonstrating how collaborative action can strengthen India's efforts to eliminate tuberculosis.

The programme reflects a growing recognition that sustainable public health outcomes are achieved when government institutions, corporate organisations, civil society, healthcare professionals, and communities work together with a shared vision. Such partnerships not only complement existing public health programmes but also create new opportunities for innovation, community ownership, and long-term impact.

As India advances towards the goal of eliminating tuberculosis, initiatives of this nature provide valuable lessons on integrating nutrition, social support, and community participation into comprehensive TB care.

6.2 Strengthening Nutritional Care

Nutrition will continue to remain one of the most important determinants of successful tuberculosis treatment.

While government programmes provide financial assistance and essential healthcare services, additional nutritional support through Corporate Social Responsibility and community initiatives can significantly improve patient well-being and treatment adherence.

Future interventions may therefore focus on:

- ensuring uninterrupted nutritional support throughout the treatment period;
- promoting locally available, balanced, and culturally appropriate nutritious foods;
- strengthening counselling for patients and family members on healthy dietary practices; and
- regularly monitoring nutritional status alongside clinical progress.

Such measures can contribute to improved treatment outcomes while reducing the long-term social and economic burden of tuberculosis.

6.3 Expanding Multi-Sectoral Partnerships

The partnership between Cochin Shipyard Limited, Sonarpur Progotir Pathe, and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal demonstrates the value of collaborative action.

Going forward, similar partnerships may be expanded by engaging:

- additional CSR initiatives;
- educational institutions;
- professional associations;
- philanthropic organisations;
- community-based organisations;
- faith-based institutions; and
- local self-government institutions.

A broader network of partners would strengthen resource mobilisation, improve community outreach, and create a more sustainable support system for tuberculosis patients.

6.4 Encouraging Community Ownership

One of the most important lessons emerging from the programme is that tuberculosis elimination cannot succeed without active community participation.

Communities play an important role in:

- reducing stigma;
- encouraging early diagnosis;
- supporting treatment adherence;
- providing emotional encouragement;
- promoting nutritional care; and
- assisting vulnerable households during the treatment period.

The continued expansion of initiatives such as Ni-kshay Mitra offers an effective platform for transforming tuberculosis elimination into a genuine people's movement. Greater participation by citizens, educational institutions, youth organisations, and resident welfare associations can further strengthen this national effort.

6.5 Promoting Awareness and Behavioural Change

Despite substantial progress, misconceptions and social stigma surrounding tuberculosis continue to discourage many individuals from seeking timely diagnosis and treatment.

Sustained awareness campaigns remain essential for:

- promoting accurate knowledge about tuberculosis;
- encouraging early health-seeking behaviour;
- highlighting that tuberculosis is curable;
- emphasising the importance of treatment completion;
- improving nutritional awareness; and
- encouraging greater empathy towards persons affected by TB.

Community engagement, digital communication, and local awareness programmes can collectively contribute to behavioural change that supports national TB elimination efforts.

6.6 Leveraging Technology for Better Public Health

Digital innovation is increasingly becoming an important component of public health programmes.

The introduction of digital platforms such as the TB Mukh Bharat mobile application demonstrates how technology can support awareness generation, patient education, treatment adherence, and information dissemination.

Future initiatives may further explore:

- digital counselling;
- mobile-based patient support;
- online awareness campaigns;
- community reporting mechanisms; and
- technology-enabled monitoring systems.

When combined with strong field-level implementation, such innovations can significantly improve programme effectiveness.

6.7 Building a Replicable Model

The initiative documented in this report represents more than a local programme. It demonstrates a partnership model that can be adapted and replicated in other districts and states. The combination of:

- government leadership;
- CSR support;
- experienced civil society implementation; and
- active community participation

provides a practical framework for addressing complex public health challenges through collaborative governance.

Documenting and disseminating such experiences can encourage wider adoption of similar approaches across India.

6.8 Towards a Compassionate Society

Perhaps the most enduring lesson emerging from the programme is that public health ultimately rests upon compassion.

Tuberculosis patients require medicines, nutritional support, counselling, dignity, encouragement, and social acceptance. By bringing together multiple institutions in support of vulnerable individuals, the programme reaffirmed an important principle:

The fight against tuberculosis is not only about eliminating a disease – it is about protecting human dignity.

Every nutritional kit distributed during the programme symbolises society's commitment to ensuring that no individual faces illness in isolation.

Thus the Nutritional Support to Tuberculosis Patients programme stands as a noteworthy example of how meaningful partnerships can transform national policy into practical community action.

Through the collaborative efforts of Cochin Shipyard Limited, Sonarpur Progotir Pathe, the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, and the District Health and Family Welfare Samiti, Kolkata, the initiative has demonstrated that nutritional support, institutional collaboration, and compassionate community engagement can strengthen the journey towards a TB Mukta Bharat.

While the programme has begun by extending nutritional support to 200 tuberculosis patients, its significance extends far beyond these immediate beneficiaries. It serves as a model of shared responsibility, illustrating how government, corporate organisations, civil society, and citizens can work together to address one of India's most pressing public health challenges.

As the nation continues its determined pursuit of eliminating tuberculosis, initiatives such as this reaffirm an enduring truth:

A TB-free India will be built not only through scientific advances and medical treatment, but through partnerships that nourish both health and hope.

So, the conclusion in short:

The true measure of a society lies not merely in its ability to cure disease, but in its willingness to stand beside those who suffer. Every act of nutritional support, every gesture of compassion, and every partnership built in the service of public health brings India one step closer to the vision of a TB Mukta Bharat.

Annexure-1
List of eminent guests

1. Smt. Purnima Chakraborty, Minister of State, Information & Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Government of West Bengal
2. Mr. P. K. Mahanti, Former Additional Director of Health Services (AA&V), Govt. of West Bengal, Adviser Finance, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal
3. Srimat Swami Jnanalokanandaji Maharaj, Hon'ble Trustee member of Ramakrishna Math & Mission and Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, Kolkata
4. Srimat Swami Stutanandaji Maharaj
5. Mr. Sambath Kumar P.N., Head, CSR, Cochin Shipyard Limited
6. Dr. Himangshu Showdhury, DTO, Manicktala & Alipore Zone, Kolkata
7. Mr. Harikrishnan Namboodiri K.K, Manager (CKSRU), CSR, Cochin Shipyard Limited.
8. Dr. Juhi Chakraborty, State Consultant, TB MBA, Nikshay Mitra Initiative
9. Smt. Susmita Goswami, ACSM in TB, Deptt. Of Health, Govt. of West Bengal
10. Smt. Soumita Ghosh, Manager, HR and IR, Cochin Shipyard Limited
11. Mr. Joy Chakraborty, Senior Outreach, Strategic Partnership, Advisor Convenor, Green Finance Hub in Kolkata, India Chapter, Former member NCFLIW, Niti Aayog
12. Dr. Sankar Saha, Former Deputy Director of Health Services, Govt. of West Bengal
13. Mr. Raktim Bhattacharya, News Reader, All India Radio

Annexure II

Selected photographs of the event



