

## India aims to eradicate TB by 2020

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**Singapore:** Highlighting the government's plans to eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) from the country's Union Health Minister Mr Harsh Vardhan announced the 'TB-Mission 2020', at the recent WHO's Global TB Symposium. TB is one of the biggest health problems in the country, killing 1,000 people daily.

"While I am all for having a long-term perspective, I am not interested in something that may or may not be achieved in 2035 or 2050. I have instructed anti-TB mission officials to work hard to achieve considerable success over the next five years under the evolving 'TB-Mission 2020'," Mr Harsh Varadhan said in a statement.

He added further that efforts are being taken by the government to provide free diagnosis and treatment as well as nutrition support and relevant financial enablers to the patients from government and private hospitals. He further emphasised that the solution to lung-related health challenges lies in bringing together all the stakeholders, namely, the health care professionals, policy makers, and the communities they serve.

"That is why we are intent on developing a large social movement over health," he concluded.