

PRESS RELEASE

Hon'ble Prof. MLB Bhatt, Vice Chancellor, KGMU flagged off the **TB AWARENESS WEEK- "MASS SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN"** today on 19th March, 2018 Monday at 10:00 A.M. which is being organized by Department of Microbiology, King George's Medical University. The event **TB AWARENESS WEEK- "MASS SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN"** will be celebrated from **19th-24th March, 2018** to commemorate World TB Day. Faculty of KGMU, Staff, Students, patients and various NGOs participated in the awareness march which started from Administrative Block, KGMU to Trauma Centre. Thousands of people participated in the signing campaign and took oath to create awareness regarding tuberculosis in the community. During the awareness week, MBBS students of KGMU and other Medical Colleges will be carrying out survey in different parts of Lucknow to assess knowledge, attitude and practices of general community regarding tuberculosis.

Prof. Amita Jain, Organizing Chairperson and Dr. Sheetal Verma, Organizing Secretary of the event informed that Department of Microbiology, King George's Medical University is organizing **TB AWARENESS WEEK- "MASS SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN" from 19th-24th March, 2018** to commemorate World TB Day which is on March 24 to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB) and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. **Theme of Year 2018 World TB Day by World Health Organization and Stop TB Partnership is "Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world. You can make history. End TB"**. Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide which is preventable. Early detection and treatment of both pulmonary and extra pulmonary TB is important in both children and adults targets and KGMU is committed to carry forward the mission of eliminating TB by 2025.

The campaign is being organized to carry forward the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi who aims to eradicate TB from India by 2025, five years ahead of a globally set deadline. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), elimination of TB means there should be less than one case of TB for a population of 10 lakh by 2025. The vision is to achieve "TB-free India with zero deaths, disease and poverty due to TB" in less than eight years from now. In India, 28 lakh new cases and about five lakh deaths occur due to TB every year. An estimated 10 lakh cases remain undiagnosed or underdiagnosed, which experts refer to as "missing" case. Uttar Pradesh has around 3 lakh new cases of TB each year. Every 3 minutes 2 people are dying due to tuberculosis.

Prof. Amita Jain, Head of Microbiology Department and Incharge, Intermediate reference tuberculosis laboratory at KGMU informed that Department of Microbiology laboratory is well equipped with latest equipments for rapid TB diagnosis such as GeneXpert (CBNAAT), Line Probe Assay, MGIT Liquid culture and Drug sensitivity testing for both 1st and 2nd line anti-tubercular drugs. The laboratory is ISO 151891 (NABL) Accredited and handles more than 5,000 cases per year, which are referred from KGMU and many districts of UP under

RNTCP. This laboratory offers free of charge service as the program is supported by Govt. of India, Govt. of UP and other NGOs.

Shri Rajesh Kumar Rai, Registrar, Prof. G. K. Singh, Prof. S. N. Sankhwar, CMS, Prof. Vijay Kumar, MS, Prof. Vimala Venkatesh, Prof. Gopa Banerjee, Dr. Navneet Kumar, Dr. Santosh Kumar, Dr. Avinash Agarwal, Dr. Darshan K Bajaj, Dr. Urmila Singh, Dr. Pavin Singh, Dr. Vijay Kumar and many other dignitaries participated enthusiastically in the event.