

India starts second phase of Nationwide Mass Drug Administration initiative for Lymphatic Filariasis

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The occasion witnessed the launch of National Guidelines for Clinical Management of Dengue Fever 2023 and Chikungunya Fever

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"India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of the global target through mission mode, multi partner, multi sector targeted drive." This was stated by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya as he inaugurated the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative.

The Union Minister further stressed that "Through Jan Bhagidaari and 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach, we shall be able to eliminate this disease from the country". The second phase, commencing on August 10, 2023, will cover 81 districts in 9 endemic States (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh).

The Union Health Minister also stressed on enhancing synergy between state and central governments for ensuring a healthier nation for all. Enumerating the success of Jan Andolan movements in health by citing the example of Ni-kshay Mitra among others, Dr Mandaviya highlighted that "community engagement will contribute significantly in garnering success in this mission by the involvement of all stakeholders starting from the grassroot levels."

Underscoring the wide reach of mass movement, the Health Minister further added "Incorporating awareness generation, and

ensuring communication campaigns at villages, panchayats will galvanise the movement leading to wide reach across the nation." To further strengthen efforts, Dr Mandaviya advocated that greater emphasis should be placed in consumption of medicine in front of healthcare workers or professionals as measure in eradicating this disease.

The occasion witnessed the launch of National Guidelines for Clinical Management of Dengue Fever 2023 and Chikungunya Fever by Dr Mandaviya.