



Visit of Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare to Spain

The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) hosted its 45th World Conference on Lung Health from 28 October to 1 November, 2014 at the International Conventions Center in Barcelona, Spain. The Union World Conference on Lung Health is the premiere annual international conference for researchers, health programme managers, policy experts, advocates and other leaders working to address tuberculosis and other global health issues primarily affecting people living in poverty. The conference drew about 3,000 speakers, researchers and delegates from 125 countries.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, visited Spain from 28 to 31 October, 2014. The Minister delivered the keynote address at the World Health Organisation's Global TB Symposium –titled “Moving out of the box to end global TB epidemic: with post-2015 strategy” on 28th October, 2014. Dr. Harsh Vardhan announced that under the evolving “TB-Mission 2020” he had instructed India's anti-TB mission officials to work hard to achieve considerable success over the next five years. In his view, a distant target date would not demand of his team the kind of accountability that would be naturally ensured if the objective is brought forward. Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that India is also in the process of ensuring free diagnosis and treatment to all TB patients irrespective of the provider –government or private hospital. Dr. Mario Raviglione, Director of WHO's Global TB Programme, and Dr. Jose Louise Castro, Director of the International Union against TB and Lung Diseases, shared the podium with Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

Later, Dr. Harsh Vardhan was joined by the Health Minister of South Africa, Mr. Aaron Motsoaledi, in addressing delegates to the 45th Union World Conference on Lung Health. Mr. Motsoaledi holds the chair of the “Stop TB Initiative”. The Ministers also had a one-on-one meeting on the sidelines of the conference. The Indian and South African Ministers also jointly chaired a meeting of technical experts from BRICS countries. It was decided that TB control would dominate the agenda of the upcoming meeting of BRICS Health Ministers in December 2014.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan met with his Spanish counterpart, Ms. Ana Mato Adrover, on 30 October, 2014 in Madrid. They discussed issues related to organ

donation and transplantation, health assurance, e-health, generic medicine availability, non-communicable diseases like diabetes, coronary artery disease and cancer, and other issues.

The Minister also visited Spain's National Organisation for Transplantation in Madrid. He met with Mr. Rafael Matesanz Acedos, the Director of the Institution and shared views on all aspects of organ donation and transplantation. Earlier, on 29 October, 2014, Dr. Harsh Vardhan visited the Donation and Transplantation Institute Foundation, Barcelona, one of the leading centres of the world for research in organ transplantation housed in University of Barcelona University.

Please visit 'Photo Gallery' for photographs of the visit.