



# HEALTH WRAP

JAN - FEB 2023



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# #BUDGETWITHFICCI



**UNION BUDGET**  
**2023-24**  
ANALYSIS REPORT

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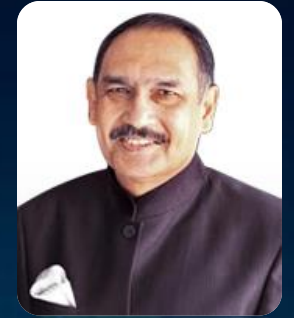
The Union Budget has continued past year's theme and has provided a blueprint to steer the economy over 'Amrit Kaal' of 25 years. The focus of Union Budget 2023-24 is undoubtedly on creating a technology and knowledge driven economy that will lead India towards *Amrit Kaal*.

Pushing the Atmanirbhar Bharat for Health, this budget has rightly focused on bridging the gap in nursing education, collaborative R&D focused on AI/Robotics & multidisciplinary program on MedTech & R&D in engineering colleges. This is a move in the right direction and will boost access to quality Healthcare in the country...

..FICCI Members

*Collated feedback available in the Analysis Report*



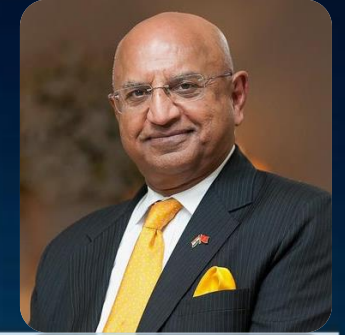


# #BUDGETWITHFICCI

The government has decided to set up three Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence including one in healthcare. AI has already started to play a big role in radiology and imaging, digital pathology, ophthalmology and oncology and it will have a great impact in improving productivity of doctors, improving accuracy, reducing turnaround times of diagnosis and overall reducing costs of delivering predictive and precision healthcare. It will also help in providing specialist care in diagnosis and treatment in those parts of the country that lack adequate number of specialists. FICCI Health Services Committee has been working in the field of digital health and AI for the past several years and would be happy to work with the Govt to devise solutions that are specifically needed for attaining the goal of Universal Healthcare in our country through the use of digital means and AI.

**Dr Harsh Mahajan, Chair, FICCI Health Services Committee  
and Founder & Chief Radiologist, Mahajan Imaging**





# #BUDGETWITHFICCI

The announcement of the mission to eliminate sickle cell anemia by 2047 is a much-needed and welcome step, as there are more than 2 crore patients living with Sickle Cell Disease in India. FICCI Swasth Bharat Task Force has been working closely on this agenda with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

Widespread awareness generation and universal screening of 7 crore people in 0-40 yr in affected Tribal areas will be crucial first steps in this mission. As sickle cell disease is caused by a genetic mutation, India must lead the way in using CRISPR-mediated gene therapy to cure SCD. FICCI Swasth Bharat Task Force is keen to discuss this with IGIB and the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

**(Hony) Brig Dr Arvind Lal, Padma Shri, Chair, FICCI Swasth Bharat Task Force  
and Executive Chairman, Dr Lal PathLabs Ltd**

# Key Sectoral Highlights

## Government & Policy

### [Health Ministry working on 'One Nation, One Organ Allocation' policy](#)

The Union Health Ministry is working on a 'One Nation, One Organ Allocation' policy in consultation with states to come up with uniform guidelines for registration, allocation and other aspects of the process, official sources said. Recently, the Supreme Court asked the Health Ministry to examine and take appropriate action on some states imposing the condition of submission of domicile certificates for patients wishing to register in the cadaver transplant registry for organ transplantation. A uniform policy, an official source said, "will help patients in seeking transplant from deceased donors at any hospital in the country giving them a lot of flexibility". Working towards firming up the policy, the ministry has already recommended states to remove the domicile criterion for registering those seeking organs from deceased donor for transplant procedures.

### [NPPA fixes retail price of 74 drug formulations](#)

Drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the retail prices of 74 formulations, including the medications to treat diabetes and high blood pressure. The NPPA has fixed the prices under the Drugs (Price Control) Order 2013 based on the decision of the 109th authority meeting held on February 21 this year. As per the notification, the NPPA has fixed the price of one tablet of Dapagliflozin Sitagliptin and Metformin Hydrochloride (extended-release tablets) at Rs 27.75. Similarly, the drug price regulator has fixed the price of one tablet of blood pressure lowering medication Telmisartan and Bisoprolol Fumarate tablets at Rs 10.92. The NPPA said it has also revised the ceiling price of 80 scheduled formulations (NLEM 2022) including the one to treat epilepsy and neutropenia.

### [Essential drugs list to soon include commonly used hygiene products](#)

The government has initiated the process to finalise a list of commonly used hygiene products like adult diapers, sanitary napkins, floor disinfectants, soaps which it plans to put under the National list of Essential medicines (NLEM).

# Key Sectoral Highlights

## Government & Policy

### [Centre forms panel to prepare road map for health care regulations](#)

The Centre on Monday formed a committee under the pharmaceuticals department secretary to take forward suggestions from the two-day brainstorming conclave on health care regulations in India. The committee will present a road map within the next one month. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the deliberations at the Chintan Shivir gave an opportunity to all the participants “to deliberate on the building blocks of such a forward looking inclusive, holistic, and comprehensive regulatory framework that would set the vision and meet the requirements of the next 25 years on the three levels of policy, priorities, and implementation.

### [India may miss 2030 deadline for over half of health SDGs: Lancet study](#)

India is not on target for over 50 per cent of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to health and social determinants of health seven years before the 2030 deadline, according to a study published in The Lancet journal. An international team of researchers found that over 75 per cent Indian districts are off target for crucial SDG indicators like access to basic services, poverty, stunting and wasting of children, anaemia, child marriage, partner violence, tobacco use, and modern contraceptive use. For these indicators, more than 75 per cent of the districts were off-target. These districts are concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha.

### [QR code-based OPD registration implemented in over 300 hospitals, reducing waiting time drastically](#)

The National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has implemented QR code-based rapid OPD registration in more than 300 public hospitals, reducing the waiting time from 50 minutes to four minutes. "We have introduced a system wherein we have tried to simplify the OPD registration process in large public hospitals.

### [Vaccination of girls against cervical cancer likely to begin in six states in June](#)

The Union Health Ministry has drawn a roadmap to roll out HPV vaccine in the universal immunisation programme and is likely to float a global tender in April for 16.02 crore doses to be procured by 2026.



# Key Sectoral Highlights

## Government & Policy

### [Govt launches U-WIN to digitise India's universal immunisation programme](#)

Carrying vaccination cards of children and pregnant women, struggling to keep a tab on the next job and other such hassles may soon become a thing of the past. After the success of the Co-WIN platform, the government has now replicated it to set up an electronic registry for routine vaccinations. Named U-WIN, the programme to digitise India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been launched in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory. The platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses and all vaccination events thereafter.

### [Over 1.54 lakh sub, primary health centers transformed into Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centers: Mansukh Mandaviya](#)

More than 1.54 lakh sub health centres and primary health centre in the country have been transformed into Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres, exceeding the target of starting 1.50 lakh AB-HWCs by December 31 last year. HWCs have witnessed more than 135 crore footfall since 2018, according to a statement from the health ministry. "For the first-time health is being linked with the agenda of development under a holistic approach undertaken by the union government. The pandemic period has provided us an opportunity to strengthen our healthcare infrastructure and delivery systems," Health Minister said.

### [Govt exempts customs duty on imports of Covid-19 vaccines till March 31](#)

The government has exempted customs duty on imports of Covid-19 vaccines till March 31, 2023 in a bid to ensure domestic availability amid fears of a surge in coronavirus infections. In a notification, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said Covid vaccines, when imported into India by central government or state governments, would be exempt from the whole of customs duty from January 14, 2023 till March 31, 2023.



# Key Sectoral Highlights

## Research & Technology

### [How CDSS tools are helping to overcome medical errors](#)

CDSS tools help in automated decision support, clinical research, data mining, and patient disease management. Integration of CDSS into EMR is very useful and necessary, especially for research and to improve the quality of care, because it makes the documenting process simple and accessible with only a few clicks.

### [AIIMS, Rishikesh conducted the first successful trial for transporting anti-TB drugs by Drone](#)

The drone carried around 2kg medicine for delivery covering 40 km aerial distance (one side) and road distance is over 75 kms. It is for the very first time, AIIMS Rishikesh has taken this initiative to supply ATT drugs to prevent of TB with incorporation of innovative interventions which would likely to reach the World Health Organization's objective to eliminate TB.

### [Mobile health intervention can help prevent secondary stroke: ICMR](#)

Mobile health intervention can lead to an improved lifestyle and prevent secondary stroke, a research paper published by ICMR has found.

### [WHO to set up mRNA vaccine hub in Hyderabad as part of the global plan](#)

The mRNA vaccine hub is coming up at Biological E by way of a technology transfer by WHO to create capacities not just for global emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic but also to tackle future pandemics as well as develop capacities for ailments such as malaria, HIV, and cancer.

### [Will stem cell transplant be a 'game changer' in HIV cure?](#)

The world has seen a 53-year-old HIV-positive man become the third person ever to be completely cured of the HIV virus by a stem cell transplant, also called a bone marrow transplant, received to treat his blood cancer. But the questions remain whether it can become a "game changer" for all HIV patients.

### [MIT is poised to revolutionize the ultrasound imaging market](#)

With new stamp-sized ultrasound sticker technology that sticks to the skin and can provide ultrasound imaging of internal organs for up to 48 hours, a new era of wearable ultrasound imaging is in the offing.

# Key Sectoral Highlights

## COVID-19

### [IIT-D developing Covid vax which will minimise chances of blood clotting](#)

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi are working on a new vaccine for Covid-19 which will minimise chances observed in some of blood clotting, individuals after inoculation with the currently approved vaccines.

### [Past COVID infection provided substantial protection against reinfection: Lancet study](#)

Risk of hospitalisation or death is 88% lower for at least 10 months in previously infected people.

### [Bharat Biotech's nasal Covid vaccine iNCOVACC launched on Jan 26th](#)

As the country marked its 74th Republic Day, Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh launched Bharat Biotech's first India-made nasal Covid-19 vaccine, iNCOVACC.

### [ICMR backs Corbevax, nasal vac for booster](#)

Experts of the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) national task force on covid-19 have concluded that Biological E's Corbevax and Bharat Biotech's Incovacc nasal vaccine are well suited to booster jabs.

### [Omicron and sub-lineages still on top, says genomics body](#)

XBB, BA.2.75 and BA.2.10 continued to be the most commonly circulating Omicron sub-lineages among the samples collected till the end of December, Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) said in its latest bulletin.

### [Covid hospitalisation surged 60%: Expert on new infection rise in England](#)

Hospitalisations for coronavirus infection has surged again in England and this time about 60% higher than it what it was only a month back. Earlier this month, World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared COVID continues to be a public health emergency of international concern.

## Fit for Purpose L&D: Healthcare's burning need

Going by the media literature and corporate conversations on the growing significance of Learning & Development (L&D) initiatives for the Healthcare industry, it is amply evident that its acute need has already been identified and duly underlined, which is undoubtedly a great development. Having said that, the mounting awareness has still not paved the way for fit-for-purpose solutions in this crucial area. L&D largely remains an inadequately addressed area, more so in the specific context of healthcare.

Probing deep into the reasons for this status quo, we observe three realities:

1. Much of the literature and conversations focus on the obvious benefits of institutionalizing a robust L&D culture in an organization, about how it can boost employee performance and retention, how it can attract best-in-class talent, and so on and so forth. The L&D roadmap is not mapped out to a tee, for the simple reason that there is no one size fits all approach to L&D, and most solution providers only scratch at the surface of the moot point – which is about developing tailored solutions in line with the specific needs of the organization – whether a multi-specialty chain hospital, mid-sized healthcare setup or a small-sized clinic.



**Dr N K Jairam**  
Independent Healthcare  
Consultant &  
Former Chairman, NABH



## *Fit for Purpose L&D: Healthcare's burning need*

2. For a country of India's size and scope, healthcare poses one of the most formidable human resource challenges across all levels of the workforce. The industry's focus till date has been on creating more and more delivery centers, facilities, and infrastructure. Having said that, these centres need competent and conscientious human resources for delivering value at all levels— from the grass roots to top management— in terms of vision, mission, values, and leadership skills.
3. The mission critical healthcare environments, which are replete with life and death situations, call for special skills and competencies over and above academic and professional credentials. These skills are not formally taught and employees are expected to proactively learn them on the job.



Fit for purpose L&D ensures a holistic strategy and system aimed at building a strong executive team, carefully aligning employees' needs and aspirations with organizational goals and objectives. It can then yield measurable and sustainable value— whether in terms of cost-effective operations, maximising revenues, enhancing patient outcomes and quality of life, enabling cross-talk between different departments, promoting a culture of camaraderie and collaboration, repurposing employee recruitment and retention strategies, and boosting employee morale and motivation.

Done right, L&D can become the defining value proposition of a healthcare provider, thereby contributing to its competitive edge.

## Evolving consumer expectations and health insurance industry

As we slowly reboot and stride back to normal, we should not forget how a pandemic like COVID-19 can wreak havoc across every walk of life— be it country, organization, or people. It has changed our perception and outlook toward most of the things we used to do, forcing us to relook at every aspect of our normal life.

Given it was a once-in-generation crisis, or more precisely a health crisis, COVID-19 has changed the perception of healthcare and the health insurance industry. This is more prominent in countries like India where, according to various reports, medical treatment constituted nearly 12% of the total household debt. This is largely compounded by the fact that out-of-pocket expenditure constitutes around 65% of the total healthcare cost for an average Indian and this is mostly not covered under any standard health insurance policy.

Prior to the pandemic, the traditional approach of the health insurance industry was primarily based on sickness funding. This whole approach has led to an issue of the relevance of health insurance amongst a large category of customers. With more than 65% of the Indian population below 35 years, a large part of them feel that health insurance is not relevant for them, as they believe they won't need it because they won't fall seriously ill or need hospitalisation in the next few years.



**Mr Mayank Bathwal**  
CEO, Aditya Birla Health  
Insurance Company Ltd



## *Evolving consumer expectations and health insurance industry*

Similarly, a large part of the population which suffers from lifestyle-related disease conditions like diabetes, asthma, hypertension, etc does not end up getting adequate coverage. So there was definitely a need to expand the scope of the coverage and an approach that would make health insurance relevant for all. COVID has helped us realise how a health emergency can put a strain on our finances and wipe out our life savings within a few days. According to the findings of a recently released report, the New Health Normal, people are realising the importance of a health-focused lifestyle and are actively seeking avenues that can support this healthy lifestyle both online and offline. It has impacted their behaviour as well in many ways– the technology they use, how closely they monitor their diet, adding regular exercise to their day, etc.



According to the new normal health survey, 84% of the participants believe that their awareness of health and wellness-related issues has increased post-COVID. More than half of the respondents (52%) in our research claim to have set aside money to use in case of medical emergencies. Furthermore, 85% of the respondents claim they would consider cutting down on some luxury items so that they could spend more on health insurance. Recognising this shift in consumer behaviour health insurance providers are now focussing on proactive care rather than reactive care.



## *Evolving consumer expectations and health insurance industry*

There is a gradual shift towards a wellness-oriented approach, focusing on promoting healthy lifestyles and preventive care.

While there has been some growth in awareness, with standalone health insurance players quadrupling their size in the last five years, however only 3% of the total Indian population buys retail health insurance policies. Health insurance companies, therefore, need to play the role of a health partner in the lives of their customers. Helping them to stay healthy will make them more relevant. Now, even the regulatory framework supports incentivising customers for staying healthy.

The Government of India has also addressed that under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Whilst there is the whole element of funding sickness insurance, there is also the presence of more than 150,000 health and wellness centers that can provide primary and preventive care to citizens across the country. Even the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has brought in very enabling wellness guidelines in insurance products.

In line with this, health insurance companies are realigning their product features and are coming out with various health and wellness solutions that incentivise policyholders to remain fit.

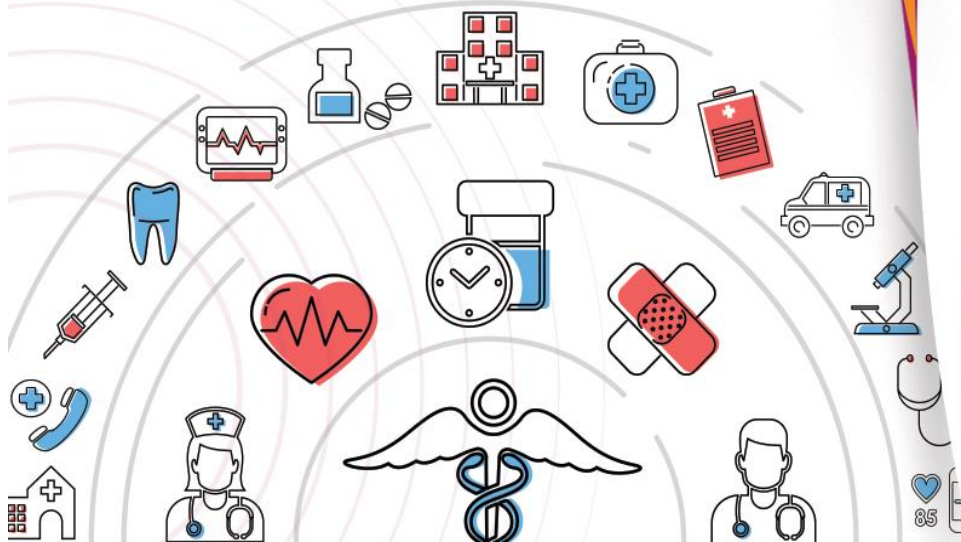
This results in a win-win situation for all. With rising healthcare costs, purchasing a health insurance policy with a wellness program can help people save money on their medical bills. It promotes their physical and mental well-being, provides access to quality care, and prevents chronic diseases.

To sum up, there is an evident consumer behaviour transformation in the way Indians look at health and wellness. Consumers are more cautious about their overall health and more prepared for financial emergencies. However, as ever, adopting a new habit is a challenge for most, and the need of the hour is to motivate and encourage people to complete the last mile in their health journey. The ultimate objective is a Fit and Healthy India.



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## Healthcare Accreditations in India- A pursuit of Excellence

Ensuring quality is a very critical component of high-performing health systems. There is a general awakening on this topic throughout the world, which has prompted the need to improve in terms of actual patient care and patient safety, the quality of healthcare. India has likewise fully embraced the cause possible and is consistently committed to enhancing and obtaining accreditation through organizations like NABH.

Accreditation, which is essentially a framework that assists healthcare organizations in establishing objective systems intended for patient safety and quality care developed through a comprehensive approach to Total Quality Management, has had a phenomenal impact on changing the healthcare landscape.

Accreditation in the context of healthcare refers to the formal evaluation procedure by means of self-assessment and external peer review process used by healthcare organizations to accurately assess their level of performance in relation to established standards and to implement ways to improve the healthcare system continuously. Accreditation is the most important approach to improving the quality of healthcare organizations and serves as a guiding force to drive these organizations to follow standardized procedures in order to ensure patient safety and quality by way of establishing systems, and protocols leading to a culture that is safe and patient-centric. Accreditation is a systematic approach to doing the right things as per the right procedure to the right patient at the right time to have the right outcome. Patients are the biggest beneficiary of accreditation among all the stakeholders.



**Dr Atul Mohan Kochhar**

MD, DNB, MNAMS, FAAD

CEO, NABH

&

**Dr Ebinesh Antony** BDS, MHA

Analyst, NABH



## *Healthcare Accreditations in India- A pursuit of Excellence*

The primary goal and objective of accreditation is to demonstrate that the healthcare organization's dedication to accreditation standards leads to a higher level of performance and a stronger focus on patient care and to ensure that the healthcare organizations not only perform evidence-based practices but also give importance to access, affordability, efficiency, quality, and effectiveness of healthcare. Accreditation also helps in branding the country internationally as a cost-effective quality healthcare hub for foreign patients and thereby caters to medical tourism to a larger extent making it a favorable destination for healthcare.

### **Strengths of Accreditation**

- ✓ The process of evaluation and accreditation is totally external to the organization opting for it and cannot be biased.
- ✓ Accreditation body uses consensus standards.
- ✓ Involves all the health professions
- ✓ The process is proactive and not reactive
- ✓ Focuses on systems followed and unfollowed and not on individuals
- ✓ Organization wide involvement
- ✓ Periodic re-evaluation against standards helps in maintaining and sustaining the quality in the organization
- ✓ Stimulates quality culture in the organization

### **Benefits of Accreditation**

The improvement of services for all stakeholders, including patients, the general public, hospitals and its staff is facilitated through accreditation. Accreditation of healthcare organization is majorly patient-centric and aims to encourage patient safety as the overarching principle while providing care to patients. The clinical outcomes of a wide range of clinical conditions are improved through accreditation programmes, which enhance the process of care delivered by healthcare services. The use of accreditation programmes as a strategy to raise the caliber of healthcare services should be encouraged. Achieving accreditation requires holding staff to high standards for patient care. Studies have shown that accreditation improves the overall quality of care in healthcare facilities.'

## *Healthcare Accreditations in India- A pursuit of Excellence*

### **Benefits for Patients**

- Patients are the biggest beneficiary among all the stakeholders.
- Accreditation results in high quality of care and patient safety.
- The patients are serviced by credentialed medical staff.
- Rights of patients are respected and protected. Patient's satisfaction is regularly evaluated.

### **Benefits for Organization**

- Accreditation to a health care organization stimulates continuous improvement.
- It enables the organization in demonstrating commitment to quality care and patient safety thereby ensures best clinical outcomes.
- It raises community confidence in the services provided by the health care organization as services provided by credentialed medical staff.
- It also provides opportunity to healthcare unit to benchmark with the best.
- An accreditation status also provides marketing advantage in a competitive health care.
- The HCO standards having been certified by ISQua gives an international recognition which will also help to promote medical tourism.
- Finally, accreditation provides an objective system of empanelment by insurance and other third parties.

### **Benefits for Staff**

- The staff in an accredited Hospital is satisfied lot as it provides for continuous learning, good working environment and leadership.
- Efficiencies and competencies of staff also gets improved in an accredited Hospital.
- It improves overall professional development, knowledge and competencies in systematic ways with defined ownership and accountability of all the staff including Medical and Para Medical Staff.

### **Benefits to paying and regulatory bodies**

- Finally, accreditation provides an objective system of empanelment by insurance and other third parties. Accreditation provides access to reliable and certified information on facilities, infrastructure and level of care.



## Lessons Learnt from the Pandemic for a Better Public Health System in India

As a country, we all had gone through a crippling shortage of necessary medical equipment and hospital beds while dealing with the devastating second wave of COVID-19. I believe the good part was that the Indian healthcare system responded to the pandemic through close collaboration between the public and private sectors. Even though India is making significant accomplishments in the healthcare space, the pandemic has indeed been an eye-opener. It has pinpointed the critical improvement areas and the need to bring urgent reforms to the public health system.

### Public Health Services Need an Upgrade

Public health services have been not focused upon for decades in the majority of Indian states. However, public health services have proven to be irreplaceable during the crisis. They've shouldered the lion's share of not just preventive and outreach services but also clinical care. In fact, states with robust public health systems like Kerala have been far more successful in containing the spread of the infection, compared to richer states like Maharashtra and Gujarat, which have under-staffed public health systems. Considering these facts now is the time to reinvent and rejuvenate public health services across the country. Here are some of the steps which can be taken to bolster the public health system of the country:



**Dr Santy Sajan**  
Group COO,  
Paras Healthcare



## *Lessons Learnt from the Pandemic for a Better Public Health System in India*

**Increased Investment:** During the last decade, less than 2 percent of India's GDP has been invested in healthcare. India's measly public health expenditure must take a quantum leap and be more than doubled to reach the goal of 2.5 percent set by the National Health Policy 2017 while being further increased to 3-4 percent of the GDP in the medium term. For bigger states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Gujarat, per capita spending on health is well below the national average of INR 1,765 annually – under INR 5 per day. All states, therefore, need to upscale their health budgets which is only possible if state governments spend at least 8 percent of their total budget on health and the Union government share is hiked, bringing this to 50 percent of total public health spending.

**Primary Healthcare must be given its Due Importance:** Wherever Covid-19 was well contained, it has been primarily due to action at primary healthcare level. All public health activities required for COVID control– including testing, early detection, various preventive measures– were being carried out by PHC-level staff, despite often being overburdened due to inadequate staffing in several states.

**Monitor Specific Thresholds for Public Health Infrastructure based on Population:** In the post-pandemic world, it becomes more important than ever to create and monitor certain thresholds for public health infrastructure based on population. For instance, irrespective of whether an area is classified as urban or rural, if it has a certain population level, it would benefit from having a hospital rather than a single physician clinic. Establishing such benchmarks (in terms of physical infrastructure, relevant support staff, specialisation of personnel) and reworking them as necessary, can go a long way in building a population with a healthy life expectancy.

The public healthcare sector should be developed as an inter-professional cadre that includes doctors, nurses, epidemiologists, social workers, policymakers, engineers, and scientists. This will enable them to work in interdisciplinary teams that can address the full spectrum of population health needs within India's complex healthcare system.

### **Final Say**

While it exposed the various vulnerabilities of the Indian healthcare system, Covid-19 has brought about a renewed focus on healthcare. Appropriate policy reforms along with adequate planning can guarantee a more robust public healthcare system and lead towards a more healthy population and productive economy– along with resilient cities in the process.

## Antimicrobial Resistance- The Silent Pandemic

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the major threats to global health, food security and development as it threatens the effective prevention and treatment of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi. About 700,000 people die each year from bacterial infections, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). It is a silent pandemic which needs urgent attention from every sector.

Factors such as over-prescription and over-the counter availability of antibiotics, lack of awareness amongst patients to complete the dosages, overuse of antibiotics in livestock, fish farming and agriculture, poor hygiene and infection control measures in the society, contributes majorly towards this cause. Another area of concern is the absence of new antibiotics development, which makes it more difficult to overcome this issue.

As per WHO data, it has been estimated that every 45 seconds someone dies from an infection caused by resistant bacteria. Also, it has been attributed that around 1.27 million deaths are cause due to bacterial AMR. The number is equivalent to the deaths caused due to HIV/AIDS and Malaria together. There is also an estimate of 10 million deaths by 2050 due to AMR. The impact of AMR goes well beyond health as it can have serious implications on poverty reduction and inequality, animal welfare, the environment, food safety and security. As per an estimate by The World Bank, 28 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty every year by 2050 and overall cost to the global economy of US\$1 trillion per year.

**Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)** is critical to fight the AMR crisis. AMS programs help fight antimicrobial resistance by providing a framework for responsible antibiotic prescribing and use, optimizing individual therapy, helping reduce the spread of resistance and raising awareness & education. Successful antimicrobial stewardship programs require a continued and diligent interaction between all levels of healthcare providers and policymakers, including physicians, infectious disease specialists, infection control practitioners, nursing staff, pharmacists, microbiologists, pathologists, lab directors, and healthcare administrators.



**Mr Bivash Chakraborty**  
Head of Regulatory, Quality,  
and Public Business  
BioMerieux India Pvt Ltd



## *Antimicrobial Resistance – The Silent Pandemic*

The core elements of antimicrobial stewardship programs include:

- Implementation of national and international guidelines and clinical pathways for the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases
- Limiting the use of antibiotics where not needed or not indicated
- Delivering the most appropriate antibiotic, with the correct dose established according to the type and site of infection, patient's age, weight, and clinical situation. Switching antibiotics from parenteral to oral form as soon as possible
- Timely conversion to the most narrow antibiotic spectrum according to the organism susceptibility
- Use of the shortest effective antibiotic course and discontinuation of antibiotic courses as soon as possible

### **Role of Diagnostics (Diagnostics Stewardship)**

- Quick and timely actions in understanding the causes of serious infections such as sepsis, pneumonia and meningitis and starting the right antibiotic therapy is a matter of life or death of the patient. Hence, it is important to rapidly identify the causative pathogen and to differentiate between bacterial, viral or fungal infections, to identify the antimicrobial resistances in microbes, and to find out which antimicrobial agent should be used for the cure. Thereby the unnecessary use of antibiotics could be minimized and the spread of antibiotic resistance better controlled.
- The microbiology laboratory, therefore, plays a crucial role in identifying the infectious agent quickly, as well as any potential resistance to antibiotics, in order to help clinicians prescribe the most appropriate treatment with the shortest time delay.

Since it is well known now that AMR is a major concern now, there is a need for global coordination, especially in developing relevant guidelines for the management of infectious diseases, using diagnostics, novel antimicrobials & implementation of antibiotics policy and surveillance. In addition, creating awareness and increasing education amongst all stakeholders (healthcare workers, the general public and politicians) about the dangers associated with the inappropriate use of antimicrobials should be made mandatory



# 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of FICCI Health Services Committee 2023



The **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of FICCI Health Services Committee for the year 2023** was held in a hybrid mode on 12th January, 2023. Mr Praveen Mittal welcomed the leadership for this year- **Dr Harsh Mahajan as Chair, Dr Sanjeev Singh and Dr Mahesh Joshi as Co-Chairs, and Dr Narottam Puri as Advisor.** He also thanked the **Immd. Past Chair, Mr Gautam Khanna** for pioneering the activities undertaken by the Committee last year. The Leadership gave their initial remarks and appreciated the Committee's significant contribution towards various initiatives undertaken by FICCI, which has been recognised across the country. The Committee worked extensively with the government and industry on areas like **Strengthening Healthcare workforce, Cancer Care, GST in Healthcare, Costing of Healthcare Services etc.** The committee has also submitted numerous recommendation and policy feedback to the government.



# 1st Meeting of FICCI Swasth Bharat Task Force (2023)



The 1st meeting of FICCI Swasth Bharat Task Force for the year 2023 was held in hybrid mode on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. The leadership of the Task Force shall continue for this year- **Mr CK Mishra** as Mentor, **(Hony) Brig Dr Arvind Lal** as Chair, **Dr Arun Agarwal** as Co-Chair. The Task Force has worked with the government for Primary healthcare, Senior Care, COVID-19 management awareness and other areas. The focus areas for 2023 include Smart HWCs, Anti-microbial resistance as well as support to the government for TB Mukh Bharat and Sickle Cell Anemia campaigns.

# G20 1st Health Working Group Meeting

The theme of the main event was **Sustainable Healthcare**, held on **18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023** and the side event was focused on **Medical Value Travel** held on **19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023**. The G20 member countries held a constructive discussion during India G20 Presidency's first Health Working Group (HWG) meeting- on health priorities like health emergencies prevention and preparedness, strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector, and digital health innovation and solutions. The delegates also participated in a morning yoga session held on day 2 and visited the Somatheeram Ayurveda Village at Kovalam, Kerala to understand the holistic healthcare service delivery system. The exhibition on Medical Value Travel witnessed the participation of the leading private hospitals, healthcare centres, facilitators, and Ayurveda & Wellness Centres. FICCI was the industry partner for the side event.

**2<sup>nd</sup> HWG Meeting is scheduled on April 17-19, 2023, at Goa, which will be focused on Digital Health.**



**Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, MoS- HFW, GoI**  
inaugurating the G20 1<sup>st</sup> HWG meeting



**L-R: Shri Lav Agarwal, AS-MoHFW & Shri Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary-AYUSH, Government of India**

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# Advantage Healthcare India 2023



6<sup>th</sup> International Summit on Medical Value Travel

FICCI in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Commerce and Industry is organizing the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of **Advantage Healthcare India event scheduled tentatively in March 2023** in New Delhi. Over the years, this event has become one of the most prestigious events on Medical Value Travel in the world witnessing participation from the who's who of the global MVT industry.

The event brings together Indian Healthcare providers & International participants on a common platform for:

- Business Networking
- Development of strategic partnerships in the medical and holistic healthcare sector between India and the focus countries
- Promotion of quality healthcare services exports from India available at reasonable prices across the range of medical streams

The main constituents of the event will be an exhibition, reverse buyer-seller meet and B-2-B sessions, & a two-day high-level international conference. The theme of the conference will be **'Medical Value Travel: One Earth, One Health, One Future'**. The conference will also feature the **launch of 'Heal in India' and 'Heal By India'** initiatives by the Hon'ble PM.

## About FICCI Health Services

**FICCI Health Services Committee constituted in 2006**, has been pivotal in facilitating interaction among stakeholders to jointly work towards creating the building blocks for achieving quality healthcare through initiatives like:

- Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) for tertiary, secondary and primary care
- National Costing Guidelines
- Categorization of healthcare providers
- National Electronic Health Records
- Innovations in Healthcare
- Tackling Non-communicable diseases
- Bridging the skill gaps and augmenting healthcare workforce
- Recommendations on recent programs and policies include **National Health Policy 2017, Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY and H&WCs, National Medical Commission, Personal Data Protection Bill, Augmenting Healthcare Infrastructure, Strengthening Healthcare Workforce, Nursing Reforms, Cancer Care, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, etc.**

**For COVID-19, FICCI was actively engaged with various government departments at multiple levels through:**

- ✓ **Policy intervention-** through **Advocacy, Representations and Reports**
- ✓ **Strategic support-** government-industry tie-ups; surveys for identifying resources, facilitating logistics, supplies & mobility
- ✓ **Information, education and communication**
- ✓ Collaborate with Industry and State Governments for **Crisis Management** as well as COVID Vaccination
- ✓ Support to FICCI members for **Vaccination of their Employees**

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