NATIONAL

25 JULY 2019


NHA and NATHEALTH to drive innovations in healthcare sector

The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, start up incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organizations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organizations.
Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programs like Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH- Healthcare Federation of India.

The aim of this strategic partnership is to enable a seamless pathway that streamlines all innovations ensuring that it scales and increases the efficacy of PM-JAY service delivery. Further, this collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations; providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHAs effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of "Health for All".

NHA and NATHEALTH have jointly agreed to meet the following objectives through this MoU:

- Identifying and curating the best healthcare innovations and start-ups from India.
- Assessing healthcare innovations through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability.
- Enabling an ecosystem for healthcare innovations to engage with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.
- Enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.
- Providing Go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas.
- Starting a dialogue on ‘how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation’.

This initiative will focus on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to:

- Value-based healthcare
- Population health management, risk management and insurance administration
- Chronic secondary and tertiary ailments
- Digital health
- Medical Devices
- Health Data Analytics
- Technology-enabled models of healthcare delivery including leveraging innovations centered around frontier technologies
- Improving operational efficiency of service delivery of PM-JAY
Speaking at the MoU signing, Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, said “NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM-JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY.”

Airing his views on the scope of the partnership, Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “We welcome this opportunity to work with NHA to build partnerships with innovators, who will help shape healthcare in India. The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale. We will be assessing these innovations from all perspectives within industry and connected innovation landscape. This initiative also aims to enable healthcare innovations to access private industry support, funding from private capital and other funders, and mentorship from clinical, technology and business experts.”

The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, start-up incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organizations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organizations.
NATHEALTH announces change in Leadership Team

30 July 2019 | News

Sets goal to work closely with all stakeholders including the government on several issues and creating a new healthcare ecosystem

Apex Healthcare industry body-NATHEALTH has announced changes in its leadership. Preetha Reddy has been elevated to the post of Senior Vice President and Dr. Harsh Mahajan takes over as Vice President for the year 2019-20. Dr. Ashutosh Raghuvarnshi has been inducted to the Leadership team as Treasurer NATHEALTH.

Dr. Sudarshan Ballal and Badri Iyengar continue their responsibilities as President and Secretary respectively. Rajit Mehta, Max Healthcare stepped down from the office of Senior Vice President and as a member of the Governing Council.

The decision was taken in the Governing Council meeting of the Federation.

Welcoming leadership team in their new roles and responsibilities, Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “NATHEALTH has emerged as a powerful voice of the healthcare sector and it has been playing a catalytic role in the transformation that is taking place to quality and affordable services and solutions. We will work closely with all stakeholders including the government on several issues and look forward to creating a new healthcare ecosystem.”

Senior Vice President of NATHEALTH Preetha Reddy is the Executive Vice Chairman of Apollo Hospitals and Dr. Harsh Mahajan is a renowned radiologist & Founder of Mahajan Imaging. Newly elected treasurer of the Federation Dr. Ashutosh Raghuvarnshi is the new CEO and MD of Fortis Healthcare.

Congratulating new Leadership Team, Sudharshita Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH said, “We are fortunate to attract top leadership of Indian Healthcare industry within NATHEALTH which will help us achieve our vision. We will be ably guided by their expertise and experience to drive long term transformation in the healthcare sector by driving healthcare innovations across preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative spectrums”

Preetha Reddy and Dr. Mahajan have been associated with NATHEALTH since its inception in various capacities. They have decades of experience in the Healthcare sector. The new leadership team was instrumental in several reforms in the sector through its expert support to the government.
Industry reacts to the new budget

Union Budget strengthens the health sector: Health Minister

This Budget included many development reforms for the Indian economy including developing skills resulting into creation of employment. Though there were no new announcements in this budget specific to healthcare and biotech/life sciences, however in the Interim budget earlier this year, already an allocation of INR 61,599 crore was announced for the health sector for the 2019-2020 fiscal, which was a 16% increase in the last year’s allocation. This showcases that healthcare has a strong focus from the government. Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the construction of toilets making more than 5.6 lakh villages Open Defecation Free (ODF) will also play a role in reducing many food and water-borne diseases getting spread.

Dr Prasanna Deshpande, Deputy Managing Director, Indian Immunologicals Limited

The expectations from the Union Budget 2019 were that of a bold reformist budget, however, it turned out to be an incremental budget at best. The emphasis on start-ups and on the education sector is a good move. However, there was nothing to fuel growth in the healthcare and pharma sectors, which is disappointing. I was particularly keen on seeing a change in the weighted deduction for R&D which did not happen. A positive policy move of this kind would have spurred R&D and innovation in pharma and other sectors.

Satish Reddy, Chairman, Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories

My compliments to the Finance Minister for outlining Modi 2.0’s vision to take the nation to new heights over the next five years. Reminding citizens of their duty to India, the budget presented a long term vision to achieve a $5 trillion economy by 2024. The Apollo Hospitals group resolves to do its duty and join the nation in waging a war against the tsunami of non-communicable diseases that threatens the health of society, leading the country into a global initiative to stop the growth of NCDs in its tracks.

Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group

Overall the budget announcements look positive and people friendly. The new reforms like funds raised by start-ups will not require scrutiny of tax department is a positive move for start-ups apart from special programs that will be aired on Doordarshan for start-ups by start-ups will help in educating and motivating the budding entrepreneurs in semi urban and rural regions. I personally laud the move for an additional fund allocation at 2% interest for loans taken by MSMEs and this is a great move by the government.
Across the world crowd funding platforms are known but Electronic fundraising platform (social stock exchange) for listing social enterprises is a breakthrough move by the government for organizations working in social sector, although speed of its implementation is going to be critical.

Rahul Pait, Chief Operating Officer, DocOnline

While the budget is forward looking on many issues, overall healthcare industry expected more from the new government. Except one specific announcement on Dialysers raw material and component imports to eliminate anomalies with finished goods imports, there is no specific announcements to reduce over 80% Import dependency on Medical Devices. We request the government to form "Department of Medical Devices" like Department of Pharmaceuticals to look into the demands of domestic medical devices innovators & manufacturers.

Dr. GSK Velu, Chairman, and MD, Trivitron Healthcare

This budget does not seem to have addressed the healthcare sector directly. Opening up of the insurance sector to FDI may benefit healthcare. The fine print may have something though. Else, status quo it is!

Dr. Deepak Balani, Chief of Medical Services at Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru

The Government has rightfully focused on bringing in several key structural reforms for the nation moving towards the goal. We would like to congratulate the Government for displaying commitment and concern towards Improvement in Public Healthcare aiming to create a healthy India, with comprehensive wellness derived environment for all.

We are happy to see that the government has proposed to expand Swachh Bharat Mission to undertake sustainable solid waste management in every village of the country. Rural health hygiene has definitely improved. Citizens are expected to be less vulnerable to communicable diseases in open defecation free villages. I believe the Swachh Bharat Mission is an ideal holistic mass initiative and has been effective and successful in changing the mind-set of people in the country.

100% FDI in insurance intermediaries is a push for the insurance sector. Going forward we expect more people will be under the insurance coverage net and the transactions in hospitals will be faster. This will increase health security at the same time and create more opportunities in the sector. Additionally, the deduction limit for medical insurance that has been increased from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 and for senior citizens, till Rs. 50,000, will augur well for individuals.

The industry was intently looking forward for further announcements regarding Ayushman Bharat taking the right partnership approach to a more inclusive participation. Some relief on imported medical equipment could have been provided which would have benefitted the sector.
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Dr. Alok Roy, Chairman, Medica Group of Hospitals

The Union Budget 2019 presented by Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has concentrated more on the vision for the growth and welfare of the country. Although the healthcare sector has not been discussed much during the Budget, sanitation, hygiene, potable water have been given importance in order to create a cleaner and healthier society. The Government, through Ayushman Bharath Yojana, aims to concentrate more on the all-round nourishment of women and children and wants our citizens to consider taking care of their health in a more serious way. Preventive healthcare is a major issue that is mostly ignored by people, who end up visiting clinicians only when diagnosed with a medical disorder. Therefore, in order to make people consider investing on their health and personal welfare, the Government has increased the tax deduction of medical insurance from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000.

Col Hemraj Singh Parmar, Group CEO, BR Life Hospitals

We congratulate the government on presenting a holistic budget for the common man and it's encouraging to see that the government has taken initiatives to deliver on its promise of excellence in healthcare.

The government has identified 'healthcare' as one of the key delivery outcome priorities for a healthy society. SRL Diagnostics has always encouraged the adoption of a preventive, rather than curative, attitude towards health. The government’s vision aligns with our mission of bringing good-quality, accessible primary healthcare services to the masses.

Once again, the government has shown its commitment to the healthy well-being of more than 130 crore citizens of the nations. The impetus on increasing foreign direct investments (FDIs) offers hope for renewed interests by investors which will help to drive growth for both the public and private healthcare institutions.

The government has put forward a progressive budget with a strong vision to take India’s social, economic and overall well being to greater heights.

Arindam Haldar, CEO, SRL Diagnostics
The budget this time focuses primarily on sustainable growth and infrastructure. The decision to invest Rs 80,250 cr for the development of 1,25,000 km of roads under PM Gram Sadak Yojana Phase III is a great initiative, which will improve rural connectivity tremendously and enable emergency medical service providers like ourselves to reach the remote corners of the country. While the government laid a lot of emphasis on cleanliness and sanitation, we were hoping to see reforms in the healthcare sector. One of the points overlooked in the Union Budget 2019 is the lack of impetus for the emergency medical services sector. Our foremost request to the government has been to accord due recognition to the emergency medical services (EMS) industry and recognise it as an independent sector within the healthcare industry. We are hopeful that the next meeting of the GST council may bring some tax relief to the industry.

Manish Sacheti, CFO, Ziqitza Healthcare

Surprisingly in the budget there was no mention of any benefits and plans for healthcare! However certain positives are the proposals to set up the National Research Centre and Annual Global Investors Meet, both the initiatives that will help give an impetus and attract research proposals and funding to India’s potential. Easing of Angel tax and relief from IT scrutiny for start-ups are great encouragement for the sector.

While announcing large scale projects for electric cars, the government has completely ignored the biomedical sector which has the potential to be a global research hub for fields like genetic research, bioinformatics and AI in healthcare.

Swati Deshpande, Director (Operations), Datar Cancer Genetics

Incentives for electric vehicles in terms of subsidy on loans as well as lowering of GST from 12% to 5% on electric vehicles, will help reduce air pollution over a period of time. This will help control heart diseases, respiratory illness, and cancers.

- The 100% FDI in insurance intermediaries along with streamlining of Labour laws will help boost health insurance and thereby healthcare industry. This will increase healthcare insurance coverage and boost investment in new hospitals.
- National Research Foundation for higher research will help indigenous research in pharmaceutical industry, bio-medical industry, innovation in indigenous treatments modalities. etc
- Internet connectivity with all gram sabhas will give impetus to private sector to invest in telemedicine through PPP mode.
- Safe drinking water for all households by 2024 through ‘Jal Shakti Mantralaya’ will help control water borne diseases in India. This will be aided by the “Toilets for all” scheme that will reduce oro-fecal route diseases.

However, nothing was mentioned about the Ayushman Bharat-PM Jan Arogya Yogana.
Dr Rajeev Boudhankar, CEO, Bhatia Hospital

With the Modi 2.0 government planning to set up more than 1.50 lakh Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) by 2022 under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and plans to provide healthcare cover of Rs 5 lakh to around 10.74 crore families across the country, this year promises to be a healthy growth for the sector.

Vivek Tiwari, Founder and CEO, Medikabazaar

The procedural relaxations like non-scrutiny from the Income Tax Department in valuation of shares premium and justifying fair market value of their shares issued to Category-II Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) will ease off the fund-raising and compliance process for the Start-ups. The special program on Doordarshan for emerging entrepreneurs would help facilitate sharing of knowledge between start-ups in rural areas specially emphasizes the government's commitment towards entrepreneurs. Another tax incentive of enhancing the limit of 25% corporate tax for businesses generating revenues up to INR 400 Crores will help them on improving their profitability. Budget is well balanced between welfare, infrastructure, environment. From a Healthcare perspective, there will continue to be greater demand for tax incentives, introduction of PPP models etc. to further support the mission of Ayushman Bharat.

Satish Kottakota, CFO, CallHealth

We welcome Modi 2.0 Government's Gramin Bharat budget announcements, where a special focus was laid on Gaon, Garib Aur Kisan. Even the contribution of females in rural areas was also addressed in the budget, calling them the main propellant for the welfare of the world. With the announcement of proposing a committee to evaluate and suggest measure to improve women's welfare, we are sure that women's achievements in various fields will come in the forefront. However, the further commitment in providing primary healthcare has not been met which is slightly disappointing. But the government has pledged to establish a National Research Foundation to boost research in all areas. We hope the government will allocate significant resources through this body towards boosting the field of medical research in India. We also expect the New Education Policy to focus on creating more doctors and specialists in the country by increasing both MBBS and Post Graduate seats in medicine.

Ajoy Khandheria, Founder, Gramin Healthcare
It is heartening to see the key issues faced by startups in the country being addressed in the Union Budget 2019. The budget is definitely pro-entrepreneurship and provides clarity and relief in respect to the arbitrary Angel Tax that has been stalling startup growth in the country over the past few years. Start-ups no longer need to be worried about coming under the scrutiny of the Income Tax Department as long as there is a full disclosure of the identity of the investor and source of income which is fair and straightforward. The exemption of capital gains from the sale of residential property for investment in start-ups till FY 21 is a welcome move. The new dedicated start-up channel to be operated by the Doordarshan Group will encourage people in the remotest parts of the country to take the path of entrepreneurship and will help SME’s strengthen their operations. The relaxation of conditions for carry-forwarding and setting off company losses will also boost the ecosystem.

The government has also given due acknowledgment and assured support to women-led initiatives which will be crucial to leveling the playing field for women entrepreneurs. The dedicated SME portal facilitating online submission and payment of bills will improve the ease of doing business in India. Healthcare and increasing spending in this sector are two crucial areas that were completely left unaddressed although they are the need of the hour. It is a known fact that healthcare spending in India is currently a dismal 2.2%. Despite Ayushman Bharat figuring in the government’s ten-point agenda, it was disheartening to see the lack of any solid policies in the healthcare sector. We hoped to see some action points on areas such as home care, affordable and accessible care, as well as other aspects pertaining to the sector.

Meena Ganesh, MD & CEO, Portea Medical

The Modi Government 2.0’s 1st Union Budget touched upon many facets of infrastructure growth and sustainable development of industries in rural as well as urban India. It talked about all-round development of waterways, roadways, railways, metro corridors, railways as well as space programs. However, one crucial aspect that was missing from the overall budget was increasing spending in the healthcare sector. We hope that an added focus is laid during the next five years on preventive and curative healthcare for only if a country is healthy is it truly prospering.

The focus on start-ups came up very strongly during the budget as it addressed all the prevalent issues around “Angel Tax”, “Valuation issues” and “Fundraise opportunities”. We welcome the step towards the Global Investor meet through the NIIF to attract global players, leading industries, sovereign wealth funds, and digital venture funds. A dedicated TV channel for start-ups under the Doordarshan Group to promote entrepreneurship will go a long way in encouraging people to turn their ideas into reality in the remotest areas of the country.
Saurabh Agarwal, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Medlife.com

As a leading homegrown healthcare start-up, we are extremely happy to see various entrepreneurship-friendly provisions in the Union Budget 2019 along with an emphasis on MSMEs, Start-ups, and medical devices under the Make in India campaign. The resolution of the Angel Tax issue will go a long way in helping start-ups reach their full potential.

The step towards boosting foreign investment in the manufacturing sector in India is a welcome move. The budget proposes a National Research Foundation which will be a corpus of funds pooled from various ministries. This can help promote R&D in the healthcare space thereby reducing the disease burden in the country. Apart from this, there is a plan to include advanced training on topics like AI, VR, Big Data, and Robotics, etc. which will augment the capabilities of Indian entrepreneurs and put them on the global map. The government has also taken some great steps towards promoting women-led initiatives. Another encouraging move has been the provision of offering up to Rs 1 crore of fresh or incremental loans within an hour through the online portal. Overall, the budget is quite encouraging for innovators and technology-oriented start-ups. We were however looking forward to a stronger focus on increasing the healthcare budget which was completely missing for this budget.

Neha Rastogi, Founder, Agatsa

We had great expectations from the union budget 2019 in respect to an increase in healthcare expenditure. However issues such as the increasing disease burden of the country, need to boost preventive healthcare and improving access to affordable and quality care were completely missed out by the new government which is extremely discouraging. While Ayushman Bharat was listed as a key focus area, clarity is needed on how it would be strengthened to reach a larger population. Health is wealth is a popular saying and we must understand its significance. Without a strong healthcare focus, the economy of the country and standard of living of people can't be elevated in the true sense.

It is heartening to see the increased focus on Swachh Bharat, water, hygiene, and sanitation. These will go a long way in reducing preventable water and food-borne diseases in the country. As the President of an healthcare NGO, I welcome the government’s move to set up an electronic fundraising programme for social enterprises and voluntary organisations. This will go a long way in helping us build capital and extend life-saving programmes to a larger section of the population.
Dr K K Aggarwal, President Heart Care Foundation of India (HCFI)

Reduction in Customs duty of Medical Devices in the Union budget would have furthered the government's objective of increasing Healthcare affordability and accessibility, which, through Ayushman Bharat it is already trying to achieve. The increase in the turnover limit to INR 400 Crores under the 25% tax slab is in line with the government's commitment in the Union budget 2019 to make Indian companies more competitive on the global business platform. This will also lead to increase in compliance and also attract more investment to India.

Pavan Choudary, Chairman and Director General, M1tal

As a woman entrepreneur, I welcome the Modi 2.0 government's budget with open arms as a lot of focus was laid on the achievements of women in various fields. Nirmala Sitharaman, in her maiden budget announcement, proposed a committee to evaluate and suggest measure to improve women's welfare and this move would be beneficial to empower the fairer sex in the society. I am elated how the government has celebrated the efforts made by the women in their day-to-day life and gave them their due credit of being the main propellant for the welfare of the world. Even the announcement of a Rs 100,000 loan for women under the Mudra scheme will boost more women entrepreneurs to come forward and spread their wings.

The Startup India initiative, which was launched by the central government with the aim of bolstering the startup ecosystem in India, was given a major leg up when union minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman presented her first budget today. The plan to setup a dedicated TV programme for startups, which will be run by the startups themselves, will help them get much-needed traction from potential investors. The announcement was augmented with other proposed measures, such as relaxation of FDI rules for segments like food delivery, grocery, and e-commerce, enhancements to the digital payment ecosystem designed to help FinTech startups, incentives for electric vehicles that were welcomed by startups manufacturing electric vehicles, and easing of regulatory norms for angel tax assessment via a simplified e-verification system. The plan to setup tech incubators and livelihood business incubators to create skilled entrepreneurs in the tech and agricultural industry will help create more homegrown businesses and jobs, improve our GDP, and bring down our historical high unemployment rates. The Stand up India scheme that was launched with the aim of encouraging women entrepreneurs also saw a welcome step forward as the Interest Subvention program for women SHGs is set to be expanded to all districts of India.
The union budget presented by Finance Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman has a lot of ambitious proposals to overhaul India's education system. The goal to make India an educational hub with the Study in India program is praiseworthy, and we look forward to a concrete roadmap from the HRD ministry to make this a reality. The Gyan initiative that was kicked off to attract educators and researchers from abroad saw a welcome step forward in the budget with a proposal by the central government to set up a National Research Foundation under the National Education Policy. It will help pool together the funds from all ministries and optimally funnel them for the purposes of research, and we expect more details on the implementation strategy from the management committee. The government's decision to train young people in fields like AI, Robotics, and Big Data will help with their continuing education and equip them to secure employment and stay relevant in the competitive job market.

Savitha Kuttan, Founder & CEO, Omnicuris

The budget may not be the expected one for the healthcare segment but it is a fairly decent one. The overall health allocation has gone up from Rs 63538 Cr in the interim budget to Rs 64999 Cr in 2019-20. A raise of Rs 1750 cr may not look very promising on papers but when we see it in context to previous years' budget allocation of Rs. 54668 Cr, it is a YOY increase of Rs. 10000 Cr. With an increasing number of claims and popularity of Ayushman Bharat, a scheme-specific announcement would have been ideal.

Swadeep Srivastava, Founder & Chief Belief Officer, India Virtual Hospital

The Budget has substantial incentive for startups and small to medium businesses; and the move to expand the 25% tax rate to companies with revenue upto Rs. 400 crore is commendable. The measures to support the startup landscape – particularly eliminating scrutiny on capital gains in the case of angel tax and expanding fair market value justification exemption to Category I AIFs could help strengthen the funding ecosystem in the country.

However, I would have liked to see greater reflection of fund allocation or tailored program announcements to support the Make in India and Ayushman Bharat programs, marque initiatives of Prime Minister Modi that are particularly relevant for companies across the continuum of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical devices, diagnostics and healthcare delivery. If the lofty vision of Ayushman Bharat is to be accomplished, implementation budget and plans should be progressively and substantially bolstered. With the exception of incentives to multinational companies for creation of mega manufacturing parks, there is no meaningful reform to foster scaling of Indian manufacturing footprint, especially in sectors that are still heavily import dependent such as medical devices.
Additionally, given the crossroads the pharma and biotech industry is at today, it is also critical that there is encouragement for multifold increase in level for research engagement. There are no tangible provisions in the budget that will help substantially elevate competitiveness of the industry.

Overall, the budget is in my view a good wellness prescription for the overall economy but lacks specialist’s clinical interventions in specific parts where the economy’s health is relatively poor and needs an injection of support.

Pushpa Vijayaraghavan, Director and Practice Lead, Healthcare and Lifesciences, Sathguru Management Consultants Private Limited

We congratulate the government for presenting a forward looking and dynamic budget that takes into account the financial needs of the nation. The increased tax benefits offered on health insurance premiums to all segments of the population, including senior citizens, will urge people to avail the advantages of having a health insurance equipping then with a secure future. Tax benefit proposals will significantly benefit the middle class comprising of self-employed, small businesses, traders, salaried class, pensioners and senior citizens.

Anuj Gulati, MD & CEO, Religare Health Insurance (RHI)

While the healthcare allocation had been covered in the Interim Budget earlier this year, it is still a little disappointing that there was no new commitment to healthcare in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s maiden budget. However, one of the most notable announcements in the budget has been the pledge to establish a National Research Foundation to boost research in all areas. We hope the government will allocate significant resources through this body towards boosting the field of medical research in India. We also expect the New Education Policy to focus on creating more doctors and specialists in the country by increasing both MBBS and Post Graduate seats in medicine.

Also, the fact that the government’s focus on building toilets and on improving overall sanitation has yielded positive results is encouraging. With nearly 95% of all cities declaring themselves open-defecation free, it is a major boost to the overall health prevention scene in the country. Notably, poor sanitation has been a major cause of the high incidence of communicable diseases such as diarrhea in India, especially among children. We hope the government will continue its focus on improving sanitation.

Dr Shankar Narang, COO, Paras Healthcare
Union Budget 2019 appears to be comprehensive, wide-ranging and balanced with many positives for the economy. However, going forward the government needs to revisit unfinished agenda such as ‘Priority Sector’ status to Healthcare for smooth credit flow, mandatory universal health insurance, tax incentives for capacity building, creation of a dedicated infrastructure and innovation fund.

Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH

A healthy India will be a prerequisite to a 5 trillion dollar economy. NATHEALTH would like to underline the need for making healthcare an integrated part of the policy and fiscal planning with adequate investments to achieve this vision. We are pleased with the focus on ease of living in this budget and believe that the health sector can play a pivotal role across the broad pillars of economic growth, skilled employment and ease of living themes.

Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary General, NATHEALTH

In line with the Ayushman Bharat program, India has taken a number of initiatives towards equitable and affordable access of quality healthcare for 1.3 bn Indians. But it cannot be made affordable if India continues to import 70-80% of its total requirement of medical devices.

While the overall approach and budget allocation to address healthcare by the current government has been positive, unfortunately there is nothing much to boost Make in India.

Suresh Vazirani, CMD, Transasia Bio-Medicals Ltd.

It is very good to hear that we are striving to become a $ 5 Trillion economy soon. This will place India on the world center stage. However regarding NRIs and Healthcare sector, there is not much to sing about. It is good to know that NRIs shall be allowed to take Aadhar Card. This will help them to sort out many issues that they face now for identity and transacting business while in India. There has been no significant announcements pertaining to healthcare in union budget. While there was hope that the allocation for health sector in view of the requirement for funding the Ayushman Bharath, this has not been allocated. It is good that the focus is in education and I hope that there will be more funding for starting and upgrading medical colleges. There is also proposal for “Study in India “ program which will help in setting up autonomous institutions."

Dr Azad Moopen, Founder and Chairman of Aster DM Healthcare
The budget comes as an indication that it is taking a comprehensive approach in the healthcare and wellness segment, and I think it is aimed in the right direction. With the government's continuous focus on the Ayushman Bharat scheme will further help in providing extensive medical care and reinforce the commitment to universal healthcare for all citizens. Apart from this, the announcement to boost Artificial Intelligence will strengthen the usage of technology in the field of healthcare and it will intensify the quality in healthcare with accessibility and affordability.

Amol Naikawadi, Joint Managing Director, Indus Health Plus

We at AIMED are shell shocked to see that No action has been taken by the Govt. to stem the tsunami of imports of 24% at 38800 Cr Rs that's crushing Indian mfg. It is appalling to notice that since last 3 years, it is the first budget with zero mention on healthcare not even higher allocation for Ayushman Bharat.

We request the government

- To encourage employment and Make in India of Medical Devices and address 70-90% import dependency by a predictive nominal tariff protection policy as done for mobile phones to ensure a vibrant domestic industry & competitiveness and price stability driven by competing domestic players
- To protect Consumers from exploitatively high MRP in Medical Devices by rationalized price controls and aid ethical marketing
- To Regulate all Medical Devices under a Patients' Safety Medical Devices Law to protect patients and aid responsible manufacturing
- To incentivize Quality in Healthcare Products in public healthcare procurements by preferential pricing for Q1 e.g. ICMED (QCI's Indian Certification for Medical Devices) instead of L1 (lowest price) to ensure patients access acceptable quality

Rajiv Nath, All India Medical Devices

The Budget has addressed expectations in the area of enhancing healthcare coverage to the Indian citizens through Ayushman Bharat. Consolidation of grants into the National Research Foundation will hopefully enhance medical research. The medical device industry will stand to gain on account of the reduced customs tariff and increase in the turnover threshold to INR 400 crore for the corporate tax rate of 25%.
Amit Kumar Bajaj, Partner, Grant Thornton India LLP

The 2019 budget celebrates the spirit of entrepreneurship in India, with a number of provisions for startups and MSMEs. Whether it’s organizing a Global Investors’ Meet to boost entrepreneurship or resolving taxation issues, there are significant incentives for new-age companies. In addition, the budget’s emphasis on training millions of youth in industry-relevant skills like AI, IoT and Big Data will help address demand gaps for trained technology professionals across industries. A key tenet of this year’s budget is the renewed emphasis on inclusion of Research & Innovation in the National Education policy; and the proposal to set up a national research foundation to assimilate research grants from various ministries. As a startup in the field of deep tech and science, we understand the significance of building R&D from the ground up and welcome the Government’s support in this. We are confident of its long-term impact and predict a rise in innovation and creativity, boosting entrepreneurship further and putting India at par with global counterparts.

Swetabh Pathak, Co-Founder, Elucida

The Government has rightfully focused on bringing in several key structural reforms for the nation moving towards the goal. We would like to congratulate the Government for displaying commitment and concern towards improvement in Public Healthcare aiming to create a healthy India, with comprehensive wellness derived environment for all.

We are happy to see that the government has proposed to expand Swachh Bharat Mission to undertake sustainable solid waste management in every village of the country. Rural health hygiene has definitely improved. Citizens are expected to be less vulnerable to communicable diseases in open defecation free villages. I believe the Swachh Bharat Mission is an ideal holistic mass initiative and has been effective and successful in changing the mind-set of people in the country.

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The industry was intently looking forward for further announcements regarding Ayushman Bharat taking the right partnership approach to a more inclusive participation. Some relief on imported medical equipment could have been provided which would have benefitted the sector.

Dr. Alok Roy, Chairman, Medica Group of Hospitals
The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) signed MoU (Memorandum of understanding) to improve efficiency of Service Delivery under Ayushman Bharat scheme which is also called as Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

- Under the vision of “Health for All”, this collaboration will provide and enable interface for testing healthcare innovation ecosystem, adopting, funding, and providing mentorship in creating channels for scaling these innovations.
- AB-PMJAY is a National Health Protection Scheme launched in 23rd September 2018. It provides health coverage upto ₹5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary Care Hospitalization. It is governed by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister (MoHFW).
- The National Health Agency was restructured as National Health Authority for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.
Govt Inks MoU With Industry Body To Streamline Deliver Of Services Under Ayushman Bharat

The partnership between National Health Authority (NHA) and the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) aims to streamline all innovations ensuring that it increases the efficacy of service delivery of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
**New Delhi:** To streamline delivery of services under the Centre’s flagship healthcare scheme *Ayushman Bharat*, its implementing agency inked an MoU with industry body NATHEALTH on Thursday.

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The collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations, providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its Innovation strategy, which is aligned with the its vision of ‘Health for All’, its CEO Indu Bhushan said.

"With the implementation of the AB-PMJAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support.

"I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PMJAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY," Bhushan said.

NATHEALTH president Sudarshan Ballal said, "The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale."

The MoU aims at enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.

Around 26 Lakh people have availed treatment so far in several hospitals across the country under the scheme since its launch in September last year.

The insurance scheme aims to provide a health cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable families.

The scheme provides a cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme.
National Health Authority and NATHEALTH Join hands to drive innovations in healthcare sector

New Mumbai, July 25, 2019: Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programs like Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH- Healthcare Federation of India.

The aim of this strategic partnership is to enable a seamless pathway that streamlines all innovations ensuring that it scales and increases the efficacy of PM-JAY service delivery. Further, this collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations; providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of “Health for All”.
NHA and NATHEALTH have jointly agreed to meet the following objectives through this MoU:

- Identifying and curating the best healthcare innovations and start-ups from India.
- Assessing healthcare innovations through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability.
- Enabling an ecosystem for healthcare innovations to engage with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.
- Enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.
- Providing Go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas.
- Starting a dialogue on ‘how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation’.

This initiative will focus on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to:

- Value-based healthcare
- Population health management, risk management and insurance administration
- Chronic secondary and tertiary ailments
- Digital health
- Medical Devices
- Health Data Analytics
- Technology-enabled models of healthcare delivery including leveraging innovations centered around frontier technologies
- Improving operational efficiency of service delivery of PM-JAY
The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, start-up incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organizations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organizations.

Speaking at the MoU signing, Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, said “NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM-JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY.”

Airing his views on the scope of the partnership, Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “We welcome this opportunity to work with NHA to build partnerships with innovators, who will help shape healthcare in India. The main objective of the joint Initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale. We will be assessing these innovations from all perspectives within industry and connected innovation landscape. This initiative also aims to enable healthcare innovations to access private industry support, funding from private capital and other funders, and mentorship from clinical, technology and business experts.”
National Health Authority, Government Of India And Nathealth Join Hands To Drive Innovations In Healthcare Sector

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Govt inks MoU with industry body to streamline deliver of services under Ayushman Bharat

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Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme.
Higher funding in Healthcare needs to be a Top Priority: NATHEALTH

NATHEALTH recommends the government to make Healthcare a priority sector to meet the long term funding and financing requirements

In order to meet the growing need for higher funding, apex Healthcare industry body NATHEALTH has sought a priority status to the healthcare sector and urged the government to expand health insurance coverage to other sections of society.

In its pre-budget memorandum to the Government, the body stressed the ‘priority sector’ status to meet the long term funding and financing requirements. According to NATHEALTH, a priority sector status will act as a catalyst for channeling funds from the banking sector and not only create a necessary healthcare infrastructure but will also ensure that the societal objectives of the Government are adequately met.

“Existing shortcomings of the Healthcare sector are impeding the sector’s potential in terms of infrastructure development, entrepreneurial spirit and capacity building. Priority status will not only facilitate ease of access to funding but also bring in accessibility, availability, and quality in Tier 3 & 4 cities and rural areas,” said Dr. Sadasivan Balaji, President, NATHEALTH.

“In order to ensure access to preventive and curative care of sufficient quality and safeguards the entire community from financial distress, initially the government can give organized sector employees an option of either paying their ESI contribution or purchasing health insurance from any IRDA regulated insurance company. Eventually, it can be expanded to middle and upper-middle classes,” he added.

The harmonized master list of infrastructure sub-sectors by the Reserve Bank of India in 2012 includes Healthcare as a priority area for development. However, often these projects are long term based and require adequate funding options that are still not available at a Healthcare provider level. Thus long term funding options with clearly defined gestation period would certainly be a step in the right direction.

Following are the recommendations and suggestions that the apex healthcare body has put forth for the Government:

1. Facilitating ease of access to capital, NATHEALTH recommends a dedicated fund for healthcare infrastructure and innovation not only for encouraging entrepreneurship with newer business models but also improve accessibility, availability, and quality in Tier 3 & 4 cities including rural areas.

2. Emphasizing on the problem of low penetration of health insurance is a major reason behind the rising out-of-pocket spending for healthcare services in India, NATHEALTH recommends the government should undertake additional efforts to make mandatory coverage for all citizens.

3. NATHEALTH suggests that organized sector employees could be given the option of paying their ESI contribution or purchasing insurance from any IRDA regulated insurance company. Gradually, the focus can be then shifted to the middle and upper-middle classes respectively in order to ensure access to preventive and curative care of sufficient quality and safeguards the entire community from financial distress.

4. The industry rightly expects that the Union Budget 2019-20 will be announced keeping in focus the incentives for medical value tourism. Zero-rating GST on healthcare services and health insurance premiums.

5. Other areas that require efforts include incentivizing capacity building and promotional policies for private providers. These are long-standing suggestions from the industry and are critical to expediting investment in the capacity building especially in Tier 2 & 3 cities for the realization of the dream of Universal Healthcare.
NATHEALTH announces a change in Leadership Team

Sets goal to work closely with all stakeholders including the government on several issues and creating a new healthcare ecosystem

Apex Healthcare industry body-NATHEALTH today announced changes in its leadership. Preeti Reddy has been elevated to the post of Senior Vice President and Dr Harsh Mahajan takes over as Vice President for the year 2019-20. Dr Ashutosh Raghuvanshi has been inducted to the Leadership team as Treasurer NATHEALTH.

Dr Sudarshan Ballal and Badri Iyengar continue their responsibilities as President and Secretary respectively. Rajit Mehta, Max Healthcare stepped down from the office of Senior Vice President and as a member of the Governing Council.

The decision was taken in the Governing Council meeting of the Federation.

Welcoming leadership team in their new roles and responsibilities, Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “NATHEALTH has emerged as a powerful voice of the healthcare sector and it has been playing a catalytic role in the transformation that is taking place to quality and affordable services and solutions. We will work closely with all stakeholders including the government on several issues and look forward to creating a new healthcare ecosystem.”

Senior Vice President of NATHEALTH Preeti Reddy is the Executive Vice Chairman of Apollo Hospitals and Dr Harsh Mahajan is a renowned radiologist & Founder of Mahajan Imaging. Newly elected treasurer of the Federation Dr Ashutosh Raghuvanshi is the new CEO and MD of Fortis Healthcare.

Preeti Reddy and Dr Mahajan have been associated with NATHEALTH since its inception in various capacities. They have decades of experience in the Healthcare sector. The new leadership team was instrumental in several reforms in the sector through its expert support to the government.

Congratulating new Leadership Team, Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH said, “We are fortunate to attract top leadership of Indian Healthcare Industry within NATHEALTH which will help us achieve our vision. We will be ably guided by their expertise and experience to drive long term transformation in the healthcare sector by driving healthcare innovations across preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative spectrums”
Health, an untouched sector in Union Budget 2019-20

The major disappointment was seen in the private healthcare sector. To which Max Healthcare group said, "The private healthcare sector has been requesting the government to explore opportunities for collaboration and working together towards strengthening public healthcare initiatives as well as ironing out gaps in the implementation of Ayushman Bharat initiatives announced last year. Sadly, little progress has been made."

Though the Union budget 2019-20 wasn’t different from the Interim one. But Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised ‘reform, perform and transform’ for the success of this year's budget. The interim budget kindled hopes for the health sector with allocating Rs 61,398.12 crore but FM in Modi-led government did not even mention the health sector. With a slight increment, now it is allocated with Rs. 62,659.12 crore. Ayushman Bharat or, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) health insurance scheme is the only elbow room available for the health sector in India, assigning Rs. 6,400 crore. (Hony) Brig Dr. Arvind Lal, Chairman, FICCI Health Services Committee & CMD, Dr Lal PathLabs said, "Approximately, 15 per cent increase in allocation to the health sector and specifically earmarking 6400 crores to Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY reinforces the government's intent and determination towards achieving UHC. A strong focus on supporting start-ups will help promote low-cost, indigenous, innovative models for healthcare delivery, med-tech and Healthcare IT. Allocation of INR 100 crores to infrastructure development across the country can catalyse the development of much needed additional healthcare infrastructure if channelised appropriately."

Suresh Vazirani, Chairman & Managing Director, Transasia Bio Medical Ltd adds, "In line with the Ayushman Bharat program, India has taken a number of initiatives towards equitable and affordable access of quality healthcare for 1.3 bn Indians. But it cannot be made affordable if India continues to import 70-80% of its total requirement of medical devices."

The health sector wasn’t covered majorly yet certain areas like research, technology, and innovation were involved. One of the biggest announcements during FM’s speech in the health sector was National Research Foundation (NRF). Adding to it, Dr. Rajeev Bouchankar-CEO, Bhatia Hospital said, "National Research Foundation for higher research will help indigenous research in the pharmaceutical industry, bio-medical industry, innovation in indigenous treatment modalities and more."

"Most initiatives or reforms mentioned in this year’s budget are focused on making India a USD 5 trillion economy in the next few years. Although there have been no direct mentions for the healthcare industry, the proposed Rs. 100 lakh crore investment in infrastructure in the next 5 years could pave way for a boost in the healthcare segment. The 100 percent allowance of FDI for insurance intermediaries could also benefit the healthcare industry indirectly,” said Gautam Khanna, NATHEALTH Governing Council Member, and CEO, PD Hinduja Hospital"
Kanishk Dugal, COO, Institute of Clinical Research India (ICRI) expresses his joy as the government focuses on new technology and innovation. He said, “We welcome the Government’s initiative to increase the efforts for improving the skills of our youth in newer areas such as AI, Big Data, Robotics, etc. These skill sets are highly important to ensure that the youth secures high paying jobs both in India and abroad.”

Talking about the previous announcements, Pawan Gupta, Co-Founder, Curofy said, “Extending the period of exemption of Capital Gains from Real Estate for startup investment is a big positive that should boost slugging angel investment. For healthcare, Ayushman Bharat still continues to be the biggest opportunity. Its reach and scope are expanding and that will drive the healthcare industry for a long time to come.”

“Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the construction of toilets making more than 5.6 lakh villages Open Defecation Free (ODF) will also play a role in reducing various food and water-borne diseases getting spread,” says Dr. Prasanna Deshpande, Deputy Managing Director, Indian Immunologicals Limited as the FM announces the continuation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The major disappointment was seen in the private healthcare sector. To which Max Healthcare group said, “The private healthcare sector has been requesting the government to explore opportunities for collaboration and working together towards strengthening public healthcare initiatives as well as ironing out gaps in the implementation of Ayushman Bharat initiatives announced last year. Sadly, little progress has been made.”

To some untouched areas in the sector, Deepak Sahni CEO and Founder, Healitians said, “The government should have considered more grants to make Ayushman Bharat truly available for masses, and for the digital healthcare industry to help it realise its true potential.”

Adding to it Dr. Shankar Narang, COO, Paras Healthcare said “We hope the government will allocate significant resources through this body towards boosting the field of medical research in India. We also expect the New Education Policy to focus on creating more doctors and specialists in the country by increasing both MBBS and Post Graduate seats in medicine.”

Though Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) provides the health insurance but “100% FDI in insurance intermediaries is a push for the insurance sector. Going forward we expect more people will be under the insurance coverage net and the transactions in hospitals will be faster. This will increase health security at the same time and create more opportunities in the sector. Additionally, the deduction limit for medical insurance has been increased from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 and for senior citizens, till Rs. 50,000, will augur well for individuals.” said Dr. Alok Roy, Chairman.
In general, the Union Budget was centered around economic development.

Ravi Mathur, CEO, GS1 India said, “The Union Budget 2019 talks about easing of local sourcing norms for foreign investment in single-brand retail. This would encourage more global retailers to set shop in India. For those already operating in India, it would enable them to expand their product offerings, which in turn would provide a greater choice of merchandise to Indian consumers.”

Expressing his opinion, Rahul Path, Chief Operating Officer, DocOnLine said, “I personally laud the move for an additional fund allocation at 2% interest for loans taken by MSMEs and this is a great move by the government. Across the world crowdfunding platforms are known but Electronic Fundraising platform (social stock exchange) for listing social enterprises is a breakthrough move by the government for organizations working in the social sector, although the speed of its implementation is going to be critical.”

Amit Kumar Singh, Chief Digital Officer, Head of Products, eCommerce & Digital Marketing, Mantis Technology Pvt Ltd said, “Apart from initiatives like the Bharatmala project, fresh fund allocations towards the construction of 2.26 lakh kilometers of roads under phase III of PM Gram Sadak Yojana, as well as the development of 17 iconic tourism sites, will benefit the entire industry. We are also happy with the government’s decision to launch the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) as it will come as an added advantage for both travel operators and commuters.”

Vivek Tiwari, Founder and CEO, Mediakabazaar said, “With the Modi 2.0 government planning to set up more than 1.50 lakh Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) by 2022 under the AYushman Bharat Yojana and plans to provide healthcare cover to Rs 2 lakh to around 10% crore families across the country, this year promises to be a healthy growth for the sector.”

Sriraj Dhanani, Co-Founder and CEO, InnAccel Technologies mentioned, “The Finance Minister has addressed the vexed angel tax issue comprehensively in this budget. I hope this issue is finally put to rest, so startups can focus on creating jobs and Making FOR India.”

Summarizing the Union Budget, Vishal Gondal, Founder & CEO, GOQii said, “The Budget 2019 is paving the way for a brighter future for India’s start-up ecosystem with easing of the angel tax thereby ensuring more entrepreneurs join the start-up bandwagon. The idea to have a separate channel for start-ups under the aegis of DigiDhan will help disseminate critical information on a real-time basis to budding entrepreneurs in tier II and III markets particularly thus enabling them to help realise the Government of India’s vision of becoming a USD 53 trillion economy this year. The Government of India’s commitment to expanding the Khelo India scheme for the development of sports and sportsperson is a very welcome move; it will encourage more Indians to take up sports and be the torchbearers of health and fitness. Also, the insurance industry will benefit with 100% FDI being permitted for insurance intermediaries in India. This will enable the insurance market to grow. Insurers are using technology that assesses health risks and for diagnostics. These technological developments along with assistance from AI and ML will make insurance and technology, a better and more informed future for healthcare and smart preventive healthcare.”

In Conclusion

“The government needs to revisit unfinished agenda such as ‘Priority Sector’ status to Healthcare for smooth credit flow, mandatory universal health insurance, tax incentives for capacity building, creation of a dedicated infrastructure and innovation fund,” said NATHHEALTH President Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal

Whereas NATHHEALTH Secretary General Siddhartha Bhattacharyya said, “We need to make healthcare an integral part of the policy and fiscal planning with adequate investments to achieve better healthcare scenario. We believe that the health sector can play a pivotal role across the broad pillars of economic growth, skilled employment and ease of living themes.”
Govt signs MoU with NATHEALTH to streamline delivery of services under PMJAY

National Health Authority (NHA) implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat, Centre’s flagship healthcare scheme has signed Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) to streamline delivery of services under Ayushman Bharat.
Key Highlights of MoU

Objective: Partnership between National Health Authority (NHA) and Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) aims-

- To enable an ecosystem for industry partners within NATHEALTH network to participate in testing, piloting, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.

- To streamline all innovations so as to ensure that it increases efficacy of service delivery of Ayushman Bharat.

- To provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators as well as provides them opportunities to partner and scale.

Need: In the time when plethora of healthcare innovations are happening across country, it is crucial to empower them by providing right support.

Significance:

- This collaboration will provide an industry interface for testing innovations, providing mentorship as well as creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations.

- This joint initiative will also bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of Health for All.

- Partnership will help in linking PMJAY, industry and innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY.

About Ayushman Bharat

It is centrally sponsored scheme also known by Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) or National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS).

Launched: It was launched in September 2018 with aim to make interventions in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems in country so as to address healthcare holistically. It covers both preventive and promotive health.
Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Scheme (AB-NHPS), an insurance scheme seeks to provide a health cover of up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable families. It provides a cashless and paperless access to services for beneficiary at point of service.

Significance: Since its launch under PMJAY more than 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country and around 26 Lakh people have availed treatment so far in several hospitals across country.
Ayushman bharat signs MOU with 'NATHEALTH' to drive innovations in Healthcare sector

Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programs like Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) on Thursday, July 25, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH-Healthcare Federation of India.

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Assessing healthcare innovations, through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability
Enabling an ecosystem for healthcare innovations to engage with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY

Enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations

Providing Go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas.

Starting a dialogue on ‘how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation’.

Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, said 'NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide increased access to high quality of care.'

'We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM-JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PJAY,' he added.

The focus of this initiative is on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to:

Value-based healthcare

Population health management, risk management and insurance administration

Chronic secondary and tertiary ailments
Digital health
Medical Devices
Health Data Analytics

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Traders welcome Budget, term it revolutionary

Saturday, 06 July 2019 | Staff Reporter | NEW DELHI

Traders and experts of various sectors in the national Capital termed the Union Budget a revolutionary document listing much needed priority to business community and small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) sector.

In the Budget presented by the Finance Minister on Friday, they said that the announcement to provide support to domestic manufacturing and internal trade, affordable housing, promotion of digital payments, streamlining labour laws, establishment of social stock exchange, blueprint for different sectors, convergence of rural India in to modern system, linkage of artisans to global market, strengthening the non-banking finance companies, will prove to be a game changer for national economy.

CAIT National president B C Bhartia and Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal while commenting on the Budget said that the Government has taken very vital steps to streamline the trade and commerce in the Country. "The Budget is growth oriented and focuses towards growth of economy. The payment mobility card and adoption of bank charges for use of debit and credit cards by bank and reserve bank of India will increase the adoption of the digital mode of payment," they said.

The traders' body also welcomed the announcement to provide pension to traders on attaining the age of 60 years which was a long pending demand of CAIT.

Dr Shankar Narang, COO, Paras Healthcare said that while the healthcare allocation had been covered in the Interim Budget earlier this year, it is still a little disappointing that there was no new commitment to healthcare in FM Nirmala Sitharaman's maiden Budget. However, one of the most notable announcements in the budget has been the pledge to establish a National Research Foundation to boost research in all areas, he said, adding "We hope the Government will allocate significant resources through this body towards boosting the field of medical research in India. We also expect the New Education Policy to focus on creating more doctors and specialists in the country by increasing both MBBS and Post Graduate seats in medicine."

"The focus on attracting investment in advanced technology area is a welcome move. Technology is typically born in Universities in Europe and USA, and then commercialized in China before it reaches India. By promoting advanced technology manufacturing here, India can short circuit this process and attract FDI, especially in the background of the US-China trade war" said Guru Inder Mohan Singh, Director and Chief Operating Officer, Amplus Solar.

"Union Budget 2019 appears to be comprehensive, wide-ranging and balanced with many positives for the economy. However, going forward the Government needs to revisit unfinished agenda such as 'Priority Sector' status to Healthcare for smooth credit flow, mandatory universal health insurance, tax incentives for capacity building, creation of a dedicated infrastructure and innovation fund," said Nathealth president Dr H Sudarshan Ballal.
Govt inks MoU with industry body to streamline deliver of services under Ayushman Bharat

To streamline deliver of services under the Centre's flagship healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat, its implementing agency inked an MoU with industry body NATHEALTH on Thursday. The partnership between National Health Authority (NHA) and the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) aims to streamline all innovations ensuring that it increases the efficacy of service delivery of Ayushman Bharat-

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations, providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with the its vision of 'Health for All', its CEO Indu Bhushan said. "With the implementation of the AB-PMJAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support."
"I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PMJAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY," Bhushan said. NATHEALTH president Sudarshan Ballal said, "The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale."

The MoU aims at enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations. Around 26 Lakh people have availed treatment so far in several hospitals across the country under the scheme since its launch in September last year.

The insurance scheme aims to provide a health cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable families. The scheme provides a cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme.
Healthcare Industry Disappointed With Budget

BS RAWAT
NEW DELHI: Commenting on the union budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha, Mr Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator of All India Medical Devices Association, said, “We at AIMED are shell shocked to see that no action has been taken by the Government to stem the tsunami of imports of 24% at Rs 38800 cr that’s crushing Indian manufacturing.”

“It is appalling to notice that since last 3 years, it is the first budget with zero mention on healthcare, not even higher allocation for Ayushman Bharat,” said Mr Nath.

Mr. Nath opined, “Indian government needs to take policy decisions to give a level playing field if not a strategic advantage to domestic manufacturing while safeguarding consumers, or India will remain 80-90% import dependent.”

Commenting on the Union Budget 2019-20 NATHEALTH President Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal said, “Going forward the government needs to revisit unfinished agenda such as ‘Priority Sector’ status to Healthcare for smooth credit flow, mandatory universal health insurance, tax incentives for capacity building and creation of a dedicated infrastructure and Innovation fund.”

“We are pleased with the focus on ease of living in this budget and believe that the health sector can play a pivotal role across the broad pillars of economic growth, skilled employment and ease of living themes,” said NATHEALTH Secretary General Siddhartha Bhattacharya.

Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group commented, “The Apollo Hospitals group resolves to do its duty and join the nation in waging a war against the tsunami of non-communicable diseases that threatens the health of society, leading the country into a global initiative to stop the growth of NCDs in its tracks.”

Anuj Gulati, MD & CEO, Religare Health Insurance, said, “The increased tax benefits offered on health insurance premiums to all segments of the population, including senior citizens, will urge people to avail the advantages of having a health insurance equipping them with a secure future.”

Arindam Halder, CEO, SRL Diagnostics said, “The government has shown its commitment to the healthy well-being of more than 130 crore citizens of the nations. The impetus on increasing foreign direct investments offers hope for renewed interest by investors which will help to drive growth for both the public and private healthcare institutions.”
What healthcare experts make out from Union Budget 2019?

By Mukul

5 July 2019


Amid huge expectations from every quarter, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled Union Budget 2019-20 in the parliament. The Budget aimed at creating new India with major focus on infrastructure, development and technology. There was no major announcement pertaining to healthcare sector, except mentioning of creating healthy society via Ayushman Bharat in the budget.

Here is how experts have reacted over the Union Budget:

Amol Naikavadi, Joint Managing Director, Indus Health Plus

The budget comes as an indication that it is taking a comprehensive approach in the healthcare and wellness segment, and I think it is aimed in the right direction. The government’s continuous focus on the Ayushman Bharat scheme will further help in providing extensive medical care and reinforce the commitment to universal healthcare for all citizens. Apart from this, the announcement to boost Artificial Intelligence will strengthen the usage of technology in the field of healthcare and it will intensify the quality in healthcare with accessibility and affordability.

Dr Rajeek Boudhshenkar CEO, Bhatia Hospital

- Incentives for electric vehicles in terms of subsidy on loans as well as lowering of GST from 12% to 5% on electric vehicles, will help reduce air pollution over a period of time. This will help control heart diseases, respiratory illness, and cancer.
- The 100% ECI in insurance intermediaries along with streamlining of Labour laws will help boost health insurance and thereby healthcare industry. This will increase healthcare insurance coverage and boost investment in new hospitals.
- National Research Foundation for higher research will help indigenous research in pharmaceutical industry, bio-medical industry, innovation in indigenous treatments, & modalities, etc.
- Internet connectivity with all gram sabhas will give impetus to private sector to invest in tele-medicine through telemedicine.
- Safe drinking water for all households by 2024 through "Jal Shakti Mantralaya" will help control water borne diseases in India. This will be noted by the "Toilets for all" scheme that will reduce neo-natal rate diseases.

Dr H Sudarshana Ballal, President, NATHEALTH

Union Budget 2019 appears to be comprehensive, wide-ranging and balanced with many positives for the economy. However, going forward the government needs to revisit unmissable agendas such as ‘Priority Sector’ status to Healthcare for smooth credit flow, mandatory universal health insurance, tax incentives for capacity building, creation of a dedicated infrastructure and innovation fund.

Also read: Union Budget 2019 announces 10-points vision for the decade; other highlights

Siddhartha Bhattadcharya, Secretary General, NATHEALTH

A healthy India will be a prerequisite to a 5 trillion dollar economy. NATHEALTH would like to underline the need for making healthcare an integrated part of the policy and fiscal planning with adequate investments to achieve this vision. We are pleased with the focus on ease of living in this budget and believe that the health sector can play a pivotal role across the broad pillars of economic growth, skilled employment and ease of living themes.

Gautam Khanna, CEO, P. D. Hinduja Hospital & MRC

India’s Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented a proactive 2019-20 budget with a focus on building physical and social infrastructure. Most initiatives or reforms mentioned in this year’s budget are focused on making India a USD 5 trillion economy in the next few years. Although there have been no direct incentives for the healthcare industry, the proposed Rs 100 lakh crore investment in infrastructure in the next 5 years could pave way for a boost in the healthcare segment. The 150 percent allowance of FII for insurance intermediates could also benefit the healthcare industry indirectly.
The government wishes to move towards building a healthy India with the continuity of the Ayushman Bharat scheme and the proposal to expand the Swachh Bharat mission by means of sustainable waste management and building of more toilets thus aiming India to be open defecation free by this year, is a worthy objective.

Government’s initiative “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan” by creating more digital awareness and facilities may help in the growth of telemedicine in the future. National Research foundation to promote overall research may give a fillip to overall Medical/clinical research in the country in the long term.

The initiatives on Ease of doing business for Startups and an overall boost to entrepreneurship will hopefully promote low-cost, indigenous, innovative models for healthcare delivery and may help in the growth of the med tech/Healthcare industry by providing affordable care to the Indian population.

Jitendra Haryan, CEO, Jashlok Hospital and Research Centre

The union budget was less inclined towards popularity and focussed on reforms. It was evident from the budget that the government is systematically giving significant importance to digitalization and the growth of infrastructure. However, unfortunately healthcare didn’t find any mention in the budget presented today. It would have been good to see GST coming down on health insurance to promote it further. Additionally, Govt could have also taken some steps to incentivise private healthcare sector to boost the investment sentiment.

Pawan Gupta, Co-Founder, Curefy

It’s a nice budget for startups but it’s mostly incremental and not revolutionary. Government is determined to save startups from the draconian angel tax and IT scrutiny but has still stopped short of scrapping the Angel Tax altogether. Extending the period of exemption of Capital Gains from Real Estate for startup investment is a big positive that should boost slugging angel investment. Apart from that, the government’s resolve to simplify; the labour laws is a positive but it still remains to be seen how much it is simplified. For healthcare, Ayushman Bharat still continues to be the biggest opportunity, its reach and scope are expanding and that will drive the healthcare industry for a long time to come.
NHA signs MoU with NATHEALTH

The MoU will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of ‘Health for All’.

Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programmes like Ayushman Bharat—Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH- Healthcare Federation of India.

The aim of this strategic partnership is to enable a seamless pathway that streamlines all innovations ensuring that it scales and increases the efficacy of PM-JAY service delivery. Further, this collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations; providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with the its vision of ‘Health for All’.

NHA and NATHEALTH have jointly agreed to meet the following objectives through this MoU:

- Identifying and curating the best healthcare innovations and startups from India.
- Assessing healthcare innovations through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability.
- Enabling an ecosystem for healthcare innovations to engage with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.
- Enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.
- Providing go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas.
- Starting a dialogue on ‘how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation’.
This initiative will focus on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to:

- Value-based healthcare
- Population health management, risk management and insurance administration
- Chronic secondary and tertiary ailments
- Digital health
- Medical Devices
- Health Data Analytics
- Technology-enabled models of healthcare delivery including leveraging innovations centred around frontier technologies
- Improving operational efficiency of service delivery of PM-JAY

The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, startup incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organisations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organisations.

Speaking at the MoU signing, Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, said "NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM-JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY."

Airing his views on the scope of the partnership, Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, "We welcome this opportunity to work with NHA to build partnerships with innovators, who will help shape healthcare in India. The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale. We will be assessing these innovations from all perspectives within industry and connected innovation landscape. This initiative also aims to enable healthcare innovations to access private industry support, funding from private capital and other funders, and mentorship from clinical, technology and business experts."
Government inks MoU with industry body to streamline deliver of services under Ayushman Bharat

The partnership between National Health Authority (NHA) and the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) aims to streamline all innovations ensuring that it increases the efficacy of service delivery of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

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The insurance scheme aims to provide a health cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable families. The scheme provides a cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service. Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme.
Govt looks to streamline Ayushman Bharat services, inks MoU with industry body for better delivery

The partnership between NHA and NATHEALTH aims to streamline all innovations in delivery of the services of Ayushman Bharat

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Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme.
Ayushman Bharat: NATHEALTH To Support NHA To Execute The Program

NATHEALTH- Healthcare Federation of India to Help the National Health Authority (NHA) to the Ayushman Bharat scheme to provide health insurance to 10 crores execute low-income families in the country.

Under the contract, NATHEALTH will continue full support and set up a mechanism to provide technical specialists and inputs as and when queried by NHA and the State Governments, said a senior government official aware of the development.

“With the well-being of the last mile beneficiary as our focus, we look forward to active and sustained contributions of NATHEALTH towards the improvement of quality of health care and increasing private investment in health infrastructure in the country,” said Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, NHA.
Dr. Dinesh Arora, Deputy CEO, NHA, said, “We welcome active participation from NATHEALTH members in our costing exercises and technical support requests. I also encourage all its members to take advantage of this collaboration and consider contributing to the scheme by empaneling their hospitals and hence expanding the provider network and quality of care.”

“The exercise of calibrating package rates and the development of standard treatment protocols is expected to begin soon and is a significant step towards a meaningful and sustainable collaboration,” said Daljit Singh, President, NATHEALTH.

Know more about Who is eligible for Ayushman Bharat?

The scheme aims to provide up to Rs 5 lakh health cover for 10 crore below-poverty line families identified using Socio-Economic Caste Census data.

The development of quality and convenient health service packages is an essential step towards the goal of PM-JAY.
NHA, GOI and NATHEALTH join hands to drive innovations in healthcare sector

The aim of this strategic partnership is to enable a seamless pathway that streamlines all innovations ensuring that it scales and increases the efficacy of PM-JAY service delivery.

New Delhi, July 25, 2019: Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programs like Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH- Healthcare Federation of India.

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NHA and NATHEALTH have jointly agreed to meet the following objectives through this MoU:

- Identifying and curating the best healthcare innovations and start-ups from India.
- Assessing healthcare innovations through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability.
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- Enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.
- Providing Go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas.
- Starting a dialogue on ‘how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation’.

This initiative will focus on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to:

- Value-based healthcare
- Population health management, risk management and insurance administration
- Chronic secondary and tertiary ailments
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- Digital health
- Medical Devices
- Health Data Analytics
- Technology-enabled models of healthcare delivery including leveraging innovations centered around frontier technologies
- Improving operational efficiency of service delivery of PM-JAY

The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, start-up incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organizations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organizations.

Speaking at the MoU signing, Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, said “NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM-JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY.”
Airing his views on the scope of the partnership, Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “We welcome this opportunity to work with NHA to build partnerships with innovators, who will help shape healthcare in India. The main objective of the joint Initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale. We will be assessing these innovations from all perspectives within industry and connected innovation landscape. This initiative also aims to enable healthcare innovations to access private industry support, funding from private capital and other funders, and mentorship from clinical, technology and business experts.”
National Health Authority, Government of India and Nathealth join hands to drive innovations

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Budget 2019: Healthcare sector needs more funds

The recent Bihar tragedy has highlighted fatal loopholes in the much-neglected Indian public healthcare sector, which is crying for government attention. The deaths of over 150 children could have been averted if Bihar's healthcare infrastructure had adequate facilities. Against this backdrop, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be presenting her first budget and public health is eyeing a big budget bonanza to improve its infrastructure issues and fund the Modi Government's flagship scheme, Ayushman Bharat.

India is one of the lowest-ranked countries in the world when it comes to public spending on healthcare. Its annual spending of 1.28 percent of its GDP on health is minimal when compared to much of the rest of the world, including among its neighbours. A three percent contribution is made by the private sector.

World Bank data from 2016 shows: the United States spent 17.08 percent of its GDP on health; the UK spent 9.7 percent; and among India's neighbours, Pakistan spent 2.75 percent, Bangladesh 2.3 percent, Sri Lanka 3.8 percent, Nepal 6.2 percent and, shockingly, Afghanistan spent 10.8 percent. Unlike India, these figures are closer to the global average of approximately four percent. However, India lags far behind with per capita expenditure estimated little above Rs 1112, and this is almost certainly responsible for out-of-pocket expenditure on health accounting for 6778 percent, driving 55 million people back to poverty every year. The world average for out-of-pocket spending is eighteen percent.

"To reach the stated goal of 2.5 percent of GDP as public financing for health by 2025, [the] Union budget has to allocate more funds for health. As two-thirds of the funding comes from the states, the Union budget of 2019 should send a clear signal to the states by increasing central funding by 25 percent over the 2018 budget," Professor K. Srinath Reddy, President of the Public Health Foundation of India, told Live Mint.
Recent research by Observer Research Foundation stated that “new challenges posed by noncommunicable diseases are posing an additional burden on the healthcare delivery system, which is still geared more towards the communicable, maternal, neonatal and nutritional health conditions. Adapting to the fast-changing disease transition requires significant additional financial resources within the health sector.”

The impact of this inadequate funding on the health system is visible in terms of insufficient human resources, infrastructure and health schemes. Given that two-thirds of the public spending on health in India is from the state and local governments, sub-national players are important stakeholders.

Recently, the government’s policy think tank Niti Aayog released the state-wise Health Index to instill a spirit of competitive federalism between states on healthcare as reported by Health Issues India. Among the key indicators which were accessed to judge every state staff crunches was a crucial hurdle in healthcare delivery.

As reported by Health Issues India earlier, in most states the gap between required and available specialists stands between 80 – 99 percent. Vacancies of staff nurses in primary health centres (PHCs) and community healthcare centres (CHCs) were highest in Jharkhand with 75 percent, followed by Sikkim with 62 percent; Bihar with 50 percent; Rajasthan with 47 percent; Haryana with 43 percent; and Delhi with 41 percent.
A study by the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy indicates that India has a shortage of an estimated 600,000 doctors and two million nurses. A lack of skilled labour in administering antibiotics is preventing patients from accessing life-saving drugs and contributing to a crisis of antibiotic resistance in the country. The lack of skilled labour is pronounced in the healthcare sector, with around 25 percent of India’s healthcare workforce lacking the necessary qualifications.

This staff crunch across the country needs to be addressed at the earliest to ensure an effective healthcare delivery system. Can providing insurance through Ayushman Bharat work if there is a lack of quality service being provided?

The government needs to take strategic steps to increase the skilled medical workforce by empowering medical colleges. This can be done by investing more funds in the present infrastructure of medical colleges to create a workforce that can execute healthcare services in an efficient manner.

To increase health accessibility, the BJP manifesto had recommended increasing the coverage of telemedicine to deliver clinical healthcare to patients at a distance. These technology advances need funds to initially create a health database of competency mapping of healthcare staff and the requirements in specific areas to best suit patients’ needs.
Ayushman Bharat has successfully covered millions of Indians by providing them free insurance in secondary and tertiary care since inception. The scheme, however, failed to focus on primary healthcare which was to be provided by health and wellness centres. Till date only 80,000 such centres are operational and BJP aims to establish over 1.5 lakh such centres across the country. Though only setting up such centres won’t solve the crisis, a constant flow of funds would ascertain their sustainability in the long-term. Overall, the country still has a nineteen percent shortfall of sub-centres; 22 percent shortfall of PHCs; and a thirty percent shortfall of CHCs.

“Scaling up of Ayushman Bharat will ensure access to preventive and curative care of sufficient quality and will safeguard people from financial distress. To create a robust healthcare ecosystem, a priority sector status and budgetary provisions for universal health insurance would play a critical role.” H. Sudarshan Ballal, president of the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH), said.

Other than inadequacy of funds, inconsistency in utilisation of funds and disbursement of money to the state has also contributed to inequity between states in terms of service delivery and quality. On average, there are more unutilised funds at the end of the year in the states that needed them most. A 2017 study by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and WHO India on utilisation, fund flows and public financial management found that, at the state level, a file with a request for release of funds has to cross a minimum of 32 desks while going up the administrative hierarchy, and 25 desks on the way down. The study recommends streamlining the processes to ease the rigidities in the system. Adding to the issue is the fact that many states simply do not spend their healthcare funds on health, many diverting them to different sectors.

The Lancet Commission findings for India claims that a $1 investment in health would yield a $10 increase in GDP by 2035. At a time when India is struggling with an employment crisis and economic slowdown, it is imperative to utilise the healthcare sector as a growth driver along with acting as a catalyst to improve the social well being of its population.
National Health Authority (NHA) signs MoU with NATHEALTH for healthcare innovations

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Speaking at the MoU signing, Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, said “NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM-JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY.”

Airing his views on the scope of the partnership, Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “We welcome this opportunity to work with NHA to build partnerships with innovators, who will help shape healthcare in India. The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale. We will be assessing these innovations from all perspectives within industry and connected innovation landscape. This initiative also aims to enable healthcare innovations to access private industry support, funding from private capital and other funders, and mentorship from clinical, technology and business experts.”
Doctors Disappointment: Hopes for investments beyond Ayushman Bharat cover crash

On paper, the outlay for the health sector is up by about 19 per cent over that of 2018 - 19, at Rs. 62,659.12 crore from Rs. 52,800 crore last year

On paper, the outlay for the health sector is up by about 19 per cent over that of 2018 - 19, at Rs. 62,659.12 crore from Rs. 52,800 crore last year. This includes Rs. 6,400 crore for the Centre’s flagship insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY) that aims at providing annual health cover of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to about 10.74 crore vulnerable families (about 50 crore beneficiaries). Consequently, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) which features under the National Health Mission (NHM) has an allocation of Rs 156 crore, a decline of Rs 1,844 crore from the last fiscal. However, the allocation for the NHM for 2019 - 20 has been raised to Rs. 32,995 crore from the last budgetary allocation of Rs. 30,129.61 crore.

Yet, it is a disappointment for the health care industry which expected a substantial increase in the health care budget. Per person average health care spend is 85 US dollars which is among the lowest if compared to other countries. Therefore, it has emphasized the need for privatization where implementation should be undertaken by private service providers to ensure that uniformity in quality healthcare is maintained. They believe if the government plays a role of a monitoring agency, we will fare much better to deliver value based healthcare. “With the acute shortage of doctors, nurses, paramedics and lab technicians in the country it is disheartening that there is no provision in the budget to address this. There is also dire need for R & D in basic medical sciences and other areas so that indigenous technology will grow,” says Dr. K.M. Cherian, CEO and Chairman, Frontier Lifeline Hospital, Chennai.

Others are optimistic. “Going forward the government needs to revisit unfinished agenda such as priority sector status to health care for smooth credit flow, mandatory universal health insurance, tax incentives for capacity building, creation of a dedicated infrastructure and an innovation fund,” says Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH. “The government’s continuous focus on the Ayushman Bharat scheme will further help in providing extensive medical care and reinforce the commitment to universal health care for all citizens. Also, the announcement to boost artificial intelligence will strengthen the use of technology in health care,” says Amol Naikawadi, Joint Managing Director, Indus Health Plus.
More health funding key to wider insurance net

3 min read. Updated: 04 Jul 2019, 01:20 AM IST
Neetu Chandra Sharma

- As more patients head to hospitals for treatment, issue of shortage of doctors and lack of medical equipment will have to be resolved with more budgetary allocation
- The burden on the healthcare system is expected to rise. This will require a strong primary care system

NEW DELHI: In its first term, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) made healthcare its priority and launched a raft of initiatives, including its most ambitious effort, the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

Ayushman Bharat has committed to provide health insurance of up to 5 lakh per family bringing within its scope a staggering 500 million people. The good news, based on the insurance claims so far, is that the scheme is gradually gaining acceptance. The bad news is that the finance minister will have to eke out the funds from within an already stretched Union budget.
“To reach the stated goal of 2.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) as public financing for health by 2025, up from the current 1%, Union budgets have to allocate more funds for health. As two-thirds of the funding comes from the states, the Union budget of 2019 should send a clear signal to the states by increasing central funding by 25% over the 2018 budget,” said professor K. Srinath Reddy, president, Public Health Foundation of India.

Ayushman Bharat aims to provide free health cover of 15 lakh per family on a floater basis to more than 100 million families, which is about 40% of the population. Experts believe that even the non-poor need to be insured, given the rapid shift in the country’s disease burden towards non-communicable diseases such as cancer.

“Due to low penetration of health insurance in the country, out-of-pocket spending for healthcare services is very high. One major reason why health insurance has still not penetrated most of India is that it is optional. The weaker section has been covered through Ayushman Bharat and the government has taken significant efforts to implement it, but it needs to make health insurance coverage mandatory for all citizens in a phased manner, starting with the organized sector,” said H. Sudarshan Ballal, president, Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH), an industry body.
“Scaling up of Ayushman Bharat will ensure access to preventive and curative care of sufficient quality and will safeguard people from financial distress. To create a robust healthcare ecosystem, a priority sector status and budgetary provisions for universal health insurance would play a critical role,” he said.

As Ayushman Bharat’s net widens, the burden on the healthcare system is expected to grow. This will also require a strong primary care system. India at present faces a huge shortage of doctors.

“Thorough assessment and investigation at the primary or secondary care level can lead to significant saving of resources at the tertiary level. The government should facilitate continuous medical education to upgrade skills of paramedical staff, which can solve the problem of shortage of trained doctors,” said Savitha Kuttan, founder and chief executive officer of Omnicuris, a health tech startup that provides digital medical training to medical practitioners.

The healthcare sector also faces the challenge of funding huge capital investments to set up hospitals, while the returns are low.

“Access to timely credit with priority status and creating a specific fund for healthcare infrastructure and innovation would ease availability of capital for the sector. These funds would encourage entrepreneurship and newer business models to improve access, availability and quality of healthcare, especially in tier 3 and 4 cities and rural areas. The government can consider providing the seed capital for such funds,” Ballal said.
He suggested a pilot effort where employees from the organized sector could be given the option of paying their employees’ state insurance (ESI) contribution or purchasing insurance from a regulated insurance company.

Representatives of the health industry also said they would expect the budget to focus on incentives for medical value tourism, and zero goods and services tax on healthcare services and health insurance premiums.
The MoU aims at enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.

To streamline delivery of services under the Centre’s flagship healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat, its implementing agency inked an MoU with industry body NATHEALTH on Thursday. The partnership between National Health Authority (NHA) and the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) aims to streamline all innovations ensuring that it increases the efficacy of service delivery of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations, providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHAs’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of ‘Health for All’, its CEO Indu Bhushan said. “With the implementation of the AB-PMJAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support.

“I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PMJAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY,” Bhushan said. NATHEALTH president Sudarshan Ballal said, “The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale.”

The MoU aims at enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations. Around 26 Lakh people have availed treatment so far in several hospitals across the country under the scheme since its launch in September last year.

The insurance scheme aims to provide a health cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable families. The scheme provides a cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service. Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme.
Severe Shortage of Specialists: Experts call for developing new Strategies & Regulations

Restructuring medical education, private participation, and adoption of new technologies can help in bridging the gap.

The recent outbreak of AES in Bihar and its inadequate handling has once again underlined an urgent need to address the challenge of shortage of doctors in the country. On the occasion of National Doctor's Day, healthcare leaders and experts have given a clarion call to accelerate the pace of overcoming the crisis through new strategies. Restructuring medical education, private participation, and adoption of new technologies can help in bridging the gap.

According to them, developing a plan to expand supply will address the biased geographical distribution in medical education seats. If the government medical institutions alone are not being able to provide enough seats then some regulations that enable private participation in medical education need to be created. The shortage of doctors should further be addressed through increasing the capacity of DNB (Diplomate of National Board) seats and streamlined integration of overseas MBBS graduates.

In the next five years, if corrective measures are not taken timely, India may face an even more severe shortage of specialists to manage population health. According to NATHEALTH Arogya Bharat Report, India is currently facing a huge shortage of nearly 2 million doctors and 4 million nurses. Available human resource and health infrastructure are highly uneven in terms of rural and urban areas. Inequitable distributions of skilled health workers result in inequity in providing quality healthcare to all. Rapidly growing Indian Healthcare sector is expected to generate demand for 15 million to 20 million new jobs for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals by 2025.

According to the reports of the World Health Organization (WHO), there is only one government doctor for every 10,189 people. The recommended doctor-patient ratio is 1:1,000, while the nurse-patient ratio is 1:483.
Amidst all challenges, deficiency of doctors has emerged as one of the biggest roadblocks in the making of a new healthcare ecosystem. Rural India accounts for about 70 percent of the population yet it has less than one-third of nation's hospitals, doctors and beds, resulting in large disparities in health outcomes across States.

“In order to cope up with this shortage of doctors, NATHEALTH has recommended a slew of reforms like increasing the capacity of DNB (Diplomate of National Board) seats, upgradation of district hospitals with a medical college on PPP model, building infrastructure for model villages and blocks in order to recruit and retain fresh talent at rural level,” said Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH.

“The government needs to prioritize areas with a critical shortage of doctors along with regulations that enable private participation in medical education. To fulfill the dream of ‘Swastha Bharat’ (Healthy India), efforts to bridge the supply gap must be at the top of India’s National Health Agenda,” he added.

Technology should be harnessed to scale and accelerate the development of skills at lower costs, for example, through online continuing medical education (CME), virtual training and distance learning.

Doctors across the country have also addressed this crisis at different platforms. According to Dr. RN Kaira, Cardiologist & Medical Director and CEO, Kalra Hospital (SRCNC), “The existing doctor population can be scaled to an extent by reducing demand focussing on primary care can help reduce hospitalisation rates. We are facing an acute shortage of specialists, such as cardiologists, neurologists among others at all levels from primary to tertiary. So, along with bridging this gap, augmenting specialists, nurses and allied health roles can decrease the burden on doctors. And telemedicine and remote monitoring tools can also be used to widen the reach of existing doctors and increase their productivity.”

According to experts, better governance is required to improve the quality of healthcare personnel. Uniform governance standards in teaching, training and licensing of professionals must be applied. Mandatory accreditation of teaching institutes is necessary for better quality.
NATHEALTH veteran Anjan Bose ventures into consulting with Praxis Global Alliance

By Thomas / 12 hours ago / News Update / No Comments

Praxis Global Alliance, the management consulting and advisory firm, announces Mr. Anjan Bose' entry into advisory, enablement and consulting. A known expert in the Indian Healthcare space, Mr. Bose will be the Advisor and Domain Leader in the Healthcare Practice at Praxis Global Alliance. In his last role where he served as the Founding Secretary General of NATHEALTH — Healthcare Federation of India, he built a unique, inclusive and collaborative apex institution in the Indian Healthcare sector; focusing on thought leadership and advocacy which was very well appreciated. Mr. Bose has spent over forty years in building and executing a wide range of strategies for leading healthcare organizations across the globe. His work with Philips and HP across multiple continents including India and other emerging markets has been exemplary in building strong market share, increasing the global footprint, improving business efficiencies and enhancing the customer experience for both brands.

At Praxis Global Alliance, Mr. Anjan Bose has joined as the Advisor and Domain Leader in the Healthcare Practice with other eminent industry practitioners who are leveraging the new-age advisory platform to share knowledge and expertise dedicated to the evolution of the global healthcare environment. He is looking to take on evolving challenges in the Healthcare space with Praxis Global Alliance, across verticals including healthcare delivery, diagnostics, MedTech, devices, and other healthcare services to offer his deep experience and insights. He will be involved in high-value projects including due diligence on mergers, acquisitions, and investments, developing cost-effective business models, market expansion, revenue growth strategies, patient and doctor NPS improvement and other product and service innovations for existing and prospective Praxis Global Alliance healthcare clients.
Praxis Global Alliance is a top management consulting firm known for its agile and practical approach. Joined by high-powered consultants from top B schools and organizations, Praxis Global Alliance has applied a unique style to management and business consulting combining practical industry knowledge and experience brought by Advisors and Domain Leaders with the consultant problem-solving approach and toolkits. In its niche ‘Advisor and Domain Leadership or DL model’, leading industry experts drive projects hand in hand with consultants to ensure deep on-ground expertise and innovation simultaneously for higher ROI. The company believes this unique consulting model is the way forward for building sustainable and superior business outcomes. The consulting brain capital and market knowledge combined with industry insiders’ deep understanding of the business complexities are key to ensure high momentum in an ever-changing business environment.

Commenting on his association, Mr. Anjan Bose, Advisor and Domain Leader, Healthcare Practice, Praxis Global Alliance said: "I am thrilled to be a part of Praxis Global Alliance. Its future-forward approach towards consulting matches my vision for the healthcare sector. Adopting newer work models and digital readiness are the need of the hour for every sector and will define healthcare’s success in the coming years too. Praxis Global Alliance is building efficiencies for businesses using knowledge and technology as key enablers and I am aligned to the change they are foreseeing in the business ecosystem."

Welcoming Mr. Anjan Bose on board, Aryaman Tandon, Director, Praxis Global Alliance, said, "We are happy to welcome Mr. Anjan Bose to the Praxis Global Alliance family. As an organization, we have been at the forefront of new developments in the healthcare domain. With our work in home healthcare, pharma, healthcare delivery, elderly care, health tech, primary care, and with traditional healthcare providers, we have been able to deliver better value for both patients and healthcare providers. Our motto is to generate superior outcomes for our clients, and Mr. Anjan Bose brings a legacy of his deep experience being an integral part of the sector and a commitment to maximizing the ‘care’ in healthcare that further helps us achieve our goals."

“We are thrilled to have a partner of Mr. Anjan Bose’ caliber as the leader of our Healthcare practice. His deep experience and thought leadership are a tremendous asset to Praxis Global Alliance,” said Managing Director, Praxis Global Alliance, Madhur Singhal.
NATIONAL

25 JULY 2019

NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND NATHEALTH JOIN HANDS TO DRIVE INNOVATIONS IN HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programs like Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH-Healthcare Federation of India.

The aim of this strategic partnership is to enable a seamless pathway that streamlines all innovations ensuring that it scales and increases the efficacy of PM-JAY service delivery. Further, this collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations; providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of “Health for All”.

NHA and NATHEALTH have jointly agreed to meet the following objectives through this MoU:

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- Identifying and curating the best healthcare innovations and start-ups from India.
- Assessing healthcare innovations through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability.
- Enabling an ecosystem for healthcare innovations to engage with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.
- Enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.
- Providing Go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas.
- Starting a dialogue on ‘how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation’.

This initiative will focus on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to:

- Value-based healthcare
- Population health management, risk management and insurance administration
- Chronic secondary and tertiary ailments
- Digital health
- Medical Devices
- Health Data Analytics
- Technology-enabled models of healthcare delivery including leveraging innovations centered around frontier technologies
- Improving operational efficiency of service delivery of PM-JAY

The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, start-up incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organizations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organizations.
Speaking at the MoU signing, Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, said “NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM-JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY.”

Airing his views on the scope of the partnership, Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “We welcome this opportunity to work with NHA to build partnerships with innovators, who will help shape healthcare in India. The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale. We will be assessing these innovations from all perspectives within industry and connected innovation landscape. This initiative also aims to enable healthcare innovations to access private industry support, funding from private capital and other funders, and mentorship from clinical, technology and business experts.”
Ayushman bharat signs MOU with ‘NATHEALTH’ to drive innovations in Healthcare sector

By Team MMM on July 25, 2019

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Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programs like Ayushman Bharat—Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) on Thursday, July 25, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH - Healthcare Federation of India.

The aim of this strategic partnership is to enable a seamless pathway that streamlines all innovations ensuring that it scales and increases the efficacy of PM-JAY service delivery.

Further, this collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations; providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of “Health for All”.

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सरकार ने आयुष्मान भारत के तहत सेवाओं को बेहतर बनाने के लिए उद्योग संगठन से किया करार

नयी दिल्ली, 25 जुलाई (भाषा) केंद्र की प्रमुख स्वास्थ्य योजना आयुष्मान भारत के तहत सेवाओं को और बेहतर बनाने के लिए कार्यक्रम को लागू करने वाली एजेंसी ने उद्योग संगठन नैटेलथ्री के साथ बुद्धिपतिवार को एक एमओएप्प पर हस्ताक्षर किया। राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्राधिकरण (एनएचए) और हेल्थवेयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (नैटेलथ्री) का लक्ष्य आयुष्मान भारत-प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना (एच-पीएमजय) की सेवाओं को दुरुस्त करना है। एनएचए के सीईओ वेंडु भूषण ने इस अवसर पर कहा कि इस साझेदारी से नवोन्मेष के परीक्षण, सहायता उपलब्ध कराने के लिए माध्यम तैयार करने और इन नवाचारों को आंकने के लिए एक मंच उपलब्ध होगा।

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Govt inks MoU with industry body to streamline deliver of services under Ayushman Bharat

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This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of ‘Health for All’, its CEO Indu Bhushan said. "With the implementation of the AB-PMJAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support.

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- Assessing healthcare innovations through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability.
- Enabling an ecosystem for healthcare innovations to engage with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.
- Enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.
- Providing Go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas.
- Starting a dialogue on 'how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation'.
- This initiative will focus on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to:
  - Value-based healthcare
  - Population health management, risk management and insurance administration
  - Chronic secondary and tertiary ailments
  - Digital health
  - Medical Devices
  - Health Data Analytics
  - Technology-enabled models of healthcare delivery including leveraging innovations centered around frontier technologies
  - Improving operational efficiency of service delivery of PM-JAY

The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, start-up incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organizations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organizations.
Speaking at the MoU signing, **Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority**, said “NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM-JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY.”

Airing his views on the scope of the partnership, **Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH** said, “We welcome this opportunity to work with NHA to build partnerships with innovators, who will help shape healthcare in India. The main objective of the joint Initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale. We will be assessing these innovations from all perspectives within industry and connected innovation landscape. This initiative also aims to enable healthcare innovations to access private industry support, funding from private capital and other funders, and mentorship from clinical, technology and business experts.”
Govt inks MoU with industry body to streamline deliver of services under Ayushman Bharat

New Delhi, Jul 25 To streamline deliver of services under the Centre’s flagship healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat, its implementing agency inked an MoU with industry body NATHEALTH on Thursday.

The partnership between National Health Authority (NHA) and the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) aims to streamline all innovations ensuring that it increases the efficacy of service delivery of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations, providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA”s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with the its vision of "Health for All", its CEO Indu Bhushan said.

"With the implementation of the AB-PMJAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support.

"I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PMJAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY," Bhushan said.

NATHEALTH president Sudarshan Ballal said, "The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale."

The MoU aims at enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.
Around 26 Lakh people have availed treatment so far in several hospitals across the country under the scheme since its launch in September last year.

The insurance scheme aims to provide a health cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable families.

The scheme provides a cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme. PLB SMN
NHA and NATHEALTH join hands to drive innovations in healthcare sector

Our Bureau, Mumbai
Friday, July 26, 2019, 05:00 Hrs [IST]

Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programs like Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH- Healthcare Federation of India.

The aim of this strategic partnership is to enable a seamless pathway that streamlines all innovations ensuring that it scales and increases the efficacy of PM-JAY service delivery. Further, this collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations, providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with the its vision of “Health for All”.

NHA and NATHEALTH have jointly agreed to meet the following

The major objectives of this MoU include identifying and curating the best healthcare innovations and start-ups from India; assessing healthcare innovations through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability; enabling an ecosystem for healthcare innovations to engage with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY; enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations; providing go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas; and starting a dialogue on ‘how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation’.

This joint initiative will focus on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to value-based healthcare; population health management, risk management and insurance administration; chronic secondary and tertiary ailments; digital health; medical devices; Health Data Analytics; technology-enabled models of healthcare delivery including leveraging innovations centered around frontier technologies; and improving operational efficiency of service delivery of PM-JAY.

The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, start-up incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organizations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organizations.
NATHEALTH asks govt to make healthcare a ‘priority sector’ to meet long term funding and financing requirements

Our Bureau, Mumbai
Thursday, July 4, 2019, 00:00 Hrs. (IST)

In order to meet the growing need of higher funding, the apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH has sought a priority status to healthcare sector and urged the government to expand health insurance coverage to other sections of society.

In its pre-budget memorandum to the government, the body stressed upon ‘priority sector’ status to meet the long term funding and financing requirements. According to NATHEALTH, a priority sector status will act as a catalyst for channelizing funds from the banking sector and not only create a necessary healthcare infrastructure but will also ensure that the societal objectives of the government are adequately met.

For facilitating ease of access to capital, NATHEALTH has recommended a dedicated fund for healthcare infrastructure and innovation not only for encouraging entrepreneurship with newer business models but also improve accessibility, availability and quality in Tier 3 & 4 cities including rural areas. Emphasizing on the problem of low penetration of health insurance, being a major reason behind the rising out-of-pocket spending for healthcare services in India, NATHEALTH has recommended that the government should undertake additional efforts to make mandatory coverage for all citizens.

NATHEALTH further suggested that organized sector employees could be given the option of paying their ESI contribution or purchasing insurance from any IRDA regulated insurance company. Gradually, the focus can be then shifted to the middle and upper middle classes respectively in order to ensure access to preventive and curative care of sufficient quality and safeguards the entire community from financial distress.

Other areas which require efforts include incentivizing capacity building and promotional policies for private providers. These are long standing suggestions from the Industry and are critical to expedite investment in capacity building especially in Tier 2 & 3 cities for the realization of the dream of Universal Healthcare.

"Existing shortcomings of the healthcare sector are impeding the sector’s potential in terms of infrastructure development, entrepreneurial spirit and capacity building. Priority status will not only facilitate ease of access to funding but also bring in accessibility, availability and quality in Tier 3 & 4 cities and rural areas," said Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, president, NATHEALTH.

"In order to ensure access to preventive and curative care of sufficient quality and safeguards the entire community from financial distress, initially the government can give organized sector employees an option of either paying their ESI contribution or purchasing health insurance from any IRDA regulated insurance company. Eventually it can be expanded to middle and upper middle classes," he added.
NATHEALTH to collaborate with NASSCOM to improve quality of healthcare through tech-enabled innovation

Our Bureau, Mumbai

Friday, July 5, 2019, 05:00 Hrs [IST]

The apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH and the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) have announced collaboration to improve the access and quality of healthcare in India through tech-enabled innovation and build stronger partnerships across the ecosystem. Through this collaboration, they aim to deploy emerging technologies to ensure better delivery of healthcare.

The partnership is with NASSCOM’s Center of Excellence for the Internet of Things (CoE IoT) and will leverage the benefits that IoT and AI can bring to the healthcare sector.

Through this collaboration, NATHEALTH and CoE have identified five major areas of collaboration, which would promote efficient, accessible and easily available technology enabled products and solutions for the citizens of India. For digital adoption by healthcare industry, NASSCOM will work with members and member organizations of NATHEALTH to improve technology adoption through co-creation programmes. Especially focus will be on IoT, AI/ML, robotics, AR/VR and blockchain technologies that have a positive impact in improving healthcare in India. For universal healthcare, both will jointly work with Central and State government organizations, NGOs and Corporate CSR teams to identify healthcare projects that have a significant impact on public health. They will also work towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and support the government in achieving healthcare goals.

Through this partnership, both will jointly work on collecting the voice of the industry on various policy and regulatory topics that directly or indirectly impact healthcare delivery in India. Besides, both will collaborate on joint health-tech events across India to drive change management across the healthcare delivery industry, enable peer group collaboration, panel discussions, special workshops, presentations and recognition of success stories, etc. They will also jointly work in curating and seeding tech-enabled innovations to accelerate India’s drive towards universal health coverage and also create pathways for scale.

The joint initiative will collectively act as an interface between the industry and government on various policy and regulatory topics with a view to improve the regulatory environment in India. Through this agreement, health start-ups can leverage access to capital, mentorship, industry partnerships and technology support. The collaboration will also help them scale newer markets.

Speaking on the collaboration, Dibajani Ghosh, president, NASSCOM, said, “This partnership would coin the two bodies as pioneers in the healthcare space, and with our combined resources we hope to witness a significant contribution and development in the healthcare systems accessible in our country. Through such collaborations, we can strengthen our potential as an innovation hub and bring about a transformation in varied sectors across industries. With technology permeating through all verticals today, we are confident that we see advanced healthcare facilities that provide easily accessible and affordable services to the citizens of our country.”

“We agreed to form a partnership to equip the future of Indian healthcare through effective usage of technology enabling growth and advancement in Healthcare industry. The initiative will be supported by our members, networks, and brand. NATHEALTH aims to provide support to innovation through co-creation program with specialized focus on IoT, AI, robotics, AR/VR, blockchain technologies that have a positive impact,” said Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal, president, NATHEALTH.

“NATHEALTH and NASSCOM have come together to innovate and create scalable models for healthcare delivery. This is an area where India can truly excel and be a model for many countries. Healthcare is ready for technology disruption and the time is now,” said Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH.
NATIONAL Veteran Anjan Bose Ventures Into Consulting with Praxis Global Alliance

New Delhi, India, July 13, 2019 --(PR.com)-- Praxis Global Alliance, the management consulting and advisory firm, announces Mr. Anjan Bose' entry into advisory, enablement and consulting. A known expert in the Indian Healthcare space, Mr. Bose will be the Advisor and Domain Leader in the Healthcare Practice at Praxis Global Alliance. In his last role where he served as the Founding Secretary General of NATHEALTH - Healthcare Federation of India, he built a unique, inclusive and collaborative apex institution in the Indian Healthcare sector, focusing on thought leadership and advocacy which was very well appreciated. Mr. Bose has spent over forty years in building and executing a wide range of strategies for leading healthcare organizations across the globe. His work with Phillips and HP across multiple continents including India and other emerging markets has been exemplary in building strong market share, increasing the global footprint, improving business efficiencies and enhancing the customer experience for both brands.

At Praxis Global Alliance, Mr. Anjan Bose has joined as the Advisor and Domain Leader in the Healthcare Practice with other eminent industry practitioners who are leveraging the new-age advisory platform to share knowledge and expertise dedicated to the evolution of the global healthcare environment. He is looking to take on evolving challenges in the Healthcare space with Praxis Global Alliance, across verticals including healthcare delivery, diagnostics, MedTech, devices, and other healthcare services to offer his deep experience and insights. He will be involved in high-value projects including due diligence on mergers, acquisitions, and investments, developing cost-effective business models and expansion, revenue growth strategies, patient and doctor NHS improvement and other product and service innovations for existing and prospective Praxis Global Alliance healthcare clients.

Praxis Global Alliance is a top management consulting firm known for its agile and practical approach. Joined by high-powered consultants from top B schools and organizations, Praxis Global Alliance has applied a unique style to management and business consulting combining practical industry knowledge and experience brought by Advisors and Domain Leaders with the consultant problem-solving approach and toolkits. In its niche "Advisor and Domain Leadership or DL model," leading industry experts drive projects hand in hand with consultants to ensure deep on-ground expertise and innovation simultaneously for higher ROI. The company believes this unique consulting model is the way forward for building sustainable and superior business outcomes. The consulting brain capital and market knowledge combined with industry insiders' deep understanding of the business complexities are key to ensure high momentum in an ever-changing business environment.

Commenting on his association, Mr. Anjan Bose, Advisor and Domain Leader, Healthcare Practice, Praxis Global Alliance said: "I am thrilled to be a part of Praxis Global Alliance. Its future-forward approach towards consulting matches my vision for the healthcare sector. Adopting newer work models and digital readiness are the need of the hour for every sector and will define healthcare's success in the coming years too. Praxis Global Alliance is building efficiencies for businesses using knowledge and technology as key enablers and I am aligned to the chance they are foreseeing in the business ecosystem."

Welcoming Mr. Anjan Bose on board, Arvamand Tandon, Director, Praxis Global Alliance, said, "We are happy to welcome Mr. Anjan Bose to the Praxis Global Alliance family. As an organization, we have been at the forefront of new developments in the healthcare domain. With our work in home healthcare, pharma, healthcare delivery, elderly care, health tech, primary care, and with traditional healthcare providers, we have been able to deliver better value for both patients and healthcare providers. Our motto is to generate superior outcomes for our clients, and Mr. Anjan Bose brings a legacy of his deep experience being an integral part of the sector and a commitment to maximizing the 'care' in healthcare that further helps us achieve our goals."

"We are thrilled to have a partner of Mr. Anjan Bose' caliber as the leader of our Healthcare practice. His deep experience and thought leadership are a tremendous asset to Praxis Global Alliance," said Managing Director, Praxis Global Alliance, Madhur Singhal.
City’s healthcare experts express disappointment

Namrata Devikar  |  Sunday, 7 July 2019

Pune: Health experts from the city are disappointed with the budget presented on Friday by the Finance Minister.

Speaking to Sakal Times, Dr Arun Gadre from Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH) said the oration from the Finance Minister regarding budget does not have a single word about health.

“We have to assume that the government has no vision for health and healthcare. The absence of any reference to healthcare after tragedies of Gorakhpur and Muzaffarpur is shocking,” he said.

The ADEH also highlighted that medical care is left to unregulated private healthcare sector.

“And sadly, the Finance Minister does not even think of health when presenting the highlights in Parliament. So, the sad story of passive privatisation that began thirty years back is continuing, rather with enhanced zeal. Healthcare is left to market forces and, hence, the government is only bent on increasing coverage. Nowhere near the horizon is the concept of Universal Health Care,” said doctors from ADEH in an official statement.

Echoing similar views, Swati Deshpande, Director (Operations) at Datar Cancer Genetics Limited, said that surprisingly there was no mention of any benefits and plans for healthcare.
“However, certain positives are the proposals to set up the National Research Centre and Annual Global Investors Meet. Both the initiatives will help give an impetus and attract research proposals and funding to India’s potential. Easing of Angel tax and relief from IT scrutiny for start-ups are great encouragement for the sector. While announcing large scale projects for electric cars, the government has completely ignored the biomedical sector, which has the potential to be a global research hub for fields like genetic research, bioinformatics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare,” said Deshpande.

On the other hand, some members of the healthcare industry supported the budget. Amol Naikawadi from Indus Health Plus said that the government’s continuous focus on the Ayushman Bharat scheme will further help in providing extensive medical care and reinforce the commitment to universal healthcare for all citizens.

Sharing similar views, Dr H Sutarsh Ballal, President of Nathealth, the apex healthcare industry body, said that the Union Budget 2019 appears to be comprehensive, wide-ranging and balanced with many positives for the economy.

“However, going forward, the government needs to revisit unfinished agenda such as ‘Priority Sector’ status to healthcare for smooth credit flow, mandatory universal health insurance, tax incentives for capacity building, creation of a dedicated infrastructure and innovation fund,” said Ballal.

Major initiatives needed

*Doctors from ADEH underlined following issues:*

- The budget for 1,00,000 fitness and wellness clinics has been increased from Rs 1,200 crore to 1,600 crore. It means for each clinic it is 1,60,000. That includes human resource and infrastructure, it is very inadequate.

- For prestigious PMJAY, which gives insurance of Rs 5 lakh for 40 per cent population, experts expect budget of Rs 20,000 crore, Niti Ayog expects Rs 9,000 crore, now budget is Rs 6,400 crore.

- The budget for upgrading district hospitals has been slashed – not increased – from Rs 3,168 crore to Rs 2,000 crore, and money is shunted primarily to increase UG and PG seats in existing medical colleges. We fear that this is in tune of Niti Ayog's recommendation to hand over district hospitals to private companies to run private medical colleges.

- The percentage of budget for National Rural Health Mission in 2017-2018 was 51 per cent, now it has been lowered to 43 per cent. With so many agrarian suicides in rural India; this trend is disappointing and needs reversal.

- Limit for Mediclaim is increased but the insurance penetration is too low, and the person needs money to avail it.
NATHEALTH to collaborate with NASSCOM to improve quality of healthcare through tech—enabled innovation

Jul 5, 2019 - Pharmabiz.com

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Govt inks MoU with industry body to streamline deliver of services under Ayushman Bharat

New Delhi: To streamline deliver of services under the Centre's flagship healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat, its implementing agency inked an MoU with industry body NATHEALTH on Thursday.

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This will bolster NHA's effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with its vision of 'Health for All', its CEO Indu Bhushan said. "With the implementation of the AB-PMJAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support.

"I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PMJAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY," Bhushan said. NATHEALTH President Sudarshan Ballal said, "The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale." The MoU aims at enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.
Around 26 Lakh people have availed treatment so far in several hospitals across the country under the scheme since its launch in September last year. The insurance scheme aims to provide a health cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable families. The scheme provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service. Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme. To streamline delivery of services under the Centre’s flagship healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat, its implementing agency inked an MoU with industry body NATHEALTH on Thursday.

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PM-JAY को सफल बनाने में NATHEALTH शामिल
NATHEALTH – भारत के स्वास्थ्य देखभाल संघ ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की फ्लेक्सिशन प्रस्ताव - PM-JAY (मोदी स्वास्थ्य योजना) के कार्य को समाप्त करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य पारिपार्श्व प्राधिकरण के साथ हाथ मिलाया है।

बृहस्पतिवार, 25 जुलाई को दोनों स्वास्थ्य संगठनों ने भारत में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल क्षेत्र में नवोदय प्रकाशित किया। स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में नवाचार, डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य और स्वास्थ्य ऑफिस का विकास और अन्य लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए PM-JAY की मदद करेगा।

तात्पर्य है कि केंद्र स्वास्थ्य बंपर देखभाल से जुड़े सभी ऑफिस को डिजिटल देखभाल की सहायता तैयार की है।

देखा गया है कि भारत में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल क्षेत्र में ऑफिस के संबंधित की व्यवस्था करना चुनौती भरा काम है।
द हेल्थ से वात करते हुए राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्राधिकरण (NHA) के मुख्य कार्यकर्ता अधिकारी डॉ. इंदुभूषण ने बताया कि स्वास्थ्य से जुड़े ऑकेडेमी बहुत संवेदनशील होते हैं। स्वास्थ्य देखभाल उपयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए इन ऑकेडेमी को हासिल करते, इनकी सुरक्षा और उपयोग के लिए हमें बहुत साधनात्मक रहना चाहिए। हमें हर तरह की जॉब और संतुलन का ध्यान रखना होगा। इस बारे में हमारी नीति बहुत सख्त है।

डॉ. भूषण ने कहा कि स्वास्थ्य देखभाल उपयोग में ऑकेडेमी के प्रबंधन से PM-JAY जैसे कार्यक्रम में मजबूत होगे।

डॉ. भूषण ने बताया कि NHA इस साझेदारी को लेकर उत्साहित हैं। हम देश भर में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल क्षेत्र में बहुत से नए प्रयास देख रहे हैंं और सही तरह से सहयोग प्रदान करके इन्हें सशक्त बनाना बहुत जरूरी है।

सहमति ज्ञापन पत्र में राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य प्राधिकरण और NATHEALTH संयुक्त रूप से इन ज्ञानों के लिए सहमत हुए हैं:

• भारत में स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में श्रेष्ठ तवाचर और स्टार्ट-अप की पहचान तथा सहयोग
• वित्तीय, नकदी, प्रभाव, स्थिरता और व्यापकता जैसे अलग-अलग इशारे से स्वास्थ्य देखभाल नवाचरों का आकार
• आयुक्त भारत PM-JAY के साथ एक ऐसा माहौल बनाना जिसमें स्वास्थ्य तवाचर का प्रयोग किया जा सके।
• NATHEALTH नेटवर्क के अंतर्गत मार्ग-दर्शन, परिक्षण, आर्थिक मदद अपनान और नए प्रयोगों की व्यापकता के लिए उद्योगों के साझेदारों के लिए माहौल बनाना करता
• Tier I, II और III श्रेणी के जीसी और शासित क्षेत्रों के लिए वार्तालाप से जुड़ा सहयोग उपलब्ध करवाता
• मुख्यधारा के लिए प्रयोगों के लिए नियम बनाने वाली रूप-रेखा तैयार करने के लिए वार्ता शुरू करवाना
इस पहल द्वारा बहुत सी स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सेवाओं पर भी ध्यान दिया जाएगा जैसे कि:

- उपयोगिता आधारित स्वास्थ्य देखभाल
- आवादी स्वास्थ्य प्रबंधन, जीवित प्रबंधन और दीमा प्रबंधन
- दूसरे और तीसरे दर्जे की पुरानी बीमारी
- डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य
- विकल्पों का उपयोग
- स्वास्थ्य ऑर्डर्स का विषय
- स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सेवा के लिए तकनीक से लेंस डॉक्टर और सीर्यंत्र प्रोत्साहित के लिए नवाचार को बढाए
- PM-JAY के अंतर्गत सेवाएं प्रदान करने के लिए संचालक कुशलता बेहतर करता

NATHEALTH के अध्यक्ष डॉ. एच. सुदर्शन बल्लाल ने कहा कि नए प्रयोग करते वालों के साथ साझेदारी करने के लिए हम NHA के साथ मिलकर काम करने के इस अवसर का स्वागत करते हैं। संयुक्त पहल का मुख्य लक्ष्य स्वास्थ्य देखभाल नयाचार मार्गदर्शक तैयार करना है। हम हर पहलू से इन नए प्रयोगों का आकलन करेंगे। इस पहल का उद्देश्य निजी उद्योग का सहयोग पाना, निजी क्षेत्र और अन्य निवेशकों से पूर्ण हासिल करना भी है।
**Union Budget 2019-20: Health sector wants better treatment**

No fresh announcements although allocation has been hiked

Healthcare professionals expressed disappointment with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s maiden Budget, which, while raising the annual outlay by almost ₹10,000 crore, made no direct mention of the crucial sector.

The proposed overall allocation for health has risen to ₹64,999 crore this year, from a revised estimate of ₹55,949 crore last year.

“Through the budget, there has been no direct reference to the health sector at a time when India has been plagued by child deaths and stressed health infrastructure,” remarked Dr. Harjit
Singh Bhatti, a member of the Resident Doctors’ Association, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). “There is an urgent need to address the multiple issues that are plaguing the system,” he added.

“The government has to revisit the unfinished agenda such as ‘priority sector’ status to the health sector to ensure smooth credit flow, mandatory universal health insurance, tax incentives for capacity building, creation of a dedicated infrastructure and innovation fund,” said H. Sudarshan Ballal, president, NATHEALTH, an apex healthcare industry body.

The Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMed) too expressed anguish over the ‘continued neglect’ of domestic medical devices manufacturers by the government.

“We are shell shocked to see that no action has been taken by the government to stem the tsunami of imports... that is crushing the Indian manufactures,” commented Rajiv Nath of AiMED.

**Silver lining**

Lamenting the lack of any fresh commitments to healthcare, Shankar Narang, COO, Paras Healthcare, however, saw a silver lining in the announcement relating to support for research. “One of the most notable announcements in the budget has been the pledge to establish a National Research Foundation to boost research in all areas,” said Dr. Narang.

Swati Deshpande, Director (Operations) at Datar Cancer Genetics Limited, said while the move to set up a National Research Foundation was certainly a positive, the government had “completely ignored” the bio-medical sector, which has the potential to be a global research hub for fields like genetic research, bio-informatics and artificial intelligence.

The budgetary proposal to provide sustained support to the start-up sector, however, won plaudits.

“This year promises to be a healthy growth for the sector,” asserted Vivek Tiwari, founder and CEO of Medikabazar, an e-commerce site for medical devices and hospital supplies.

“The Central government is planning to set up more than 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres by 2022 under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and plans to provide healthcare cover of 5 lakh to around 10.74 crore families across the country,” he noted.
NASSCOM and NATHEALTH Collaborate to Boost India’s Digital Health

By The Indian Practitioner - July 1, 2019

India’s National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has announced its collaboration with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH.

They aim to deploy emerging technologies, to ensure better delivery of healthcare.

Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM said, “Through such collaborations, we can strengthen our potential as an innovation hub and bring about a transformation in varied sectors across industries. With technology permeating through all verticals today, we are confident that we see advanced healthcare facilities that provide easily accessible and affordable services to the citizens of our country.”

Through this collaboration, NATHEALTH and CoE have identified five major areas of collaboration, which would promote efficient, accessible and easily available technology enabled products and solutions for the citizens of India. The five areas of collaboration are Digital Adoption by Healthcare Industry, Universal Healthcare, Policy Advocacy Initiatives, Thought Leadership and Tech Enabled Innovation.

The joint initiative will collectively act as an interface between the industry and government on various policy and regulatory topics with a view to improve the regulatory environment in India. Through this agreement, health start-ups can leverage access to capital, mentorship, industry partnerships and technology support. The collaboration will also help them scale newer markets.
National Health Authority, Government Of India And Nathealth Join Hands To Drive Innovations In Healthcare Sector
Kolkata, July 25, 2019: Highlighting the critical role of innovations in achieving the goal of Universal Health Coverage through programs like Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), its implementing agency National Health Authority (NHA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH- Healthcare Federation of India.

The aim of this strategic partnership is to enable a seamless pathway that streamlines all innovations ensuring that it scales and increases the efficacy of PMJAY service delivery. Further, this collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations; providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA’s effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with the its vision of “Health for All”.

NHA and NATHEALTH have jointly agreed to meet the following objectives through this MoU:

§ Identifying and curating the best healthcare innovations and start-ups from India.

§ Assessing healthcare innovations through varied perspectives such as clinical, technical, impact, sustainability and scalability.
National

25 July 2019


§ Enabling an ecosystem for healthcare innovations to engage with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.

§ Enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.

§ Providing Go-to-market support across Tier I, II and III cities, and rural areas.

§ Starting a dialogue on ‘how to create an enabling regulatory framework for mainstreaming innovation’.

This initiative will focus on a variety of healthcare sectors, including but not limited to:

§ Value-based healthcare

§ Population health management, risk management and insurance administration

§ Chronic secondary and tertiary ailments

§ Digital health

§ Medical Devices

§ Health Data Analytics
§ Technology-enabled models of healthcare delivery including leveraging innovations centered around frontier technologies

§ Improving operational efficiency of service delivery of PM-JAY

The partnership will aim to create open platforms such as universities, start-up incubators and accelerators, private industries, investors (private capital, grant-giving organizations and foundations) that will enable engagement between different types of innovation organizations.

Speaking at the MoU signing, Dr. Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Authority, said “NHA enthusiastically looks forward to this partnership. With the implementation of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support. I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PM JAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY.”
Airing his views on the scope of the partnership, Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATH EALTH said, “We welcome this opportunity to work with NHA to build partnerships with innovators, who will help shape healthcare in India. The main objective of the joint Initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale. We will be assessing these innovations from all perspectives within industry and connected innovation landscape. This initiative also aims to enable healthcare innovations to access private industry support, funding from private capital and other funders, and mentorship from clinical, technology and business experts.”
Govt inks MoU with industry body to streamline deliver of services under Ayushman Bharat

PTI | July 25, 2019 16:10 IST

New Delhi, Jul 25 (PTI) To streamline deliver of services under the Centre's flagship healthcare scheme Ayushman Bharat, its implementing agency inked an MoU with industry body NATHEALTH on Thursday.

The partnership between National Health Authority (NHA) and the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) aims to streamline all innovations ensuring that it increases the efficacy of service delivery of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The collaboration provides an industry interface for testing innovations, providing mentorship and creating channels for facilitating support required for scaling these innovations. This will bolster NHA's effectiveness in implementing its innovation strategy, which is aligned with the its vision of 'Health for All', its CEO Indu Bhushan said.

"With the implementation of the AB-PMJAY, it is paramount that we increase the efficacy of the health service delivery such that we can provide an increased access to high quality of care. We have been witnessing a plethora of healthcare innovations happening across the country and it is crucial to empower them by providing the right support."

"I am confident that this partnership will help us in linking PMJAY, the industry and the innovators thus enabling increased adoption of numerous inventions, leading to an increase in access to quality care delivered under PM-JAY," Bhushan said.

NATHEALTH president Sudarshan Ballal said, "The main objective of the joint initiative is to provide and enable a healthcare innovation ecosystem that supports healthcare innovators and provides them opportunities to partner and scale."
The MoU aims at enabling an ecosystem for the industry partners within the NATHEALTH network to participate in piloting, testing, adopting, funding and scaling innovations.

Around 26 Lakh people have availed treatment so far in several hospitals across the country under the scheme since its launch in September last year.

The insurance scheme aims to provide a health cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable families.

The scheme provides a cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country under the scheme. PTI PLB SMN
Ayushman Bharat corners bulk of hike in health budget

NEW DELHI: The government proposed over 15% increase in the health budget for 2019-2020 with a focus on Ayushman Bharat – the health insurance scheme - which got almost half of the total hike in the overall health budget.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an outlay of Rs 64559.12 crore for the health sector (including health research), up from Rs 56045.23 crore provided in the 2018-19 revised estimate.
This indicates a major surge from mere 5% hike implemented last year.

However, many were disappointed with no initiatives announced for health in the budget speech delivered by finance minister, even as the higher allocation shows an encouraging trend.

“The expectations were that of a bold reformist budget. It turned out to be an incremental budget at best. The emphasis on start-ups and on the education sector is a good move. However, there was nothing to fuel growth in the healthcare and pharma sectors, which is disappointing,” Satish Reddy, Chairman, Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories said.

The allocation for Ayushman Bharat - the health insurance scheme launched by the government in September 2018 – increased by a two and a half times from Rs 2400 crores in 2018-19 to Rs 6400 crore in the upcoming financial year. In other words, the scheme got a budgetary hike of Rs 4000 crore out of the total Rs 8514 crore increased in the overall health budget.

The government aims to provide an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh to 50 crore people in nearly 10.74 crore deprived families under Ayushman Bharat.

Other key areas and schemes under health ministry got a minimal increase.

The proposed allocation for National Health Mission – one of the major Centrally sponsored schemes to take care of primary health care, planned health and wellness centres as well as programmes like tobacco control – increased to Rs 32995 cr this year, up by 7.5% from Rs 30683.05 crore in 2018-19.

The allocation for Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, under which new AIIMS are set up, increased only marginally from Rs 3825 crore in the revised estimate of 2018-19 to Rs 4000 crore for 2019-20.

The government allocated Rs 2,500 crore to its National AIDS and STD Control Programme, an increase of Rs 400 crore from last budget's allocation of Rs 2,100 crore.

“A healthy India will be a prerequisite to a 5 trillion dollar economy. We would like to underline the need for making healthcare an integrated part of the policy and fiscal planning with adequate investments to achieve this vision,” NATHEALTH secretary general Siddhartha Bhattacharya said.