NATIONAL

13 JUNE 2019


**NATEALTH, Well Tech to support health startups in India**

13 June 2019 | News

**NATEALTH & Well Tech sign MoU, plan to select and scale up the best Indian health tech startups**

Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH has announced its collaboration with global health-focused innovation platform Well Technologies Ltd (Well Tech) to support healthcare startups with access to capital & market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance. NATHEALTH, in association with Well Tech, plans to infuse seed investment of up to $1.5 Million.

NATHEALTH and Well Tech has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this collaboration and under the agreement, these two healthcare entities agreed for a joint initiative to scale up and serve millions of patients and customers.

The joint initiative will provide health start-ups with access to capital, industry partnerships, and product & technology support along with helping them scale to new markets. Together, the two organizations, and their partners and members, will support startups to scale up across India and globally.

Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “NATHEALTH and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator program that supports startups to grow and to collaborate better with Government and Industry. The initiative will be supported by our members, networks, and brand. We aim to provide support to innovation through startups by leveraging Well Tech's product and technology expertise, global network and capital partners.”

Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from $0.5 million-1.5 million in a year.

Amit Mookim who, the leader for the NATHEALTH Innovation and Entrepreneurship Track in addition to his role as Managing Director, South Asia IQVIA said, “Entrepreneurship and a vibrant startup eco system is an absolute necessity to compete the circle of Innovation in Healthcare. The NATHEALTH-Well Tech partnership is a great step in that direction and one of the several value adding initiatives of NATHEALTH to Indian and global healthcare.”

Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH said, “The collaboration would go a long way to create a robust startup ecosystem for the healthcare sector and innovation would provide new momentum in terms of clinical outcomes, transparency, patient safety, supply-chain management and standardization of population health services with the help of new technologies.”

According to a NATHEALTH-PWC Report, since January 2010, over 110 private equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC) investors have an investment in healthcare delivery space. The interest of PE & VC continues with multiple healthcare entities raised funds in 2017 as well and 2018 also witnessed investment interest in home healthcare space. VC investment in health tech startups had grown to an all-time high in 2018 with over $510 million invested across 80 startups, as per a report by Traxn Technologies. In 2016 and 2017, investments in health tech startups stood at $163 and $343 million respectively.
Jaivir Pall, Chief Financial Officer, Well Technologies Limited said, “Innovative new technologies and models are poised to transform how healthcare is delivered, accessed and financed in India and across the world. This is an enormous opportunity to change lives and the future of India. Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we’ll be selecting the best health tech startups in India and supporting them to scale up nationally and internationally. Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from Government, industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up. Startups should of course apply to us directly for support.”

“Well Tech is a specialist in healthcare and technology innovation. It works with startups and large organizations around the world to create and scale new healthcare products and services,” he added.

Under the agreement, syndicate investment from Well Tech’s capital partners as well as support due diligence of startups would go long way to create a new ecosystem. Startups would get industry support from NATHEALTH members in technology, product development, innovation and global market access. The joint initiative would also support in designing the scale plan for other markets and facilitating new partnerships. The initiative aims to cater to early and growth stage start-ups and is looking to scale up across diverse categories within the domain.
NATHEALTH & the Netherlands explore bilateral collaborations in Digital Health

25 June 2019 | News

NATHEALTH and The Netherlands Embassy organize a conference on Digital health to drive innovations in Healthcare.

To create a platform that brings together the Dutch and Indian expertise in digital technologies, apex Healthcare Industry body-NATHEALTH and the Netherlands Embassy recently organized a Digital Health Conference in New Delhi. The conference aimed at driving digital innovation in healthcare.

The Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a Digital Health Mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector. The Conference brought the Dutch Delegation in contact with relevant stakeholders from the ecosystem to help forge partnerships in the eHealth domain.

While welcoming the experts, NATHEALTH Secretary General Sutidhanta Bhatnacharya said, "Our main agenda was to understand how both countries can work in partnership to address common challenges faced by the sector and co create solutions. Digital health awaits a huge opportunity as the country aspires to become a middle income nation by 2050 given its technological penetration, advancing economy and accelerating healthcare industry."
“To achieve the goal of Universal Health Care with continuum of care across primary, secondary and tertiary facilities, digital interventions would play the role of a powerful catalyst. Digital health interventions, with huge opportunities for investment and penetration, would make India a global leader,” he added.

Highlighting Dutch expertise and a need for collaboration in the digital healthcare space, Ron Roozendaal, Director of Information Policy and CIO Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, Netherlands said, “Life Science and health is priority sector for strategic investment in both the Netherlands and India. Growing market opportunities in India, combined with the Netherlands’ strengths in areas such as Digital Health, Medical devices and Diagnostics create excellent opportunities for partnerships that address shared societal challenges with smart solutions."

"India and the Netherlands have a joint ambition to provide high-quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to all. Rapid developments in India create opportunities for the adoption of e-health concepts from the Netherlands and the joint development of new solutions that help bring care from the hospital to the home. We look forward to explore these opportunities during this mission and learn about new approaches that might help address challenges faced in both our countries," he added.

During the session experts highlighted the benefits of digital health and said that it is time for the healthcare industry at large to step up its efforts for better outcomes. The experiences of digital health technology forerunners (such as The Netherland) provide collaboration opportunities with key partners like India.

The session also showcased on existing PPPs in Med-Tech/ e-Health space and highlighted Global Stars collaboration on Medical Robotics between IIT-M and Eindhoven Medical Robotics. Cardiac AI Program (Apollo Hospitals, Microsoft & MUNIC), Living Lab on eHealth & Med-Tech drew much attention of the experts. These success stories indicated both potential and opportunities in digital health space.

The area of digital healthcare is also a central theme for the India-Netherlands Technology Summit in October this year. The annual conference-cum-exposition organised jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, will celebrate Indo-Dutch excellence in science, technology and innovation in especially the Nexus of water-agrifood-health.
NASSCOM partners with NATHEALTH to boost digital health in India

The partnership will improve the access and quality of healthcare in India through tech-enabled innovation and build stronger partnerships across the eco-system.

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

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

The healthcare sector is at the cusp of transformation in terms of digital adoption and through robust policy advocacy initiatives.

Debjani 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.”

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.
1. **Digital Adoption by Healthcare Industry**: Work with members and member organizations of NATHEALTH to improve technology adoption through co-creation programs. Especially focus on IoT, AI/ML/DL, Robotics, AR/VR and Blockchain technologies that have a positive impact in improving healthcare in India.

2. **Universal Healthcare**: 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. Work towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and support the Government in achieving Healthcare Goals.

3. **Policy Advocacy Initiatives**: Jointly work on collecting the voice of the Industry on various policy and regulatory topics that directly or indirectly impact healthcare delivery in India. Where needed and feasible, represent the industry voice with the policy makers in the Government, with a view to improve the regulatory environment in India. Examples include DISHA, EHR2016, National Healthcare Blueprint etc.

4. **Thought Leadership**: 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.

5. **Tech Enabled Innovation**: Jointly work in curating and seeding tech enabled innovations to accelerate India’s drive towards universal health coverage and also create pathways for scale.

Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH said, “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.”

Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH said, “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.”

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.
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NATHEALTH and The Netherlands Embassy organizes a conference on Digital health to drive innovations in Healthcare

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The Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a Digital Health Mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector. The Conference brought the Dutch Delegation in contact with relevant stakeholders from the ecosystem to help forge partnerships in the eHealth domain.

While welcoming the experts, NATHEALTH Secretary General Siddhartha Bhattacharya said, "Our main agenda was to understand how both countries can work in partnership to address common challenges faced by the sector and co create solutions. Digital health awaits a huge opportunity as the country aspires to become a middle income nation by 2050 given its technological penetration, advancing economy and accelerating healthcare industry."
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During the session experts highlighted the benefits of digital health and said that it is time for the healthcare industry at large to step up its efforts for better outcomes. The experiences of digital health technology forerunners (such as The Netherlands) provide collaboration opportunities with key partners like India.

The session also showcased on existing PPPs in Med-Tech/ e-Health space and highlighted Global Stars collaboration on Medical Robotics between IIT-M and Eindhoven Medical Robotics. Cardiac AI Program (Apollo Hospitals, Microsoft & MUMC), Living Lab on eHealth & Med-Tech drew much attention of the experts. These success stories indicated both potential and opportunities in digital health space.

The area of digital healthcare is also a central theme for the India-Netherlands Technology Summit in October this year. The annual conference-cum-exposition organised jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, will celebrate Indo-Dutch excellence in science, technology and innovation in especially the NEXUS of water-agri-food-health.
NATIONAL

12 JUNE 2019

https://www.biovoicenews.com/nathealth-partners-well-tech-to-provide-support-to-health-startups-in-india/

NATHEALTH partners Well Tech to provide support to health startups in India

NATHEALTH has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the global startup accelerator, Well Tech with a plan to scale up the best Indian health tech startups. The support includes seed investment upto USD 1.5m and partnerships with leading industry players for market access.

New Delhi: Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH on 11th June announced its collaboration with global health-focused innovation platform Well Technologies, also known as Well Tech, to support healthcare startups with access to capital and market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance.

NATHEALTH, in association with Well Tech, plans to infuse seed investment of up to $1.5 Million into Indian healthcare startup ecosystem.

The two healthcare entities signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this collaboration and under the agreement, they agreed for a joint initiative to scale up and serve millions of patients and customers. The joint initiative will provide Health start-ups with access to capital, industry partnerships, and product & technology support along with helping them scale to new markets. Together, the two organizations, and their partners and members, will support startups to scale up across India and globally.

“NATHEALTH and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator program that supports startups to grow and to collaborate better with Government and industry. The initiative will be supported by our members, networks, and brand. We aim to provide support to innovation through startups by leveraging Well Tech’s product and technology expertise, global network and capital partners,” said Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH.
Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from $0.5 million-1.5 million in a year.

“Entrepreneurship and a vibrant startup ecosystem is an absolute necessity to compete the circle of innovation in healthcare. The NATHEALTH- Well Tech partnership is a great step in that direction and one of the several value adding initiatives of NATHEALTH to Indian and global healthcare.” said Mr Amit Mookim who is the leader for the NATHEALTH Innovation and Entrepreneurship Track in addition to his role as Managing Director, South Asia IQVIA.

“The collaboration would go a long way to create a robust startup ecosystem for the healthcare sector and innovation would provide new momentum in terms of clinical outcomes, transparency, patient safety, supply-chain management and standardization of population health services with the help of new technologies,” said Mr Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHELTH.

According to a NATHEALTH-PWC Report, since January 2010, over 110 private equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC) investors have an investment in healthcare delivery space. The interest of PE & VC continues with multiple healthcare entities raised funds in 2017 as well and 2018 also witnessed investment interest in home healthcare space. VC investment in health tech startups had grown to an all-time high in 2018 with over $510 million invested across 80 startups, as per a report by Traxn Technologies. In 2016 and 2017, investments in health tech startups stood at $163 and $343 million respectively.
“Innovative new technologies and models are poised to transform how healthcare is delivered, accessed and financed in India and across the world. This is an enormous opportunity to change lives and the future of India. Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we’ll be selecting the best health tech startups in India and supporting them to scale up nationally and internationally. Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from Government, industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up. Startups should of course apply to us directly for support.” Mr Jaivir Pall, Chief Financial Officer, Well Technologies Limited

“Well Tech is a specialist in healthcare and technology innovation. It works with startups and large organizations around the world to create and scale new healthcare products and services,” he added.

Under the agreement, syndicate investment from Well Tech’s capital partners as well as support due diligence of startups would go long way to create a new ecosystem. Startups would get industry support from NATHEALTH members in technology, product development, innovation and global market access. The joint initiative would also support in designing the scale plan for other markets and facilitating new partnerships. The initiative aims to cater to early and growth stage start-ups and is looking to scale up across diverse categories within the domain.
NATHEALTH condemns violence against doctors, calls for safer work environment

New Delhi: While condemning the brutal act of violence against the resident doctors of NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, the apex healthcare industry body, NATHEALTH has pointed out that doctors and healthcare providers comprise the backbone of modern healthcare delivery and require a safe environment to deliver care and save lives.

It is important to note that a mob of 200 people had attacked the two resident doctors and seriously injured them. The impact of the attack was such that one of the doctors is undergoing treatment due to grievous injuries to the skull. The doctors across the country are protesting this and other such incidents where they become the easy targets of vicious attacks.

“We need to understand that medical professionals and establishments are doing their job and trying to save lives. The government must ensure the safety and security of doctors and paramedic workers at all times. NATHEALTH will be willing to work with Government and all stakeholders to create a safe health care environment where the sanctity of patient-doctor relationship prospers,” said Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH.

“NATHEALTH is deeply concerned by the violence against medical community and request Government and Law enforcement agencies to assure a safe work environment to all who fight to save lives,” mentioned Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary General NATHEALTH.
NASSCOM partners NATHEALTH to boost digital health in India

The partnership will improve the access and quality of healthcare in India through tech-enabled innovation and build stronger partnerships across the eco-system.

Bengaluru: India’s National Association of Software and Services Companies, also popularly known as NASSCOM, has announced its collaboration with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH. 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. They aim to deploy emerging technologies, to ensure better delivery of healthcare.

The healthcare sector is at the cusp of a transformation in terms of digital adoption and through robust policy advocacy initiatives. Speaking on the collaboration, Debjani 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.”

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Tech-Enabled Innovation: 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.

“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 Mr Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH.
NATHEALTH signs pact with Well Tech to support health start-ups in India – Times of India

June 11, 2019

New Delhi, Jun 11 () Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH Tuesday said it has signed a pact with innovation platform Well Technologies to support healthcare start-ups in India. The joint initiative will support healthcare start-ups with access to capital and market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

Support includes seed investment up to USD 1.5 million (about Rs 10.5 crore) and partnerships with leading industry players for market access, it added.

"NATHEALTH and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator program that supports start-ups to grow and collaborate better with government and industry," NATHEALTH President Sudarshan Bollai said.

Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from USD 0.5 million-1.5 million in a year, the statement said.

"Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we will be selecting the best health tech start-ups in India and support them to scale up nationally and internationally," Well Technologies CFO Jaivir Pall said.

"Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from government, industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up," he added. AKT RUJ RVK RVK
NATHEALTH signs pact with Well Tech to support health start-ups in India

Press Trust of India  |  New Delhi
Last Updated at June 11, 2019 19:45 IST

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NATHEALTH exploring bilateral collaborations in digital health with Netherlands

Press Trust of India | New Delhi
Last Updated at June 24, 2019 19:40 IST

Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH Monday said it is exploring bilateral collaborations in digital health with the Netherlands.

Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a digital health mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

To explore driving digital innovation in healthcare, a 'Digital Health Conference' was organised here. The conference brought the Dutch Delegation in contact with relevant stakeholders here to help forge partnerships in the eHealth domain, it added.

"To achieve the goal of Universal Health Care with continuum of care across primary, secondary and tertiary facilities, digital interventions would play the role of a powerful catalyst," NATHEALTH Secretary General Siddhartha Bhattacharya said.

Digital health interventions, with huge opportunities for investment and penetration, would make India a global leader, he added.

"Life Science and health is priority sector for strategic investment in both the Netherlands and India," Netherlands Director of Information Policy and CiO - Ministry of Health Ron Roozendaal said.

Growing market opportunities in India, combined with Netherlands' strengths in areas such as digital health, medical devices and diagnostics create excellent opportunities for partnerships that address shared societal challenges with smart solutions, he added.
Digital Health Innovation Mission: NATHEALTH And The Netherlands Embassy Collaborates for Digital Innovation in Healthcare

NATHEALTH and the Dutch Digital Mission is expected to bring in much needed synergies and partnerships to create a robust health system that tackle the shared challenges we face today.

Mr. Siddharta Bhattacharya, NATHEALTH Digital Health Session, New Delhi

25 June, 2019

by Bw Online Bureau

The Dutch and Indian expertise in digital technologies, apex Healthcare industry body-NATHEALTH and the Netherlands Embassy organized a Digital Health Conference on 24th June in New Delhi. The conference aimed at driving digital innovation in healthcare.

The Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a Digital Health Mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector. The Conference brought the Dutch Delegation in contact with relevant stakeholders from the ecosystem to help forge partnerships in the ehealth domain.
While welcoming the experts, NATHEALTH Secretary General Mr. Siddhartha Bhattacharya said, “Our main agenda was to understand how both countries can work in partnership to address common challenges faced by the sector and co-create solutions. Digital health awaits a huge opportunity as the country aspires to become a middle-income nation by 2030 given its technological penetration, advancing economy and accelerating healthcare industry.”

“To achieve the goal of Universal Health Care with continuum of care across primary, secondary and tertiary facilities, digital interventions would play the role of a powerful catalyst. Digital health interventions, with huge opportunities for investment and penetration, would make India a global leader,” he added.

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“India and the Netherlands have a joint ambition to provide high-quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to all. Rapid developments in India create opportunities for the adoption of e-health concepts from the Netherlands and the joint development of new solutions that help bring care from the hospital to the home. We look forward to explore these opportunities during this mission and learn about new approaches that might help address challenges faced in both our countries,” he added.

During the session experts highlighted the benefits of digital health and said that it is time for the healthcare industry at large to step up its efforts for better outcomes. The experiences of digital health technology forerunners (such as The Netherlands) provide collaboration opportunities with key partners like India.

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“This digital health mission is an important springboard for the India-Netherlands Tech Summit 2019 in October. Digital Health, Medical Devices & Diagnostics, and Therapeutics & Vaccines, are important pillars for the Indo-Dutch cooperation focused on affordable & accessible healthcare. Health will be a central theme for the Techsummit 2019 where we will focus on the NEXUS of Water-Agrifood-Health,” said Freerk Jan Frerichs, Counsellor, Holland Innovation Network, Embassy of the Netherlands in India.

In a system like Ayushman Bharat, digital healthcare will play a big role along with Analytics to ensure the facilities are in sync with the needs of patients, and to prevent the misuse of the scheme. The aim of the discussion was to invite relevant stakeholders for joint proposition towards resolving and co-creating innovative solutions for global challenges. The discussion was around digital Health, how the power of analytics can be leveraged, cloud and big data to ensure delivery of healthcare of services to places where doctors cannot be present in person.

NATHEALTH and the Dutch Digital Mission is expected to bring in much needed synergies and partnerships to create a robust health system that tackle the shared challenges we face today.
Rural healthcare needs urgent fixing

Wednesday, 05 June 2019 | Ajoy Khandheria

Providing affordable services to the people is the need of the hour. Ambulances, mobile check up vans and healthcare kiosks can help achieve this.

For all the gratified talk about India’s health sector and the medical tourism hub it has turned the country into, the truth remains that our healthcare system is inequitable. Even today, a large section of our population has to travel more than 100 km to access basic healthcare. Data collected by National Sample Survey Office in 2010 found that 86 per cent of all trips taken for medical purposes were from rural areas. According to estimates, urban centres are home to almost 70 per cent of the doctors and 65 per cent of the country’s hospital beds despite having less than 30 per cent of the total population. Government figures suggest that as on March 31, 2017, only 4,156 posts for specialists were filled in Community Health Centres as against the requirement of 22,496. Patients in rural areas face several hurdles to healthcare that limit their ability to avail the care they need.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or Ayushman Bharat programme, which promises to benefit 10.74 crore poor and deprived families, has raised much hope. However, to establish an affordable and accessible healthcare ecosystem in the country, the need is for a wider approach that includes creating the required human resource and raising awareness among rural Indians.

Barriers healthcare access in rural areas: Poor health literacy does not allow a patient to comprehend either the health information or the instructions given by healthcare providers. In most cases, due to the lack of knowledge, rural residents are reluctant to visit healthcare facilities as they don’t have the confidence to communicate with professionals. At the same time, it also translates into low awareness about chronic diseases and symptoms. It is, therefore, important to have a functioning primary healthcare service closer to the doors of rural people.

Long distance commutation: According to a NATHEALTH-PwC report released in 2017, 50 per cent of the beneficiaries travel more than 100 km to access quality medical care. About 70 per cent of India’s health infrastructure is concentrated in the top 20 cities. Long distance commutation increases costs and inconvenience and often results in discontinuation of treatment. For people living with chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and heart disease among others, who require frequent visits to outpatient healthcare facilities, this can have serious consequences on their health.
Workforce limitations: India faces a shortage of doctors and allied healthcare professionals. This scarcity is even more glaring in rural areas where it severely limits access to healthcare and negatively impacts health outcomes. Poor medical infrastructure in these areas also acts as an impediment in attracting qualified and trained professionals. The Government’s ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme, which envisages establishing of 150,000 health and wellness centres, cannot succeed without addressing the human resource gap in rural areas.

Way forward: Ways have to be found out to generate trained human resource to provide healthcare services. This can be done by commissioning new medical colleges, providing monetary and non-monetary incentives to doctors to work in rural areas, improving working conditions for healthcare professionals and provide them with ancillary infrastructure to carry out basic duties. Taking trained AVUSH practitioners on board and equipping them with the ability to diagnose and refer conditions at primary level can also temporarily fill the human resource gap.

Re-skill primary healthcare doctors: Doctors in rural areas should also be constantly re-skilled to make them abreast with the latest developments in medical field. With growing and improving understanding of diseases and treatments, modern healthcare system demands constant upgrading of skills and continuous medical education. The doctors in primary healthcare setup must be updated and be able to cope with evolving disease patterns and epidemics and make right diagnosis and provide quality treatment. It is important, therefore, to make CMEs mandatory for them.

Innovative approaches to healthcare: To bypass the problems of human resource and infrastructure shortage, we need to create innovative and low-cost solutions and technologies that can enable us bring healthcare closer to the homes of rural people. Ambulances, mobile check up vans, healthcare kiosks and use of telemedicine are ways to achieve this.

Healthcare start-ups are doing their bit by opening kiosks across various States that provide basic healthcare services to villagers every day. These kiosks are digitised healthcare clinics that use telemedicine to help underserved communities get access to doctors. These kiosks have a nurse, who conducts physical examination and connects with the online doctor by live audio or video feed through a technology backed platform. The services are provided at subsidised rates. Many such initiatives and platforms must be launched to further the goal of universal healthcare.
Rural healthcare: of access, affordability

Ajoy Khandheria, JUN 18 2019, 23:21 PM IST | UPDATED: JUN 19 2019, 01:12AM IST

For all the gratified talk about India’s health sector and the medical tourism hub it has turned India into, the truth remains that our healthcare system is highly inequitable. Even today, a large section of our population has to travel more than 100 km to access basic healthcare.

Data collected by the NSSO in 2010 found that 86% of all trips taken for medical purposes were by rural Indians. According to estimates, urban centres are home to almost 70% of the doctors and almost 65% of the country’s hospital beds despite having less than 30% of the total population.

Government estimates suggested that as on March 31, 2017, only 4,156 posts for specialists were filled in Community Health Centres as against a requirement of 22,496. From lack of access to high cost of services, rural patients face several hurdles to healthcare that limit their ability to avail the care they need.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or Ayushman Bharat has raised much hopes. However, establishing an affordable and accessible healthcare ecosystem requires a wider approach that includes creating the required human resource and raising awareness among rural Indians.

Barriers to access

Low health literacy: Poor health literacy disables a patient’s ability to comprehend health information and instructions from healthcare providers. Sometimes, rural residents feel reluctant to visit a healthcare facility as they are not confident of communicating with a healthcare professional. At the same time, it also translates into low awareness about chronic diseases and symptoms that must be taken seriously. It is important, therefore, to have a functioning primary healthcare service closer to the doors of rural people.

Long distance commutation: According to a NATHEALTH-PwC report released in 2017, 50% of beneficiaries travel more than 100 km to access quality medical care as about 70% of India’s healthcare infrastructure is concentrated in the top 20 cities. The requirement of long distance commutation increases costs and inconvenience and often results in discontinuation of treatment. For people with chronic diseases such as hypertension diabetes, heart disease etc, this can have serious consequences on health.
Workforce shortage: Rural India faces a glaring shortage of doctors and allied healthcare professionals, severely limiting access to healthcare and negatively impacting health outcomes. Poor medical infrastructure in rural India also acts as an impediment to attracting qualified and trained health professionals. The government’s ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme which envisages establishing of 1,50,000 health and wellness centres cannot succeed without addressing the human resource gap in rural areas.

The way forward

Human resource creation: Trained human resource to offer healthcare services can be generated by commissioning new medical colleges in rural areas, providing monetary and non-monetary incentives to doctors to work in rural areas, improving working conditions for healthcare professionals and providing them with ancillary infrastructure to carry out basic duties. Equipping trained AYUSH practitioners with the ability to diagnose and refer conditions at primary level can also temporarily fill the gap.

Re-skilling primary healthcare doctors: Doctors in rural areas should also be constantly reskilled and upgraded to keep them abreast with the latest developments in medical field. The doctors in primary healthcare setup must be updated and able to cope with evolving disease patterns and epidemics and make right diagnosis and provide quality treatment. It is important, therefore, to make CMEs mandatory for them.

Innovative approaches to healthcare: To bypass the problems of human resource and infrastructure shortage, we need to create innovative and low-cost solutions and technologies that can enable us to bring healthcare closer to the homes of rural populations. Rural ambulances, mobile check-up vans, healthcare kiosks and use of telemedicine are some ways.

Gramin Healthcare has opened more than 100 operational kiosks across six states that provide basic healthcare services at subsidised rates to villagers every day. These kiosks are digitised healthcare clinics that use telemedicine. They have a nurse who conducts a physical examination and connects with the online doctor by live audio or video feed through a technology backed platform.

We need many more such disruptive initiatives and platforms to further the goal of universal healthcare.
Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH Tuesday said it has signed a pact with innovation platform Well Technologies to support healthcare start-ups in India. The joint initiative will support healthcare start-ups with access to capital and market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

Support includes seed investment up to USD 1.5 million (about Rs 10.5 crore) and partnerships with leading industry players for market access. It added, "NATHEALTH and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator program that supports start-ups to grow and collaborate better with government and industry," NATHEALTH President Sudarshan Ballal said.

Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from USD 0.5 million-1.5 million in a year, the statement said. "Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we will be selecting the best health tech start-ups in India and support them to scale up nationally and internationally," Well Technologies CFO Jaivir Pall said. "Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from government, industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up," he added.
Patients face tough time in hospitals as docs in Delhi protest over violence in WB

Patients in the national capital faced a harrowing time as doctors at several government and private hospitals boycotted work and held demonstrations at many facilities in solidarity with their protesting colleagues in Kolkata. There was a shutdown of out patient departments (OPDs), routine operation theatre services and ward visits, except emergency services in several hospitals of the city, including AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and LNJP Hospital.

Patients unaware of the stir reached hospitals only to return or waiting interminably to be attended. Junior doctors in West Bengal are on strike since Tuesday after two of their colleagues were attacked and seriously injured allegedly by relatives of a patient who died at NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Scores of doctors in Delhi Friday held demonstrations, with many seeing patients in emergency wards wearing bandages on forehead or helmets, marching and raising slogans to express solidarity. A delegation of Resident Doctors Association of AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, United Resident and Doctors Association of India (URDA) and Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA) met Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and submitted a representation to him seeking a central law to check violence against healthcare workers in hospitals.

Condemning any form of violence especially against medical professionals in the country, the India Medical Association (IMA) launched a four-day nationwide protest from Friday and called for a strike on June 17 with withdrawal of non-essential health services. The apex medical body also wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah over their demands regarding safety of doctors in hospitals.
Vardhan on Friday supported the medical fraternity’s demand for a central law to check violence against healthcare workers in hospitals and said such crimes should be made non-bailable. “Heinous repeated attacks on doctors across India esp WBengal have led to this situation. Govt must pass a Law to make any attack on Docs a non-bailable offence with min 12 yr jail. Draconian Clinical Establishment Act that treats Docs as criminals must be withdrawn (sic),” Vardhan tweeted.

Patients, many from outstation, bore the brunt of the protest as they faced a lot of hassle in accessing medical care or waited for long hours at OPDs of hospitals. Sumitra Devi, 51, a native of Uttar Pradesh, visited AIIMS to consult a doctor for her son but could not do so and was asked to visit later.

“I came all the way from Saharanpur yesterday and had put up near the AIIMS for my son, who has kidney-related ailments. Now, I have to wait to see the doctor again,” she said. However, many hospitals could not join the protest on Friday, as they had not earlier submitted a prior 24-hour notice to the government as required by a protocol. They will observe a bandh on Saturday.

However, the ICU and emergency wings of these hospitals will continue to function. President of Federation of Residents Doctor’s Association (FORDA) Sumedh Sandanshiv said. The Delhi Medical Association (DMA) Friday also extended its full support to the protesting doctors in West Bengal even as it asserted that medical facilities and number of doctors need to be augmented to address issues related to patients.

Scores of doctors under the umbrella of the DMA also held a dharna in front of its office in Daryaganj and later marched to Rajghat. Apex healthcare industry body NATHICAL, in a statement said, doctors and health care providers comprise the backbone of modern healthcare delivery and require a safe environment to deliver care and save lives.

Several doctors of Delhi government hospitals, including Lok Nayak Jayaprakash (LNJP) Hospital, Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, DDU Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, and private hospital like Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Friday also joined the stir. “Yes, doctors at LNJP Hospital have joined the protest in solidarity with colleagues in Bengal. The OPD is shut, and only emergency department is functioning. The hospital OPD’s average footfall on a regular day is about 9,000. But, today only about 2,000 has visited,” the hospital’s Medical Superintendent, Dr Kishore Singh, told PTI in the afternoon.

He said patient services were affected as this is the Delhi government’s biggest hospital, but a stand has been taken to show support as fellow doctors. At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, the private OPD was closed for Friday as a mark of solidarity, officials said. “All doctors of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital are fully in support of our colleagues in West Bengal and strongly protest against growing tendency of violence against doctors,” a hospital spokesperson said. The resident doctors associations of G B Pant and Guru Nanak Hospital, associated with the Maulana Azad Medical College, also joined the protest.

Condemning the violence in West Bengal, the AIIMS RDA had on Thursday urged resident doctors’ association to join the token strike. In the wake of the strike, several hospitals, including AIIMS, instituted contingency measures to take care of the patients admitted, including those in the ICUs and wards.
Nasscom, NATHEALTH to boost startups in digital health solutions

DTMT Network

BENGALURU: Technology services industry body Nasscom has partnered with apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH to encourage startups to work on digital healthcare solutions in India.

Through its Center of Excellence on Internet of Things (CoE-IoT), Nasscom has entered into a strategic partnership with NATHEALTH to boost the start-up ecosystem in the country and bring digital healthcare solutions.

Technology adoption in the Indian healthcare sector is poised for substantial growth as it continues to emerge as a game-changer in the delivery of healthcare services, said Debjani Ghosh, President, Nasscom.

He said, “With our combined resources we hope to make a significant contribution to make healthcare systems accessible in our country.”

Mr Ghosh stated, “With technology permeating through all verticals today, we are confident that we shall see advanced healthcare facilities that provide easily accessible and affordable services to the citizens of our country.”

NATHEALTH and CoE have identified several major areas of collaboration, including Digital Adoption by Healthcare Industry and Universal Healthcare that would promote efficient, accessible and easily available technology enabled products and solutions for the citizens of India.

“Our aim is to provide support to innovation through co-creation program with specialized focus on IoT, AI, Robotics, AR/VR and Blockchain technologies that have a positive impact,” said Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH.
NATHEALTH exploring bilateral collaborations in digital health with Netherlands

Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a digital health mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

NEW DELHI: Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH Monday said it is exploring bilateral collaborations in digital health with the Netherlands.

Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a digital health mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

To explore driving digital innovation in healthcare, a 'Digital Health Conference' was organised here. The conference brought the Dutch Delegation in contact with relevant stakeholders here to help forge partnerships in the eHealth domain, it added.

"To achieve the goal of Universal Health Care with continuum of care across primary, secondary and tertiary facilities, digital interventions would play the role of a powerful catalyst," NATHEALTH Secretary General Siddhartha Bhattacharya said.

Digital health interventions, with huge opportunities for investment and penetration, would make India a global leader, he added.
"Life Science and health is priority sector for strategic investment in both the Netherlands and India," Netherlands Director of Information Policy and CIO - Ministry of Health Ron Roozendaal said.

Growing market opportunities in India, combined with Netherlands' strengths in areas such as digital health, medical devices and diagnostics create excellent opportunities for partnerships that address shared societal challenges with smart solutions, he added.
Providing Accessible/Affordable Rural Healthcare Ecosystem In India Is Need Of The Hour

Ajoy Khandheria, Founder, Granin Healthcare speaks on why affordable and accessible healthcare ecosystem in India requires a wider approach that includes creating required human resource and raising awareness among rural Indians.

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Barriers to affordable healthcare access in rural areas

Low health literacy

Poor health literacy disables a patient’s ability to comprehend health information and instructions from their healthcare providers. Sometimes, due to the low health literacy, rural residents get reluctant to visit a healthcare facility as they don’t have confidence of communicating with a healthcare professional. At the same time, it also translates into low awareness about chronic diseases and symptoms that must be taken seriously. It is important therefore to have a functioning primary healthcare service closer to the doors of rural people.

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Workforce shortage

India faces a shortage of doctors and allied healthcare professionals and this shortage is even more glaring in rural areas where it severely limits access to healthcare and negatively impacts health outcomes. Poor medical infrastructure in rural India also acts as an impediment in attracting qualified and trained health professionals. The government’s ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme which envisages establishing of 150,000 health and wellness centres cannot succeed without addressing the human resource gap in rural areas.
The way forward

Human resource creation

Ways have to be found out to generate trained human resource to provide healthcare services in rural areas. This can be done by commissioning new medical colleges in rural areas, providing monetary and non monetary incentives to doctors to work in rural areas, improving working conditions for healthcare professionals and provide them with ancillary infrastructure to carry out basic duties.

Taking trained AYUSH practitioners on board and equipping them with the ability to diagnose and refer conditions at primary level can also temporarily fill the human resource gap.

Reskilling primary healthcare doctors

Doctors in rural areas should also be constantly reskilled and upgraded to make them abreast with the latest developments in medical field. With growing and improving understanding of diseases and treatments, modern healthcare system demands constant upgrading of skills and continuous medical education. The doctors in primary healthcare setup must be updated and able to cope with evolving disease patterns and epidemics and make right diagnosis and provide quality treatment. It is important therefore to make CMEs mandatory for them.

Innovative approaches to healthcare

To bypass the problems of human resource and infrastructure shortage, we need to create innovative and low cost solutions and technologies that can enable us bring healthcare closer to the homes of the rural populations. Rural ambulances, mobile check up vans, healthcare kiosks and use of telemedicine are ways to achieve this.

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We need many more such disruptive initiatives and platforms to further the goal of universal healthcare.
NATHEALTH And Well Tech Sign MoU

By EH News Bureau  On Jun 13, 2019

The joint initiative will provide health startups with access to capital, industry partnerships, product and technology support along with helping them scale to new markets.

NATHEALTH announced its collaboration with health-focused innovation platform Well Technologies (Well Tech) to support healthcare startups with access to capital and market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance. NATHEALTH, in association with Well Tech, plans to infuse seed investment of up to $1.5 million.

NATHEALTH and Well Tech signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this collaboration and under the agreement, these two healthcare entities agreed for a joint initiative to scale up and serve millions of patients and customers. The joint initiative will provide health startups with access to capital, industry partnerships, product and technology support along with helping them scale to new markets. Together, the two organisations, and their partners and members, will support startups to scale up across India and globally.

"NATHEALTH and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator programme that supports startups to grow and to collaborate better with the government and the industry. The initiative will be supported by our members, networks and brand. We aim to provide support to innovation through startups by leveraging Well Tech’s product and technology expertise, global network and capital partners," said Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH.

Under the agreement, the selected startups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from $0.5 million-1.5 million in a year.
"Entrepreneurship and a vibrant startup eco system is an absolute necessity to compete the circle of innovation in healthcare. The NATHEALTH- Well Tech partnership is a great step in that direction and one of the several value adding initiatives of NATHEALTH to Indian and global healthcare," said Amit Mookim, Leader, NATHEALTH Innovation and Entrepreneurship Track and Managing Director, South Asia IQVIA.

"The collaboration would go a long way to create a robust startup ecosystem for the healthcare sector and innovation would provide new momentum in terms of clinical outcomes, transparency, patient safety, supply-chain management and standardisation of population health services with the help of new technologies," said Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH.

In the last few years there has been a rise in funding for startups in the healthcare sector making this partnership all the more crucial. According to a NATHEALTH-PWC Report, since January 2010, over 110 private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) investors have an investment in healthcare delivery space. The interest of PE and VC continues with multiple healthcare entities raised funds in 2017 as well and 2018 also witnessed investment interest in home healthcare space. VC Investment in health tech startups had grown to an all-time high in 2018 with over $510 million invested across 80 startups, as per a report by Traxn Technologies. In 2016 and 2017, investments in health tech startups stood at $163 and $343 million respectively.

"Innovative new technologies and models are poised to transform how healthcare is delivered, accessed and financed in India and across the world. This is an enormous opportunity to change lives and the future of India. Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we’ll be selecting the best health tech startups in India and supporting them to scale up nationally and internationally. Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from government, industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up. Startups should of course apply to us directly for support," said Jalvir Pall, Chief Financial Officer, Well Technologies.

"Well Tech is a specialist in healthcare and technology innovation. It works with startups and large organisations around the world to create and scale new healthcare products and services," added Pall.

Under the agreement, syndicate investment from Well Tech’s capital partners as well as support due diligence of startups would go long way to create a new ecosystem. Startups would get industry support from NATHEALTH members in technology, product development, innovation and global market access. The joint initiative would also support in designing the scale plan for other markets and facilitating new partnerships. The initiative aims to cater to early and growth stage startups and is looking to scale up across diverse categories within the domain.
Healthcare Associations Condemn Assault On Doctors In Kolkata

Demands justice and safe and improved working conditions for all doctors across the country

While condemning the brutal act of violence against the resident doctors of NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, NATHEALTH and Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH) expressed shock and sorrow at the grievous assault on junior doctors in Kolkata.

According to a statement by NATHEALTH, “We need to understand that medical professionals and establishments are doing their job and trying to save lives. The government must ensure safety and security of doctors and paramedic workers at all times. NATHEALTH will be willing to work with Government and all stakeholders to create a safe health care environment where the sanctity of patient-doctor relationship prospers,” said Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH.

ADEH issued a statement mentioned, “We condemn, in the strongest terms, the escalation of the violence and attempts at intimidation that have ensued in West Bengal in the aftermath of the protests by junior doctors in the past 48 hours. We appeal to the West Bengal government to act speedily to acknowledge the concerns of the junior doctors, to take stern action against the perpetrators of this heinous crime and take measures to provide a safe working environment for all doctors to enable them to carry out their duties without apprehension or fear. We also call on the media, the public and government officials to refrain from using language designed to stoke anger or polarise communities, especially on social media at such a sensitive time. Today and always, we stand in solidarity with our medical fraternity in the demand for justice and safe and improved working conditions for all doctors across the country.”

Both the associations demanded justice and safe and improved working conditions for all doctors across the country.
NASSCOM Partners With NATHEALTH

The partnerships will leverage the benefits that IoT and AI can bring to the healthcare sector

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) announced its collaboration with healthcare industry body NATHEALTH. 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. They aim to deploy emerging technologies to ensure better delivery of healthcare.

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. They 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.

Speaking on the collaboration, Debjani 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.
For Press Release

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12 JUNE 2019

https://www.forpressrelease.com/forpressrelease/503249/10/post-budget-reaction-quotes-from-industry-experts-business-leaders-from-various-sectors

POST-BUDGET REACTION QUOTES FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS & BUSINESS LEADERS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS

Focus on ‘Healthy India’ is the key takeaway: NATHEALTH
As India aspires to become USD 10 trillion country by 2030, inclusion of ‘Healthy India’ in the government’s 10 key priorities under Vision 2030 is one of the key takeaways from today’s Budget and emphasis on Health Assurance with necessary infrastructure, sanitation, pollution control for comprehensive wellness of people would go long way to achieve the goal of sustainable and inclusive development, according to NATHEALTH.

“Creating a robust health delivery system for comprehensive wellness of the people would be game changer. India’s NCDs burden is rising alarmingly and it is estimated to cost $6 trillion by 2030. We need to declare war on NCDs and address the critical need for strengthening the Primary Care framework focused on prevention. The Vision 2030 announced would be a critical step to stem the tide now. Proactive steps by a forward-thinking government can help enablers in healthcare to win the war against the disease burden in our country,” said Mr Daljit Singh, President, NATHEALTH. According to NATHEALTH, with Ayushman Bharat scheme in place, healthcare is expected to scale-up.

“NATHEALTH welcomes the scaling up plans for the Ayushman Bharat Mission and the government’s focus on universal health coverage that improves India’s march towards a Swasthya Bharat. However, we believe it has to be done collaboratively through value based scientific costing driving sustainable pricing supported by improved ecosystem efficiency gains. This is only way to improve quality and health outcomes over the longer term towards our goals of a healthy India,” said Mr Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary General, NATHEALTH.

According to NATHEALTH, the Interim Budget 2019 appears to be a comprehensive, wide ranging and balanced, with many positives for the health sector, however, 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, while presenting Union Budget 2019-20 couple of months later.

Government has considered all the sections and this will create comprehensive benefit to economy.

The budget has been indeed surprising as it’s different from the predecessors. A lot of rebates and good news on tax front for middle class. Income tax rebate for individuals earning till 5 lakhs is going to prove beneficial to the middle class and something that they have surely wished for. It is in fact beyond their expectation. Apart from this lot of other reforms have been proposed to support the Taxpayer like increase in standard deduction for salaried individuals, raising the TDS limits, Exemption from tax on Second Self occupied house etc.

Then the government has also planned to give 12 crore farmers 6000 rupees. This is another silver lining in the budget and a big move which will uplift their current condition.

Even on the security front they have spent 3,00,000 crore which is again a gigantic and a much needed move.

So be it escalating living standards by their cleanliness drive, providing benefit to the common man, the farmers or strengthening security, all in all the government is surely far sighted. It is working at the root level for that.
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**NATHEALTH and the Netherlands explore bilateral collaborations in Digital Health**

*NATHEALTH and The Netherlands Embassy organizes a conference on Digital health to drive innovations in Healthcare*

ETHealthWorld | June 25, 2019, 00:51 IST

New Delhi, June 24, 2019: To create a platform that brings together the Dutch and Indian expertise in digital technologies, apex Healthcare industry body—NATHEALTH and the Netherlands Embassy today organized a Digital Health Conference here in New Delhi. The conference aimed at driving digital innovation in healthcare.

The Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a Digital Health Mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector. The Conference brought the Dutch Delegation in contact with relevant stakeholders from the ecosystem to help forge partnerships in the eHealth domain.

While welcoming the experts, NATHEALTH Secretary General Mr. Siddhartha Bhattacharya said, “Our main agenda was to understand how both countries can work in partnership to address common challenges faced by the sector and co-create solutions. Digital health awaits a huge opportunity as the country aspires to become a middle income nation by 2030 given its technological penetration, advancing economy and accelerating healthcare industry.”
“To achieve the goal of Universal Health Care with continuum of care across primary, secondary and tertiary facilities, digital interventions would play the role of a powerful catalyst. Digital health interventions, with huge opportunities for investment and penetration, would make India a global leader,” he added.

Highlighting Dutch expertise and a need for collaboration in the digital healthcare space, Mr. Ron Roozendaal, Director of Information Policy and CIO Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, Netherlands said, “Life science and health is priority sector for strategic investment in both the Netherlands and India. Growing market opportunities in India, combined with the Netherlands’ strengths in areas such as Digital Health, Medical devices and Diagnostics create excellent opportunities for partnerships that address shared societal challenges with smart solutions.”

“India and the Netherlands have a joint ambition to provide high-quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to all. Rapid developments in India create opportunities for the adoption of e-health concepts from the Netherlands and the joint development of new solutions that help bring care from the hospital to the home. We look forward to explore these opportunities during this mission and learn about new approaches that might help address challenges faced in both our countries,” he added.

During the session experts highlighted the benefits of digital health and said that it is time for the healthcare industry at large to step up its efforts for better outcomes. The experiences of digital health technology forerunners (such as The Netherlands) provide collaboration opportunities with key partners like India.

The session also showcased on existing PPPs in Med-Tech/ e-Health space and highlighted Global Stars collaboration on Medical Robotics between IT-M and Eindhoven Medical Robotics. Cardiac AI Program (Apollo Hospitals, Microsoft & MUMC), Living Lab on eHealth & Med-Tech drew much attention of the experts. These success stories indicated both potential and opportunities in digital health space.

The area of digital healthcare is also a central theme for the India-Netherlands Technology Summit in October this year. The iconic annual conference-cum-exposition organised jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, will celebrate Indo-Dutch excellence in science, technology and innovation in especially the NEXUS of water-agrifood-health.
NATHEALTH partners with Well Tech to provide support to health startups

The joint initiative will provide health start-ups with access to capital, industry partnerships, and product & technology support along with helping them scale to new markets

Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH has announced its collaboration with global health-focused innovation platform Well Technologies Ltd (Well Tech) to support healthcare startups with access to capital & market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance. NATHEALTH, in association with Well Tech, plans to infuse seed investment of upto $1.5 Million.

NATHEALTH and Well Tech, a global platform for healthcare innovation, research and development signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this collaboration and under the agreement, these two healthcare entities agreed for a joint initiative to scale up and serve millions of patients and customers. The joint initiative will provide health start-ups with access to capital, industry partnerships, and product & technology support along with helping them scale to new markets. Together, the two organizations, and their partners and members, will support startups to scale up across India and globally.
“NATHEALTH and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator program that supports startups to grow and to collaborate better with Government and industry. The initiative will be supported by our members, networks, and brand. We aim to provide support to innovation through startups by leveraging Well Tech’s product and technology expertise, global network and capital partners,” said Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH.

Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from $0.5 million-1.5 million in a year.

“Entrepreneurship and a vibrant startup eco system is an absolute necessity to compete the circle of innovation in healthcare. The NATHEALTH- Well Tech partnership is a great step in that direction and one of the several value adding initiatives of NATHEALTH to Indian and global healthcare.” said Amit Mookim who is the leader for the NATHEALTH Innovation and Entrepreneurship Track in addition to his role as Managing Director, South Asia IQVIA.

“The collaboration would go a long way to create a robust startup ecosystem for the healthcare sector and innovation would provide new momentum in terms of clinical outcomes, transparency, patient safety, supply-chain management and standardization of population health services with the help of new technologies, “said Mr. Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHELTH.
NATHEALTH Partners with Well Tech to provide support to Health Startups in India

- NATHEALTH & Well Tech sign MoU, plan to select and scale up the best Indian health tech startups
- Support includes seed investment up to USD 1.5m and partnerships with leading industry players for market access.

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13 JUNE 2019

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According to a NATHEALTH-PWC Report, since January 2010, over 110 private equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC) investors have an investment in healthcare delivery space. The interest of PE & VC continues with multiple healthcare entities raised funds in 2017 as well and 2018 also witnessed investment interest in home healthcare space. VC investment in health tech startups had grown to an all-time high in 2018 with over $510 million invested across 80 startups, as per a report by Traxn Technologies. In 2016 and 2017, investments in health tech startups stood at $163 and $343 million respectively.

“Innovative new technologies and models are poised to transform how healthcare is delivered, accessed and financed in India and across the world. This is an enormous opportunity to change lives and the future of India. Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we’ll be selecting the best health tech startups in India and supporting them to scale up nationally and internationally. Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from Government, Industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up. Startups should of course apply to us directly for support.” Mr. Jaivir Pali, Chief Financial Officer, Well Technologies Limited

“Well Tech is a specialist in healthcare and technology innovation. It works with startups and large organizations around the world to create and scale new healthcare products and services,” he added.

Under the agreement, syndicate investment from Well Tech’s capital partners as well as support due diligence of startups would go long way to create a new ecosystem. Startups would get industry support from NATHEALTH members in technology, product development, innovation and global market access. The joint initiative would also support in designing the scale plan for other markets and facilitating new partnerships. The initiative aims to cater to early and growth stage start-ups and is looking to scale up across diverse categories within the domain.
Patients face tough time in hospitals as doctors in Delhi protest over violence in Bengal

There was a shutdown of outpatient departments (OPDs), routine operation theatre services and ward visits, except emergency services in several hospitals of the city, including AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and LNJP Hospital.

Patients in the national capital faced a harrowing time as doctors at several government and private hospitals boycotted work and held demonstrations at many facilities in solidarity with their protesting colleagues in Kolkata.

There was a shutdown of outpatient departments (OPDs), routine operation theatre services and ward visits, except emergency services in several hospitals of the city, including AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and LNJP Hospital.

Patients unaware of the stir reached hospitals only to return or waiting interminably to be attended.

Junior doctors in West Bengal are on strike since Tuesday after two of their colleagues were attacked and seriously injured allegedly by relatives of a patient who died at NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Scores of doctors in Delhi Friday held demonstrations, with many seeing patients in emergency wards wearing bandages on forehead or helmets, marching and raising slogans to express solidarity.

A delegation of Resident Doctors Association of AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, United Resident and Doctors Association of India (URDA) and Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA) met Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and submitted a representation to him seeking a central law to check violence against healthcare workers in hospitals.
Condemning any form of violence especially against medical professionals in the country, the India Medical Association (IMA) launched a four-day nationwide protest from Friday and called for a strike on June 17 with withdrawal of non-essential health services.

The apex medical body also wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah over their demands regarding safety of doctors in hospitals.

Vardhan on Friday supported the medical fraternity's demand for a central law to check violence against healthcare workers in hospitals and said such crimes should be made non-bailable.

"Heinous repeated attacks on doctors across India esp WBengal have led to this situation. Govt must pass a Law to make any attack on Docs a non-bailable offence with min 12 yr jail. Draconian Clinical Establishment Act that treats Docs as criminals must be withdrawn (sic)," Vardhan tweeted.

Patients, many from outstation, bore the brunt of the protest as they faced a lot of hassle in accessing medical care or waited for long hours at OPDs of hospitals.

Sumitra Devi, 51, a native of Uttar Pradesh, visited AIIMS to consult a doctor for her son but could not do so and was asked to visit later.

"I came all the way from Saharanpur yesterday and had put up near the AIIMS for my son, who has kidney-related ailments. Now, I have to wait to see the doctor again," she said.

However, many hospitals could not join the protest on Friday, as they had not earlier submitted a prior 24-hour notice to the government as required by a protocol. They will observe a bandh on Saturday.

However, the ICU and emergency wings of these hospitals will continue to function, President of Federation of Residents Doctor’s Association (FORDA) Sumedh Sandanshiv said.

The Delhi Medical Association (DMA) Friday also extended its full support to the protesting doctors in West Bengal even as it asserted that medical facilities and number of doctors need to be augmented to address issues related to patients.

Scores of doctors under the umbrella of the DMA also held a dharna in front of its office in Daryaganj and later marched to Rajghat.

Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH, in a statement said, doctors and health care providers comprise the backbone of modern healthcare delivery and require a safe environment to deliver care and save lives.
Several doctors of Delhi government hospitals, including Lok Nayak Jayaprakash (LNJP) Hospital, Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, DDU Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, and private hospital like Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Friday also joined the stir.

"Yes, doctors at LNJP Hospital have joined the protest in solidarity with colleagues in Bengal. The OPD is shut, and only emergency department is functioning. The hospital OPD’s average footfall on a regular day is about 9,000. But, today only about 2,000 has visited," the hospital’s Medical Superintendent, Dr Kishore Singh, told PTI in the afternoon.

He said patient services were affected as this is the Delhi government’s biggest hospital, but a stand has been taken to show support as fellow doctors.

At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, the private OPD was closed for Friday as a mark of solidarity, officials said.

"All doctors of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital are fully in support of our colleagues in West Bengal and strongly protest against growing tendency of violence against doctors," a hospital spokesperson said.

The resident doctors’ associations of GB Pant and Guru Nanak Hospital, associated with the Maulana Azad Medical College, also joined the protest.

Condemning the violence in West Bengal, the AIIMS RDA had on Thursday urged resident doctors’ association to join the token strike.

In the wake of the strike, several hospitals, including AIIMS, instituted contingency measures to take care of the patients admitted, including those in the ICUs and wards.
NATHEALTH Exploring Bilateral Collaborations in Digital Health With Netherlands

June 25, 2019

Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH Monday said it is exploring bilateral collaborations in digital health with the Netherlands.

Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a digital health mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

To explore driving digital innovation in healthcare, a ‘Digital Health Conference’ was organised here. The conference brought the Dutch Delegation in contact with relevant stakeholders here to help forge partnerships in the eHealth domain, it added.

“To achieve the goal of Universal Health Care with continuum of care across primary, secondary and tertiary facilities, digital interventions would play the role of a powerful catalyst,” NATHEALTH Secretary General Siddhartha Bhattacharya said.

Digital health interventions, with huge opportunities for investment and penetration, would make India a global leader, he added.

"Life Science and health is priority sector for strategic investment in both the Netherlands and India," Netherlands Director of Information Policy and CIO – Ministry of Health Ron Roozendaal said.

Growing market opportunities in India, combined with Netherlands’ strengths in areas such as digital health, medical devices and diagnostics create excellent opportunities for partnerships that address shared societal challenges with smart solutions, he added. – Business Standard
NATHEALTH exploring bilateral collaborations in digital smartly being with Netherlands

by NT Staff  24th June 2019  0

Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a digital smartly being mission to detect bilateral collaborations within the sphere, NATHEALTH stated in a press free up. PTI|Jun 24, 2019, 08.17 PM ISTAgencies NATHEALTH Secretary Total Siddhartha Bhattacharya stated, “Digital smartly being interventions, with colossal alternatives for funding and penetration, would make India a world leader.”

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NATHEALTH signs a pact with Well Tech to support new health companies in India

New Delhi, June 11 () Apex’s health industry body, NATHEALTH, said on Tuesday it had signed a pact with the Well Technologies Innovation platform to support the new healthcare companies in India.

The joint initiative will support new health care companies with access to capital and market, association with industry, mentoring and assistance for technology development, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

The support includes an initial investment of up to USD 1.5 million (approximately 10 million rupees) and partnerships with industry leading players for market access, he added.

NATHEALTH and Well Tech agreed to form a partnership to create the future of medical care in India through an accelerator program that supports new companies to grow and collaborate better with government and industry, said NATHEALTH president, Sudarshan Ballal.

Under the agreement, the new companies selected will be offered financing opportunities that will range between USD 0.5 million and 1.5 million in a year, the statement said.

Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we will select the new health technology companies in India and support them to expand nationally and internationally, said Well Technologies CFO Jaivir Pall. Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from government, industry and capital markets to join us to help health innovators expand, he added. AKT RUJ RVK RVK
Nathealth to support health start-ups in India

Posted on June 12, 2019 by PTI

New Delhi: Apex healthcare industry body Nathealth has announced that it has signed a pact with innovation platform Well Technologies to support healthcare start-ups in India.

The joint initiative will support healthcare start-ups with access to capital and market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance, Nathealth said in a statement.

Support includes seed investment up to $1.5 million (about Rs 10.5 crore) and partnerships with leading industry players for market access, it added.

“Nathealth and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator program that supports start-ups to grow and collaborate better with government and industry,” president, Nathealth, Sudarshan Ballal, said.

Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from $0.5 million-$1.5 million in a year, the statement said.

“Together with Nathealth and our other partners, we will be selecting the best health tech start-ups in India and support them to scale up nationally and internationally,” CFO, Well Technologies, Jalvir Pail, said.

“Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from government, industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up,” he added.
NATHEALTH & the Netherlands explore bilateral collaborations in Digital Health

NATHEALTH and The Netherlands Embassy organizes a conference on Digital health to drive innovations in Healthcare

Pune: To create a platform that brings together the Dutch and Indian expertise in digital technologies, apex Healthcare industry body-NATHEALTH and the Netherlands Embassy today organized a Digital Health Conference here in New Delhi. The conference aimed at driving digital innovation in healthcare.
The Dutch healthcare experts are in India on a Digital Health Mission to explore bilateral collaborations in the sector. The Conference brought the Dutch Delegation in contact with relevant stakeholders from the ecosystem to help forge partnerships in the eHealth domain.

While welcoming the experts, NATHEALTH Secretary General Mr. Siddhartha Bhattacharya said, “Our main agenda was to understand how both countries can work in partnership to address common challenges faced by the sector and co-create solutions. Digital health awaits a huge opportunity as the country aspires to become a middle-income nation by 2030 given its technological penetration, advancing economy and accelerating healthcare industry.”

“To achieve the goal of Universal Health Care with continuum of care across primary, secondary and tertiary facilities, digital interventions would play the role of a powerful catalyst. Digital health interventions, with huge opportunities for investment and penetration, would make India a global leader,” he added.

Highlighting Dutch expertise and a need for collaboration in the digital healthcare space, Mr. Ron Roozendael, Director of Information Policy and CIO Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, Netherlands said, “Life science and health is priority sector for strategic investment in both the Netherlands and India. Growing market opportunities in India, combined with the Netherlands’ strengths in areas such as Digital Health, Medical devices and Diagnostics create excellent opportunities for partnerships that address shared societal challenges with smart solutions.”

“India and the Netherlands have a joint ambition to provide high-quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to all. Rapid developments in India create opportunities for the adoption of eHealth concepts from the Netherlands and the joint development of new solutions that help bring care from the hospital to the home. We look forward to explore these opportunities during this mission and learn about new approaches that might help address challenges faced in both our countries,” he added.

During the session experts highlighted the benefits of digital health and said that it is time for the healthcare industry at large to step up its efforts for better outcomes. The experiences of digital health technology forerunners (such as The Netherlands) provide collaboration opportunities with key partners like India.

The session also showcased existing PPPs in Med-Tech/ e-Health space and highlighted Global Stars collaboration on Medical Robotics between IIT-M and Eindhoven Medical Robotics. Cardiac AI Program (Apollo Hospitals, Microsoft & MUMC), Living Lab on eHealth & Med-Tech drew much attention of the experts. These success stories indicated both potential and opportunities in digital health space.

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NATHEALTH signs pact with Well Tech to support health start-ups in India

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The joint initiative will support healthcare start-ups with access to capital and market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

Support includes seed investment up to USD 1.5 million (about Rs 10.5 crore) and partnerships with leading industry players for market access, it added.

"NATHEALTH and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator program that supports start-ups to grow and collaborate better with government and industry," NATHEALTH President Sudarshan Ballal said.

Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from USD 0.5 million-1.5 million in a year, the statement said.

"Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we will be selecting the best health tech start-ups in India and support them to scale up nationally and internationally," Well Technologies CFO Jaivir Pall said.

"Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from government, industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up," he added. AKT RUJ RVK RVK
Patients face tough time in hospitals as docs in Delhi protest over violence in WB

New Delhi, Jun 14 Patients in the national capital faced a harrowing time as doctors at several government and private hospitals boycotted work and held demonstrations at many facilities in solidarity with their protesting colleagues in Kolkata.

There was a shutdown of outpatient departments (OPDs), routine operation theatre services and ward visits, except emergency services in several hospitals of the city, including AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and LNJP Hospital.

Patients unaware of the stir reached hospitals only to return or waiting interminably to be attended.

Junior doctors in West Bengal are on strike since Tuesday after two of their colleagues were attacked and seriously injured allegedly by relatives of a patient who died at NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Scores of doctors in Delhi Friday held demonstrations, with many seeing patients in emergency wards wearing bandages on forehead or helmets, marching and raising slogans to express solidarity.

A delegation of Resident Doctors Association of AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, United Resident and Doctors Association of India (URDA) and Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA) met Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and submitted a representation to him seeking a central law to check violence against healthcare workers in hospitals.
The apex medical body also wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah over their demands regarding safety of doctors in hospitals.

Vardhan on Friday supported the medical fraternity’s demand for a central law to check violence against healthcare workers in hospitals and said such crimes should be made non-bailable.

"Heinous repeated attacks on doctors across India esp WBengal have led to this situation. Govt must pass a Law to make any attack on Docs a non-bailable offence with min 12 yr jail. Draconian Clinical Establishment Act that treats Docs as criminals must be withdrawn (sic)," Vardhan tweeted.

Patients, many from outstation, bore the brunt of the protest as they faced a lot of hassle in accessing medical care or waited for long hours at OPDs of hospitals.

Sumitra Devi, 51, a native of Uttar Pradesh, visited AIIMS to consult a doctor for her son but could not do so and was asked to visit later.

"I came all the way from Saharanpur yesterday and had put up near the AIIMS for my son, who has kidney-related ailments. Now, I have to wait to see the doctor again," she said.

However, many hospitals could not join the protest on Friday, as they had not earlier submitted a prior 24-hour notice to the government as required by a protocol. They will observe a bandh on Saturday.

However, the ICU and emergency wings of these hospitals will continue to function, President of Federation of Residents Doctor’s Association (FORDA) Sunedh Sandamshiv said.

The Delhi Medical Association (DMA) Friday also extended its full support to the protesting doctors in West Bengal even as it asserted that medical facilities and number of doctors need to be augmented to address issues related to patients.

Several doctors of Delhi government hospitals, including Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital, Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, DDU Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, and private hospital like Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Friday also joined the stir.

"Yes, doctors at LNJP Hospital have joined the protest in solidarity with colleagues in Bengal. The OPD is shut, and only emergency department is functioning. The hospital OPD’s average footfall on a regular day is about 9,000. But, today only about 2,000 has visited," the hospital’s Medical Superintendent, Dr Kishore Singh, told in the afternoon.

He said patient services were affected as this is the Delhi government’s biggest hospital, but a stand has been taken to show support as fellow doctors.

At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, the private OPD was closed for Friday as a mark of solidarity, officials said.

"All doctors of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital are fully in support of our colleagues in West Bengal and strongly protest against growing tendency of violence against doctors," a hospital spokesperson said.

The resident doctors associations of G B Pant and Guru Nanak Hospital, associated with the Maulana Azad Medical College, also joined the protest.

Condemning the violence in West Bengal, the AIIMS RDA had on Thursday urged resident doctors’ association to join the token strike.

In the wake of the strike, several hospitals, including AIIMS, instituted contingency measures to take care of the patients admitted, including those in the ICUs and wards. KND/PLB DPB DPB
NATHEALTH partners with Well Tech to support health start-ups with access to capital, mentorship & technology development assistance

Our Bureau, Bengaluru
Friday, June 14, 2019, 08:00 Hrs. [IST]

NATHEALTH has collaborated with a global health-focused innovation platform Well Technologies to support healthcare start-ups with access to capital, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance. Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from US$0.5 million to 1.5 million annually.

The two healthcare entities have agreed for a joint initiative to scale-up and serve millions of patients and customers. It will provide health start-ups to scale-up to new markets.

“We aim to provide support to innovation through start-ups by leveraging Well Tech’s product and technology expertise, global network and capital partners,” said Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, president, NATHEALTH.

“Entrepreneurship and a vibrant start-up eco-system is an absolute necessity to compete with the circle of innovation in healthcare. The partnership is a great step in that direction and one of the several value-added initiatives of NATHEALTH to Indian and global healthcare,” said Amir Molkim, leader, NATHEALTH Innovation and Entrepreneurship Track in addition to his role as Managing Director, South Asia IQVIA.

“The collaboration would go a long way to create a robust start-up ecosystem for the healthcare sector and innovation would provide new momentum in terms of clinical outcomes, transparency, patient safety, supply-chain management and standardization of population health services with the help of new technologies,” said Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH.

According to a NATHEALTH-PwC Report, since January 2010, over 110 private equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC) investors have made investment in healthcare delivery space. The interest of PE & VC continues with multiple healthcare entities raised funds in 2017 as well and 2016 also witnessed investment interest in home healthcare space. VC investment in health tech start-ups had grown to an all-time high in 2018 with over US$ 510 million invested across 80 start-ups, as per a report by Traxx Technologies. In 2016 and 2017, investments in health tech start-ups stood at US$ 163 and US$ 343 million respectively.

“Innovative new technologies and models are poised to transform how healthcare is delivered, accessed and financed in India and across the world. This is an enormous opportunity to change lives and the future of India,” said Jairir Pail, chief financial officer, Well Technologies.

“Well Tech is a specialist in healthcare and technology innovation. It works with startups and large organizations around the world to create and scale new healthcare products and services,” he added.

The start-ups would get industry support from NATHEALTH members in technology, product development, innovation and global market access. It aims to cater to early and growth stage start-ups and is looking to scale up across diverse categories within the domain.
MARD doctors go on one-day strike in support of WB doctors

ST Correspondent | Saturday, 15 June 2019

Pune: The Central Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD), the Interns Association and the undergraduate MBBS students observed a day-long mass bunk on Friday to protest over violence against doctors in the government hospital in West Bengal.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) members also observed a one-day protest by tying black ribbons on Friday.

The Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH) showed solidarity with the doctors in West Bengal and demanded justice, safe and improved working conditions for doctors across the country.

Speaking to Sakal Times, Dr Shishir Khose, MARD President from BJ General Medical College (BJGMC) said, “MARD has demanded a strong law against this violence. We condemn the brutal attacks on doctors in Kolkata. We have observed a mass bunk between 8 am to 5 pm to mark our protest. Healthcare is a crucial aspect of any person’s life. No doctor should feel scared in treating patients. We appeal to the government to make strong laws against such attacks,” said Dr Khose.

Giving details of the protest, Dr Sanjay Patil, President of IMA Pune branch said that all IMA members from the city protested by wearing black badges while working on Friday.

“The IMA Pune MSN (Medical Students Network), along with MARD, held protests in all medical colleges, especially BJ GMC, Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College and Shrimati Kashibai Navale Medical College. In the afternoon, IMA members, along with office-bearers conducted a dharna andolan at the District Collector’s office and submitted a memorandum to Resident Deputy Collector Dr Jayashree Katare,” said Dr Patil.

Dr Arun Gadre, the member of the Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH), expressed shock and sorrow at the grievous assault on junior doctors Dr Paribaha Mukherjee and Dr Yash Tekwani at NRS Medical Hospital in West Bengal.
“ADEH, in the strongest terms, condemned the escalation of violence and attempts at intimidation that have ensued in West Bengal in the aftermath of the protests by junior doctors in the last few days. In wake of the increasing violence against doctors across the country, ADEH also urges the government to acknowledge the severity of the situation and take proactive and comprehensive steps to ensure the safety of the medical community,” said Dr Gadre.

He said proactive action will go a long way in mitigating the deficit in the doctor-patient relationship.

“Along with enacting legislation for prevention of violence to healthcare professionals and institutions, the government should also focus on long-term investment in medical infrastructure, human resources and system reforms that ensure transparency in treatment, billing and effective grievance redressal mechanisms,” said Dr Gadre.

Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH stated that doctors and health care providers are the backbones of modern health care delivery and they require a safe environment to save lives.

Dr Sudarshan Ballal, President of NATHEALTH said, “We need to understand that medical professionals and establishments are doing their jobs and trying to save lives.” “The government must ensure the safety and security of doctors and paramedic workers at all times. NATHEALTH will be willing to work with the government to create a safe health care environment,” said Dr Ballal.

Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary General of NATHEALTH, added that there is deep concern regarding violence against medical community and requested government to assure a safe work environment.
NATHEALTH signs pact with Well Tech to support health start-ups in India

New Delhi, Jun 11 (IANS) Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH Tuesday said it has signed a pact with innovation platform Well Technologies to support healthcare start-ups in India. The joint initiative will support healthcare start-ups with access to capital and market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance, NATHEALTH said in a statement. Support
NATHEALTH partners with Well Tech to support health start-ups with access to capital, mentorship & technology ...

03:39 GMT - Pharmabiz.com

NATHEALTH has collaborated with a global health-focused innovation platform Well Technologies to support healthcare start-ups with access to capital, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance. Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from US$0.5 million to 1.5 million annually. The two healthcare ...
NASSCOM partners with NATHEALTH

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

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

The healthcare sector is at the cusp of transformation in terms of digital adoption and through robust policy advocacy initiatives. Speaking on the collaboration, Debjani 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.”
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.

a) Digital Adoption by Healthcare Industry: Work with members and member organizations of NATHEALTH to improve technology adoption through co-creation programs. Especially focus on IoT, AI/ML/DL, Robotics, AR/VR and Blockchain technologies that have a positive impact in improving healthcare in India.

b) Universal Healthcare: 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. Work towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and support the Government in achieving Healthcare Goals.

c) Policy Advocacy Initiatives: Jointly work on collecting the voice of the Industry on various policy and regulatory topics that directly or indirectly impact healthcare delivery in India. Where needed and feasible, represent the industry voice with the policy makers in the Government, with a view to improve the regulatory environment in India. Examples include DISHA, EHR2016, National Healthcare Blueprint etc.

d) Thought Leadership: Collaborate on joint health-ttech 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.

e) Tech Enabled innovation: 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.

“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.
Patients face tough time in hospitals as docs in Delhi protest over violence in WB

PTI | June 14, 2019 21:50 IST

(Eds: incorporating related series)

New Delhi, Jun 14 (PTI) Patients in the national capital faced a harrowing time as doctors at several government and private hospitals boycotted work and held demonstrations at many facilities in solidarity with their protesting colleagues in Kolkata.

There was a shutdown of out patient departments (OPDs), routine operation theatre services and ward visits, except emergency services in several hospitals of the city, including AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital and LNJP Hospital.

Patients unaware of the stir reached hospitals only to return or waiting interminably to be attended.

Junior doctors in West Bengal are on strike since Tuesday after two of their colleagues were attacked and seriously injured allegedly by relatives of a patient who died at NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Scores of doctors in Delhi Friday held demonstrations, with many seeing patients in emergency wards wearing bandages on forehead or helmets, marching and raising slogans to express solidarity.

A delegation of Resident Doctors Association of AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, United Resident and Doctors Association of India (URDA) and Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA) met Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and submitted a representation to him seeking a central law to check violence against healthcare workers in hospitals.

Condemning any form of violence especially against medical professionals in the country, the India Medical Association (IMA) launched a four-day nationwide protest from Friday and called for a strike on June 17 with withdrawal of non-essential health services.

The apex medical body also wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah over their demands regarding safety of doctors in hospitals.

Vardhan on Friday supported the medical fraternity's demand for a central law to check violence against healthcare workers in hospitals and said such crimes should be made non-bailable.

"Heinous repeated attacks on doctors across India esp WBengal have led to this situation. Govt must pass a Law to make any attack on Docs a non-bailable offence with min 12 yr jail. Draconian Clinical Establishment Act that treats Docs as criminals must be withdrawn (sic)," Vardhan tweeted.

Patients, many from outstation, bore the brunt of the protest as they faced a lot of hassle in accessing medical care or waited for long hours at OPDs of hospitals.

Sumitra Devi, 51, a native of Uttar Pradesh, visited AIIMS to consult a doctor for her son but could not do so and was asked to visit later.
"I came all the way from Saharanpur yesterday and had put up near the AIIMS for my son, who has kidney-related ailments. Now, I have to wait to see the doctor again," she said.

However, many hospitals could not join the protest on Friday, as they had not earlier submitted a prior 24-hour notice to the government as required by a protocol. They will observe a bandh on Saturday.

However, the ICU and emergency wings of these hospitals will continue to function, President of Federation of Residents Doctor's Association (FORDA) Sumedh Sandanshiv said.

The Delhi Medical Association (DMA) Friday also extended its full support to the protesting doctors in West Bengal even as it asserted that medical facilities and number of doctors need to be augmented to address issues related to patients.

Scores of doctors under the umbrella of the DMA also held a dharna in front of its office in Daryaganj and later marched to Rajghat.

Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH, in a statement said, doctors and health care providers comprise the backbone of modern healthcare delivery and require a safe environment to deliver care and save lives.

Several doctors of Delhi government hospitals, including Lok Nayak Jayaprakash (LNJP) Hospital, Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, DDU Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, and private hospital like Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Friday also joined the stir.

"Yes, doctors at LNJP Hospital have joined the protest in solidarity with colleagues in Bengal. The OPD is shut, and only emergency department is functioning. The hospital OPD's average footfall on a regular day is about 9,000. But, today only about 2,000 has visited," the hospital's Medical Superintendent, Dr Kishore Singh, told PTI in the afternoon.

He said patient services were affected as this is the Delhi government's biggest hospital, but a stand has been taken to show support as fellow doctors.

At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, the private OPD was closed for Friday as a mark of solidarity, officials said.

"All doctors of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital are fully in support of our colleagues in West Bengal and strongly protest against growing tendency of violence against doctors," a hospital spokesperson said.

The resident doctors associations of G B Pant and Guru Nanak Hospital, associated with the Maulana Azad Medical College, also joined the protest.

Condemning the violence in West Bengal, the AIIMS RDA had on Thursday urged resident doctors' association to join the token strike.

In the wake of the strike, several hospitals, including AIIMS, instituted contingency measures to take care of the patients admitted, including those in the ICUs and wards. PTI
NATHEALTH signs pact with Well Tech to support health start-ups in India

New Delhi, Jun 11 () Apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH Tuesday said it has signed a pact with innovation platform Well Technologies to support healthcare start-ups in India.

The joint initiative will support healthcare start-ups with access to capital and market, industry partnership, mentorship and technology development assistance, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

Support includes seed investment up to USD 1.5 million (about Rs 10.5 crore) and partnerships with leading industry players for market access, it added.

"NATHEALTH and Well Tech have agreed to form a partnership to create the future of Indian healthcare through an accelerator program that supports start-ups to grow and collaborate better with government and industry," NATHEALTH President Sudarshan Ballal said.

Under the agreement, the selected start-ups will be offered funding opportunities ranging from USD 0.5 million-1.5 million in a year, the statement said.

"Together with NATHEALTH and our other partners, we will be selecting the best health tech start-ups in India and support them to scale up nationally and internationally," Well Technologies CFO Jaivir Pall said.

“Our vision is for an innovation ecosystem and we invite stakeholders from government, industry and capital markets to join us in supporting healthcare innovators to scale up," he added. AKT RUJ RVK RVK
Control blood sugar for healthy heart

People with diabetes tend to develop heart disease at a younger age than those without this ailment

Dr RN Kalra

Diabetes has become a major health problem
worldwide, almost an epidemic. A major reason behind the sudden increase of diabetes is the changes in our diet and lifestyle. Apart from the direct problems and risks posed by diabetes, there are many associated complications that are the indirect outcome of diabetes. It is a big trigger for cardiovascular disorders including heart attacks.

India has a huge burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) with diabetes and hypertension being the major medical problems. According to a NATHEALTH Report, NCDs will cost India $ 6 trillion by 2030.

A diabetic person is more prone to develop a heart disease or get a heart attack or stroke, as diabetes causes damage to blood vessels. Diabetics are unable to process insulin properly, a hormone made by the pancreas that allows the body to use glucose from carbohydrates for energy or to store glucose for future use. Insulin helps keep the blood sugar level from getting too high (hyperglycemia) or too low (hypoglycemia).

If there is little or no insulin being produced or if the body becomes resistant to insulin, the glucose stays in the bloodstream and can’t move across to the body’s cells.

Over time, high blood glucose levels can damage blood vessels and the nerves that control the heart and its blood vessels. If one is diabetic for a long time, he/she is at a greater risk of developing heart disease. Diabetic people tend to develop heart disease at a younger age than people without diabetes. Diabetic adults face heart disease and stroke as the most common causes of death, and also are nearly twice as likely to die from heart disease or stroke as people without diabetes.
Being overweight is directly linked to several risk factors like diabetes and high blood pressure, the main triggers for heart problems. So it is essential to maintain a healthy weight, appropriate for your age, height and gender.

Along with having a balanced nutritious diet, it is equally important to avoid a sedentary lifestyle and making physical activity like jogging, running or yoga a must part of daily routine. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle can lower the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Besides this, it is also advisable to get regular health check-ups done and keep an eye on the sugar levels.

For the treatment of coronary heart diseases, it is strongly recommended that all people with diabetes must have their heart disease risk factors checked as aggressively and routinely as people who have already had heart attacks.

People with diabetes and signs of coronary heart disease are also advised to make lifestyle changes such as quitting smoking, eating a healthy and balanced diet and also incorporating physical activity into their day to day activities. Some patients may also be prescribed to some kind of medication such as; ACE inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, statins and a low dose of aspirin.
Symptoms to watch out for

A heart attack occurs when a clot prevents the blood supply to the heart.

Here are some common symptoms among heart-disease patients although these may vary from individual to individual.

- Chest pain
- Breathing problems
- Irregular heartbeat
- Swelling of ankles
- Loss of consciousness

According to International Diabetes Federation Diabetes atlas, India is second among the top 10 countries in the world with 69.2 million diabetics and another 36.5 million with pre-diabetes, a high-risk condition for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. The high prevalence of diabetes among Indians is a direct result of lifestyle changes; eating unhealthy food and being physically inactive.

Steps for a strong beat

- Keep blood sugar as normal as possible.
- Control blood pressure, with medication if necessary.
- Get cholesterol numbers under control.
- Lose weight if you are overweight.
- Exercise regularly.
- Eat a heart-healthy diet such as the Mediterranean diet or Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet.

— The writer is cardiologist and medical director, Kalra Hospital, New Delhi
Nasscom Partners With Nathealth To Boost Digital Health

By VARINDIA - 2019-06-27

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**Policy Advocacy Initiatives:** Jointly work on collecting the voice of the Industry on various policy and regulatory topics that directly or indirectly impact healthcare delivery in India. Where needed and feasible, represent the industry voice with the policy makers in the Government, with a view to improve the regulatory environment in India. Examples include DISHA, EHR2016, National Healthcare Blueprint etc.

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"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 Mr. Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary-General, NATHEALTH.