National Healthcare Agenda is ambitious and it will require stronger partnership between Government and Industry: NATHEALTH

From Health for All, Higher spending to scaling up Ayushman Bharat & creating robust infrastructure, Future goals set in political health manifestos are achievable only with robust partnerships.

Coming out with a clear and actionable national health agenda, as envisioned by Indian political leadership, is a move in the right direction and will equip the new government to expedite the promises for achieving the goal of universal health coverage, according to NATHEALTH.

National healthcare agenda includes empowering people with Healthcare for All. Higher spending, creating one medical college in each district, scaling up Ayushman Bharat and creating a robust health system for health for all are actionable. The industry will continue to collaborate to create a new and robust healthcare ecosystem.

The Indian Healthcare industry has been collaborating with the government at all levels to push efforts for achieving the goal of ‘Health for All’. However, a comprehensive National Health Agenda would certainly provide a fresh impetus for creating a new healthcare system.

A comprehensive health agenda needs active support from private sector which is playing a critical role in providing access and quality health service to people across the country.

“Overall, the healthcare agenda needs to be very comprehensive and encompass different areas like Preventive healthcare, Wellness centers, Nutrition, Immunization, Universal healthcare, affordable healthcare, increasing accessibility, reducing the shortage in number of doctors, specialists and paramedical personnel,” said Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal, President, NATHEALTH.

Universal healthcare will guarantee the right to healthcare services for every citizen, including free diagnostics, outpatient care, medicines and hospitalization through a network of public hospitals and private hospitals. It is widely admitted that India needs to raise its public spending in healthcare to above 3-4 percent of GDP and it is prudent to note that higher spending has been accorded a priority.

Strengthening of healthcare infrastructure and scaling up of Ayushman Bharat are another top priority areas and leaders across political spectrum appear committed on these fronts.

“Increasing the medical colleges by having one in each district, increasing PG seats and paramedical nursing courses will go a long way in reducing the shortage of healthcare personnel in the country in addition to improving accessibility of healthcare. It is promising to note that healthcare agenda has identified the factors and forces which would help in achieving Universal Health Coverage,” Dr. Ballal added.

Addressing the problems pertaining to the growth of medical device sector, the issue has also figured in the agenda and the industry is willing to provide expert technical support for this.

Rational and viable pricing for benefit packages is the main concern of the industry and ensuring viability of the sector will go a long way in achieving the goal of ‘Health for All.’

“We should draw attention to the fact that India needs to allocate a higher public spend on health three times more than the current spending. Moreover, quality should be at front and center of India’s healthcare priorities as accessibility and affordability together with quality improvement can help India achieve Sustainable Development Goals,” said Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Secretary General, NATHEALTH.

“We, at NATHEALTH, believe that healthcare is a crucial peg in India’s economic and social growth narrative and there is an urgent need to create a health system that improves access while maintaining quality and sector sustainability,” added Mr. Bhattacharya.

‘Health for All’ needs engagement of all stakeholders including governments and the industry fostering more meaningful partnerships which would help in creating a robust model for the Indian healthcare sector. Hence, a cohesive engagement with industry to create a long term policy framework for health will lead to a higher levels of investment, employment and sectoral growth.
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Industry body backs healthcare reforms

ANANTA DAS
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

A top healthcare industry body, NATHEALTH, has recommended to NITI Aayog to consider a number of reforms that would allow private hospitals across the country to offer Diplomate of National Board (DNB) seats to their full potential and capacity. This recommendation was made in the light of shortage in the number of specialty doctors in the country. NATHEALTH suggested that the private sector could work with the government in order to increase the number of DNB seats across the country.

NATHEALTH said in a statement that they have identified the challenges and opportunities in the private sector that they can explore and create a more desirable environment for the DNB students. This reform would not only help the private sector to boost their capacity, but also help NITI Aayog to achieve their objective of increasing DNB PG seats to 22,000 by 2022. The DNB accreditation, which is currently granted to individual hospital units, would be extended to individual hospital groups, even if each individual unit does not qualify by themselves. “We have a large pool of resident doctors in the country which do not qualify independently, but with the capacity as a chain to expand the intake of DNB students significantly,” said NATHEALTH president Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal.
Lack of specialty doctors leave health sectors in a tizzy

PBD BUREAU

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

In view of shortage of specialty doctors in the country, Apex Healthcare Industry body-NATHEALTH urged NITI Aayog to consider a slew of reforms which would go a long way in allowing private hospitals to offer DNB seats to their true capacity and potential. In order to increase the number of doctors and specialists in the country, NATHEALTH commended NITI Aayog and Government’s efforts so far and said that private sector can work with the government to increase DNB seats across India.

Currently out of 40,000 PG seats in India, only 6,500 come from the DNB system. NATHEALTH recommendations come at a time when the NITI Aayog plans to increase DNB PG seats to 22,000 by 2022. This will not only help NITI Aayog in achieving its 2022 targets but will also help private sector in enhancing their capacity.

DNB (Diplomate of National Board) accreditation is currently granted to each individual hospital unit, based on it fulfilling the eligibility criteria independently.
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