Digital initiatives to shape healthcare

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Appreciating Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s endeavour to go digital, a healthcare body, Nathealth extended its support by forming Citizen Healthcare Portal and Mobile Apps so that the digital technology trend shapes healthcare in India.

Mr Sushobhan Dasgupta, president of Nathealth, said, “PM’s efforts to transform India into a connected knowledge economy and offering world class services at the click of a mouse through Digital India programme, is truly commendable. Initiative of using mobile and internet strategies such as telemedicine, doctors on call and remote patient monitoring will help in improving the access of quality healthcare universally.

“Using wearable and mobile technology will help educate and engage citizens in healthy living and prevention of diseases... India has mobile penetration increasing at three per cent. Smartphones at 70 per cent and Internet at 22 per cent... Innovations in ‘Digital Healthcare’ will enable solutions across the healthcare value chain,” said Mr Anjan Bose, secretary general Nathealth.

Mr Dasgupta added that telemedicine through tele-Consultation, e-ICUs, remote patient monitoring, lifestyle management through education tools will further help in enhancing patient care to the next level.

Through digital mode, a patient at the primary health centre in a village can be connected to any medical specialist hundreds of miles away and diagnosed online. It can also be a powerful tool for real time disease surveillance which is needed to fight the risk of epidemics such as non-communicable diseases, Tuberculosis, Trachoma, Leprosy, Malaria.

Nathealth and Nasscom have formed a Joint Council (NNJC), comprising top leaders in healthcare and IT sectors, which will focus on creation of Central IT healthcare platform; remote healthcare, IT-enabled preventive and chronic care, and healthcare workforce, Mr Bose said.