



## EDITORIAL: INDIAN EXPRESS

**GENERAL STUDIES 3: GOVERNANCE**

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**TOPIC: HEALTH**

**FOR A VIKSIT BHARAT, FOCUS ON HEALTH**

### Introduction

- **Health as a Pillar of Economic Development:**
  - A healthy population is central to India's aspiration of becoming an economically developed nation by 2047.
  - Addressing current health challenges while anticipating emerging threats is critical for sustained progress.
- **Dual Strategy for Success:**
  - Focus on health promotion and disease prevention at the population level.
  - Ensure timely and equitable delivery of diagnostic and therapeutic services through a robust healthcare system.

### Building a Resilient Health System

#### Primary Healthcare-Led Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

- **Increased Public Health Financing:**
  - Scale up budgetary allocations at both central and state levels to strengthen the public healthcare system.
- **Financial Protection and Comprehensive Coverage:**
  - Reduce out-of-pocket expenditures by expanding health insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat.
- **Multi-Layered Workforce:**
  - Address the shortage of doctors through immediate training programs for technology-enabled frontline health workers and allied professionals.

### The Ayushman Bharat Mission: A Cornerstone of Reform

- **Strengthened Primary Healthcare:**



- Build robust primary care infrastructure to serve as the foundation of a strong health system.
- **Health Financing for Vulnerable Populations:**
  - Ensure equity in access to essential health services through targeted subsidies and financing mechanisms.
- **Digital Health Integration:**
  - Leverage digital health technologies for program monitoring, epidemiological intelligence, and system integration.

## Tackling Health Disparities

### Data-Driven Insights for Equity

- **Disaggregated Data for Local Solutions:**
  - Develop integrated data systems to provide accurate, district-level insights for culturally adaptive interventions.
- **Focus on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs):**
  - Expand real-time surveillance systems to address the growing burden of NCDs and their risk factors.

### Addressing Regional Inequalities

- **Urban-Rural Divide:**
  - Allocate resources to reduce healthcare disparities, ensuring that rural areas receive adequate infrastructure and services.

## Surveillance Systems for Emerging Threats

### Strengthening Public Health Surveillance

- **Advanced Monitoring Tools:**
  - Implement wastewater surveillance and big data analytics to detect zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance early.
- **Climate Change and Health:**
  - Integrate health monitoring with climate data to anticipate and manage vector-borne and water-borne diseases.



## The One Health Approach

- **Integrated Ecosystems Monitoring:**
  - Link human, animal, and environmental health data for holistic disease surveillance and prevention.

## Digital Transformation for Integrated Healthcare

### Seamless Data Integration

- **Bridging Public-Private Gaps:**
  - Develop shared data systems for smooth referral processes and rational treatment strategies across sectors.
- **AI and Big Data for Patient Care:**
  - Utilize artificial intelligence for precision diagnostics, treatment planning, and personalized healthcare delivery.

### Telemedicine and Rural Penetration

- **Addressing the Digital Divide:**
  - Ensure equitable access to telemedicine by expanding rural internet penetration and technological literacy.

## Overcoming Key Challenges

### Inadequate Public Health Expenditure

- Despite economic growth, healthcare spending remains low at 2.1% of GDP, leading to high out-of-pocket expenses.

### Epidemic of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

- NCDs contribute 64% to India's disease burden, demanding urgent policy attention toward preventive care.

### Mental Health Neglect

- Address the mental health crisis with increased budget allocations and the development of a trained workforce.

## Bureaucratic and Governance Issues



- Simplify regulatory frameworks to reduce delays and promote investments in healthcare infrastructure.

## Conclusion

- **Technology-Driven Reforms:**
- Leverage India's digital strengths to create an equitable and integrated healthcare system.  
**Health for All by 2047:**
  - By addressing systemic inefficiencies, promoting preventive care, and bridging gaps in urban-rural healthcare, India can achieve its vision of a healthy, productive population.
- **From Vision to Reality:**
  - Robust governance, sustainable financing, and community participation are key to transforming India's healthcare landscape into a model for inclusive growth.

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