

The image features a white background with a central horizontal band of orange. A darker orange, parallelogram-shaped element is layered on top of the orange band, tilted at an angle. The word "INTRODUCTION" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters on the left side of the orange band.

INTRODUCTION

India's health challenges are diverse. The endeavour of Department of Health & Family Welfare is to provide equitable, affordable and quality healthcare services to the people. While strengthening the primary healthcare, we have been focusing on preventive and promoting healthcare.

The highest attainable standards of physical and mental health is key to social well-being of the country. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare strives to provide quality and affordable health care to its citizen. The demographic dividend is not possible without a healthy youth.

India has come a long way in public health. The longevity in general has increased to 67.9 year. The reduction in infant mortality rate from 50 to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births along with decrease in maternal mortality rate from 212 deaths per 100,000 live births to 167 deaths during 2009-2015 are big achievement.

Eradication of polio and elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus are another milestones in the health care in India. Mission Indradhanush (MI) is one of the largest immunisation programmes in the world for ensuring access to immunisation to every child. Since its launch in 2014, full immunisation coverage has increased by 5-7% covering a massive 2.1 crore children. By 2020, 90% of children are targeted to be fully immunised. In addition to immunisation drive, tetanus vaccine, ORS packets and zinc tablets are distributed to pregnant women. 55.9 lakh pregnant women were given the tetanus toxoid vaccine across 497 high-focus districts.

Further, the Government has introduced several new vaccines in the Universal Immunisation Programme i.e. Pentavalent vaccine, which protects against five diseases, throughout the country in 2015. Rotavirus vaccine for rotavirus diarrhoea, has been launched; and inactivated polio vaccine for polio, was introduced in 2015 and expanded across all States by the middle of 2016.

Deaths of children under five in the country are more due to Pneumonia and severe diarrhoea than all other infectious diseases. Pneumococcal pneumonia is responsible for an estimated annual 5.6 lakh cases and 1.05 lakh deaths in India. Measles and Rubella (MR) also contribute significantly to India's child mortality and morbidity. MR vaccine protects children against

measles as well as rubella. Protection from rubella is essential to prevent congenital rubella syndrome, which can cause blinding cataracts, deafness and heart disease.

One of the other critical problems our country faces is Tuberculosis (TB). It is estimated that every year 28 lakh people develop TB in the country and about 4.8 lakh die because of the disease. In terms of rates, the incidence is 217 cases per lakh population and mortality of 32 per lakh population. It has been decided to accelerate TB control and pre-ponc SDG Target of 2030 to be achieved by 2025 i.e. 80% reduction in TB incidence and 90% reduction in TB mortality. Similarly, Department have resolved to eliminate Kala Azar and Filariasis during the current year and Leprosy by 2018 and Measles by 2020.

Maternal Mortality has been a major concern. The drop has been sharper than the global drop. A new boost has been given to the programme through Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan where all States are now providing fixed day Ante-Natal Care on the 9th of every month, with active participation from public and private sector doctors. After polio, India has eliminated Maternal & Neonatal Tetanus as well as Yaws.

Department has now proposes to provide universal screening to detect early symptoms of Hypertension, Diabetes and 3 common cancers. This will create a healthy India. This will be a large programme with a huge coverage.

Department is committed to reform Medical Education to improve quality and increase availability of qualified medical doctors. Department has implemented National Eligibility cum Entrance Test which will prove to be a game changer in the admission process in the medical colleges and also working on other critical reforms in Medical Education this year.

Shortage of doctors and facilities can be best addressed by Digital Health. In the past one year itself, Department has taken key initiatives. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has successfully launched the e-hospital project and has benefited 39 lakh people. Several applications like 'Mera Aspaataal', 'Kilkari', 'Mobile Academy' and

'Anmol' have been launched. All these will help to develop a better connect. The country is also, for the first time, taking up in a big way telemedicine and teleconsultation. 'SUGAM' has been operationalized for licensing and approval of drugs.

Although, we have made some significant achievements in the recent past yet a lot more is to be done in the near future. My introductory note indicates the major initiatives taken by my Department:-

1. National Health Mission

The National Health Mission (NHM) envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality healthcare services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs. The main programmatic components include health System Strengthening in rural and urban areas, Reproductive-Maternal-Neonatal-Child and Adolescent health (RMNCH+A) interventions and control of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.

It is gratifying to note that the under 5 mortality dropped by 4 points in the survey of 2014 and Infant Mortality dropped by 2 points in the survey of 2015.

2. Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

- Out of the total target beneficiary of 5.8 crore families spread across 15 States, 3.5 crore families were enrolled, resulting in the enrolment conversion ratio of 59%.
- 131 Lakh Beneficiaries took the benefits since inception of RSBY scheme.
- The Central Government had incurred an expenditure of Rs. 216.12 crore as the Central Government's Share of Premium as on 31.10.2016.
- A network of hospitals has been developed across implementing State/UTs by empaneling 4358 private hospitals and 3029 public hospitals under RSBY scheme.

Finance Minister announced in budget speech 2016-

17 to launch a new health protection scheme which will provide health cover up to Rs.1 lakh per family per year for poor and economically weak families. For senior citizens aged 60 years and above belonging to this category an additional top up package upto Rs. 30,000 will be provided.

3. Development of Nursing Services

National Florence Nightingale Award was given on 12th May, 2016 by Hon'ble President of India to 35 nursing personnel as a mark of highest recognition for meritorious services in the nursing profession in the country.

Under the scheme of Upgradation/Strengthening of Nursing Services, 128 ANM and 137 GNM Schools have been sanctioned in those districts of 29 high focus States of the country where there is no such school and a total amount to the tune of Rs. 800 crore (including releases of Rs. 25 crore for 2016-17) has been released so far to the States. This is expected to create 13,500 additional intake capacities of candidates per year.

4. National Programme for Control of Blindness(NPCB)

The National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) was launched in the year 1976 as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme (now 60:40 in all States and 90:10 in NE States) with the goal of reducing the prevalence of blindness to 0.3% by 2020. The Plan of Action to implement NPCB has been prepared in the line with Global initiative "Vision 2020: the Right to Sight". The programme continues focus on development of comprehensive eye care service targeting common blinding disorders including, Cataract, Refractive Errors, Glaucoma, Diabetic Retinopathy, Childhood Blindness, Corneal Blindness etc.

5. National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE)

"National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE)" has been launched to address health related problems of elderly, in 100 identified districts of 21 States during the 11th Plan Period. Eight Regional Geriatric Centres as referral units have also

been developed in different regions of the country under the programme. It has now been proposed to cover optimum no. of additional districts under the programme during the 12th Five Year Plan and to develop 12 additional Regional Geriatric Centres in selected Medical Colleges of the country. The programme is being implemented at States/UTs under NHM component and at Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs)/National Centres of Ageing(NCAs) under Tertiary component of the programme.

6. National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)

The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) has been implemented by Government of India as 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme through State AIDS Control Societies in the States for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the country. The National AIDS Control Programme has evolved through three phases of implementation and is currently in its fourth phase and is globally acclaimed as one of the most successful programmes. Currently, the NACP-IV (2012-2017) has entered in the last year of its implementation. NACP-IV aims to consolidate the gains made till now while making further strides with a goal of accelerating reversal and integrating response. NACP-IV had two objectives - Reduce new infections by 50% (2007 Baseline of NACP-III) and provide comprehensive care and support to all persons living with HIV/AIDS and treatment services for all those who require it.

7. WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Department of Health & Family Welfare hosted the Seventh Session of the Conference of Parties (COP7) to WHO FCTC from 7-12 November, 2016, at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first global evidence-based public health treaty that recognises the right of all people to the highest standard of health. The Treaty was developed by countries in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic. There are currently 180 Parties to the Convention. India has been the forerunner in ratification of this public health treaty and was the 7th Country to ratify the Convention in 2004. India provided a leadership role in the negotiations of FCTC and was also the Regional Coordinator for the

South-East Asia Region. India has taken strong measures for compliance of FCTC.

It was the first occasion that a Conference of Parties (COP) meeting was held in India which signals a strong commitment of the Government of India to increase international co-operation and awareness of the WHO FCTC globally and especially in the WHO South-East Asia Region. A large number of delegates about 1100 from 140 countries with other Observers in official relations with the WHO FCTC Secretariat, Geneva participated in this event.

It is a matter of pride for India that India has been elected to serve as President of the COP Bureau for next two years.

8. Forward Linkages Scheme

With a view to complement the initiatives under the NRHM Programme, the Scheme for Forward Linkages to NRHM in NE States was introduced during the 11th Five Year Plan, to be financed from likely savings from other Health Schemes. This aims at improving the Tertiary and Secondary level Health Infrastructure of the region in a comprehensive manner. An outlay of Rs. 748.00 crore has been made for the scheme in the 12th Plan. An amount of Rs. 192.07 crore has been released in this plan period so far. In Financial Year 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 13.50 crore has been released till the third quarter.

9. E-Governance

National Health Portal (NHP)

The National Health Portal serves as a single point access for authenticated health information for citizens, students, healthcare professionals and researchers. A number of new & value-added features were incorporated in National Health Portal, such as:

- **Health Directory Services** provides information related to Hospital and Blood Banks across India.
- **India Fights Dengue** enables a user to check Dengue Symptoms, get nearest Hospital/Blood Bank information and also share feedback.
- **Swasth Bharat App.** provides authentic and

detailed information regarding healthy lifestyle, disease conditions, symptoms, treatment options, first aid and public health alerts.

- **Vaccine Tracker (Indradhanush Immunization)** facilitates parents in tracking the immunization status/schedule of their children.
- **Stress Management:** It refers to the wide spectrum of techniques and psychotherapies aimed at controlling a person's levels of stress, especially chronic stress, usually for the purpose of improving everyday functioning.

The other E-Governance initiatives are Online Registration System (ORS), e-Hospital, National Health Helpline (Doctor on Call), National Identification Number (NIN) to Health Facilities, Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), Electronic Health Record (EHR), National Release Centre (NRC) for SNOMED CT, National eHealth Authority (NeHA) and Electronic Health Data Privacy & Security.

10. Non Communicable Diseases

India is experiencing a rapid health transition with a rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) surpassing the burden of Communicable diseases like water-borne or vector-borne diseases, TB, HIV, etc. The Non-Communicable Diseases like Cardiovascular diseases, Cancer, Chronic Respiratory Diseases, Diabetes and other NCDs are estimated to account for around 60% of all deaths, thus making them the leading causes of death. NCDs cause considerable loss in potentially productive years of life. Losses due to premature deaths related to heart diseases, stroke and Diabetes are also projected to increase over the years.

In order to combat the major NCDs, the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) was launched in 2010, with focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral.

11. Drugs and Medical Devices

Making generic drugs available to the population will

not only cut costs of the treatment but also further promote generic drug manufacturing industry in India. We propose to amend the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules in a manner that will ensure availability of drugs at a reasonable price and promote use of generic medicines in India.

Currently, medical devices are regulated under Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945. India has a huge potential of Make in India in the medical devices sector. With this in view, regulatory hurdles are being removed through a new set of separate rules for regulating manufacturing and import of medical devices industry in the country. These rules will be internationally harmonised and will be a positive step both from the perspective of 'Ease of Doing Business' as well as 'Make in India'. This will also enhance access and affordability.

12. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) has been launched with the objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and to also augment facilities for quality medical education in the country. PMSSY has two components – setting up of AIIMS like institutions and up-gradation of existing State Government Medical Colleges/Institutions and is being taken up in phased manner.

Recently, Foundation Stone for new AIIMS at Gorakhpur was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22nd July 2016.

13. Medical Education

At present, there are 472 medical colleges in the country, out of which 212 in Government and 260 in private sector with annual admission capacity of 65183 MBBS and 26450 Post-Graduate students per year. 51 new Medical colleges were granted permission during the academic year 2016-17 session. Over 90,000 MBBS seats were renewed during this year.

At present, there are 309 dental colleges in the country out of which 44 are in Government sector and

265 are in private sector with annual admission capacity of 26,790 BDS and 6,019 Post Graduate (MDS) seats per year. 1 (One) new dental college has been granted permission for establishment during the academic year 2016-17. A total of 260 BDS and 165 MDS seats has been increased for the academic year 2016-17. Over 2,900 (Two thousand Nine hundred) BDS seats have been renewed during this academic year.

14. Summation

Keeping in view the goal of provisioning affordable, assured, reliable and accessible health care, many schemes/programmes have been initiated. There has been a renewed and sharpened focus on strengthening the health care systems catering to the need and wants of the common man. We will continue to strive to achieve the goal. Department resolve is *wherever we cannot connect physically, we will connect digitally. But, Healthcare will reach all.*

(C. K. Mishra)
Secretary
Department of Health & Family Welfare