

India's journey towards tech-driven healthcare

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India has witnessed an extraordinary transformation in its healthcare sector, driven by the rapid integration of digital technologies for ensuring universal health coverage (UHC). This paradigm shift to digital health transformation is epitomised by the government's National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) and has significantly impacted the way healthcare services are delivered and accessed across the country.

India's G20 presidency showcases its exceptional leadership in digital technology, aiming to accelerate SDG3 goals by 2030. India's initiatives such as Aadhaar - Unique Identity (UID), JAM trinity (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) streamline daily life through digital avenues. This serves as a catalyst to NDHM's expansion, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), popularly known as Ayushman Bharat.

The Covid-19 crisis accelerated digital health interventions globally, with India's CoWIN platform playing a crucial role in vaccination drives. Digital solutions such as eSanjeevani and Aarogya Setu further reshaped public health management. Over the past decade, path-breaking initiatives such as Mission Indradhanush have improved the full immunisation coverage, expanding the basket of vaccines by introducing of six new ones in a record period of two years. Programmes such as the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) have revolutionised vaccine logistics supply and cold chain management. These monumental initiatives in



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the field of public health, led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, have been adjudged as best practices in the field of global health and adapted by several countries.

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) and G20 India presidency launched the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) at the G20 health ministers meeting held in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) to converge and convene global standards, best practices and resources to fast-track digital health system transformation across the world. GIDH will operate as a WHO-managed network to support the implementation of the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025. As part of collaborative action, the Wadhvani Initiative for Sustainable Healthcare (WISH) announced the establishment of the Wadhvani Institute for Digital Health (WIDH) in India, a fully aligned extension arm of GIDH. This collaboration aims to revolutionise the country's digital health infrastructure,

acting as a hub for technology and innovation to bolster the global digital health ecosystem. WIDH will create an evidence-based repository of digital health tools as Digital Public Goods for Health, while fostering a collaborative network with key stakeholders, identifying opportunities and aiding the development of the National Digital Health Ecosystem. By customising and scaling advanced digital health solutions and establishing Digital Innovation Labs, it will facilitate the implementation and evaluation of digital health technologies across various sectors.

Moreover, to provide a fillip to this initiative, WISH foundation has forged a partnership with its sister organisation, Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence (WIAI) — a pioneering organisation in the country on artificial intelligence (AI) — to enhance digital health capacities, merging healthcare, technology and management skills to drive sustainable implementation, utilising AI and data management to address real-world challenges.

India's digital health transformation is resetting healthcare, enhancing inclusivity, accessibility and patient-centricity, potentially bridging long-standing gaps in access and delivery.

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