



INDIA भारत

74th UNGA

UN High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

**Statement by
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**

23 September 2019

Mr. President

World Welfare begins with People's welfare, and health is an important component of it.

And this is why, this subject is a matter of high priority for India.

We have taken a holistic approach towards this subject, and are working on four main pillars of healthcare.

The **first pillar** is Preventive Healthcare. We have laid special emphasis on Yoga, Ayurveda and Fitness. We are building more than 125,000 wellness centers.

- These actions have helped in controlling life style diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, depression etc.
- The craze for e-cigarette is a matter of concern for India. India in order to save the youth from this very severe problem has banned e-cigarettes.
- Our Clean India Campaign has contributed towards saving millions of lives. We have also paid special attention to immunization.
- Apart from introducing new vaccines, we have also improved access to vaccination in far-flung areas.

The **second pillar** is Affordable Healthcare.

- We have rolled out the world's largest health insurance scheme- Ayushman Bharat.
- Under this scheme, 500 million poor, have been given the facility of free treatment worth up to 500,000 rupees annually.
- In the last one year, 4.5 million people have availed of this facility.

- We have opened more than 5000 Special Pharmacies, where more than 800 varieties of vital medicines are available at affordable prices.
- The cost of Stents for heart patients has been slashed by 80% and the cost of Knee Implants has been cut down by 50 to 70 percent.
- Hundreds of thousands of kidney patients in India, are also availing the free dialysis services provided by the government.

The **third pillar** is improvements on the supply side.

- And for this, in India, we have taken several historic steps for quality medical education, and for medical infrastructure development. We have brought about radical changes across the entire sector.

And the **fourth pillar**, is mission mode intervention.

- If mothers and children are healthy, it can lay the foundation for a healthy society. And it is because of this reason, that we have started an initiative of National Nutrition, in mission mode.
- In the Sustainable Development goals, 2030 has been set as the target year for ending Tuberculosis. In India, we have set this target in mission mode, as 2025. And I am fully confident, that we will be able to achieve this target.
- Further, we have also started a campaign against diseases that spread due to air pollution and through animals.

Excellencies,

Health does not simply mean freedom from diseases. A healthy life also, is every person's right. And the onus for this is on our governments to make every possible effort to ensure this.

And India's efforts are not limited to its boundaries.

We have helped to provide access to affordable health care by way of tele-medicine to several other countries, especially African countries. And we will continue to do so.

Our experience, and our capabilities, are available for use to all developing countries.

Excellencies,

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhin, Sarv Santu Nirmaya.

Meaning 'May all be Happy, May all be Disease-free'.

Thank you.