



# drishti

## Central Council Of Health And Family Welfare Conference

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Recently, the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) was held in New Delhi.

### Key Highlights

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- The purpose of the meeting was to **build a consensus** on the **national health priorities**.
- It focused on **two priority areas** for the public health sector:
  - **Increasing health budgets** by the Centre and the States/UTs.  
According to the **National Health Policy (NHP), 2017**, there has to be a collective increase in healthcare spending by the Centre & States/UTs to meet the goals of healthcare spending of **2.5% of GDP by 2025**.
  - **Strengthening of medical infrastructure**.  
This would target the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through **Ayushman Bharat, eliminating TB** and other communicable diseases, **National Health Mission**, and other priority agendas.
- In the conference, the emphasis was laid upon **four pillars of healthcare**, which include,
  - Mission mode interventions,
  - Quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare services,
  - Universal health coverage, and
  - Adequate health infrastructure.

### Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW)

- It is an apex **advisory body** set up under **Article 263 of the Constitution** to provide support and advice to the **Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** on policy formulation and to consider and recommend broad lines of policy in regard to matters concerning health.
- The first meeting of the CCHFW was held in **1988**.

- **Organizational Structure of Council:**
  - **Chairperson:** Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare,
  - **Vice-Chairperson:** Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare.

## Article 263 of the Constitution

- Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment.
- Therefore, the president has established the following councils to make recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action in the related subjects:
  - Central Council of Health.
  - Central Council of Local Government and Urban Development.
  - Four Regional Councils for Sales Tax for the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern Zones.

- To mark the occasion of **World Sight Day** (a global **annual** event observed on the **second Thursday of October**) report on '**National Diabetes & Diabetic Retinopathy Survey India 2015-19**' and on '**National Blindness & Visual Impairment Survey India 2015-19**' were released.

Major findings of the survey in India are:

- One in eight persons above 50 years is **Diabetic**,
  - One in every 46 diabetics is **Blind**; and
  - One in seven suffers from some form of **visual impairment** due to high blood sugar levels.
- **Initiatives Launched:**
    - **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN):** This initiative aims to achieve **zero** preventable **Maternal and Newborn Deaths**. On the occasion, its website and the grievance redressal portal was also launched.

According to the **NITI Aayog** data, **Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)** has dropped by 8% in India to **130 per 100,000 live births**. The aim is to get it in line with the Sustainable Development Goal of 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.
    - **Other initiatives:** The minister unveiled two info-leaflets on Suicide Prevention to mark the **World Mental Health Day**.
      - Guidelines on Drugs and Diagnostic Service Initiative,
      - Guidelines for Biomedical Equipment Management & Maintenance Programme, and
      - Guidelines for Peritoneal Dialysis under **Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme**.

## Way Forward

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- There is a **need for enhanced engagement with the private sector** for augmenting the efforts of the public sector, to bring in equity by increasing the number of beds and hospitals, so as to meet the global standards of health infrastructure.
- Without the political leadership and commitment of the States & UTs, healthcare cannot be effective. As highlighted in Economic Survey 2017-18 the cooperative federalism “technology” of the GST Council that brings together the Center and States could be promisingly deployed to meet the desired targets.

**Source: PIB**