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Telemedicine Service Platform: eSanjeevani

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Why in News

The **telemedicine service platforms of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** i.e. '**eSanjeevani**' and '**eSanjeevaniOPD**' have completed 1.5 lakh tele-consultations.

- The **top two States** which have registered highest consultations through the platforms are **Tamil Nadu** (32,035 consultations) and **Andhra Pradesh** (28,960). Since November 2019, tele-consultation by eSanjeevani and eSanjeevaniOPD have been implemented by 23 States.
- Both the platforms have been developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** Mohali.
C-DAC is the **premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

Key Points

- **Telemedicine:** As per the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, telemedicine is the delivery of health care services, where distance is a critical factor, by all health care professionals **using Information Technology (IT)** for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injuries, research and evaluation, etc, all in the interests of advancing the health of individuals and their communities.
Tele-consultation is one of the applications of telemedicine. It uses IT to facilitate communications between a patient and a doctor who are otherwise geographically separated.

- **eSanjeevani:**
 - It is a **doctor to doctor telemedicine system**, being implemented under the **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme**.
AB-HWCs are envisaged to be the platform for delivery of an expanded range of primary health care services closer to the communities.
 - It **seeks to connect all 1,50,000 HWCs using the hub-and-spoke model by December 2022**.
Under the model, a network will be established comprising an anchor establishment, or hub, which offers a full array of services, and will be complemented by secondary establishments, or spokes, which offer limited services, routing patients needing more intensive services to the hub for treatment.
 - Presently, telemedicine is being provided through more than 3,000 HWCs in 10 States.
- **eSanjeevaniOPD:**
 - It was **launched amid the Covid-19 pandemic** to enable **patient-to-doctor tele-consultations**.
 - Offered at **no cost**, this **e-health service** has made it convenient for the people to avail of the health services without having to travel. It enables **two-way interaction** and even generates a prescription slip.
 - It is **hosting over 40 online Out Patient Department (OPD) services**, more than half of these are speciality OPDs which include Gynaecology, Psychiatry, **AntiRetroviral Therapy (ART) for the AIDS/HIV patients, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)** etc.

Way Forward

- These platforms can be a **gamechanger for people in the rural areas** who do not have easy access to medical specialists located in cities.
- Telemedicine saves time and cost. Further, these platforms are in line with the government's vision of **'Digital India'** and necessary to tackle situations created by a pandemic like Covid-19.

Source: PIB