



## National Digital Health Blueprint

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has released the National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) report in the public domain for inputs from various stakeholders.

- **Citizen centricity, quality of care, better access, universal health coverage, and inclusiveness** are some of the key principles of a robust healthcare system.
- All these aspirations can be realized principally by [leveraging the power of the digital technologies](#).
- In the context of India, with its size and diversity, this mammoth task requires that a **holistic, comprehensive and interoperable digital architecture** is crafted and adopted by all the stakeholders, and therefore the need of a blueprint.

### Recommendations

- A new entity, **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**, is recommended to be established as a purely **government organization** with complete functional autonomy on the lines of [Unique Identification Authority of India \(UIDAI\)](#) and [Goods and Services Network GSTN](#).
- The Objectives of NDHB are aligned to the Vision of National Health Policy 2017 and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) relating to the health sector. These include:
  - Establishing and managing the **core digital health data and the infrastructure** required for its seamless exchange.
  - Promoting the adoption of **open standards by all the actors in the National Digital Health Ecosystem (NDHE)**, for developing several digital health systems that span across the sector from wellness to disease management.
  - Creating a system of **Personal Health Records**, based on international standards, and easily accessible to the citizens and to the service providers, based on citizen-consent.
  - Following the **best principles of cooperative federalism** while working with the States and Union Territories for the realization of the Vision.
  - Promoting **Health Data Analytics** and **Medical Research**.
  - Enhancing the **efficiency and effectiveness of Governance** at all levels.
  - Ensuring **Quality** of Healthcare.
  - Leveraging the **Information Systems already existing** in the health sector
- While the Blueprint has **identified 23 Building Blocks**, a few of the **critical capabilities** of NDHE are:
  - **Identification:** The Blueprint handles the requirements of Unique identification of **Persons, Facilities, Diseases and Devices through 2 Building Blocks, namely, Personal Health Identifier (PHI), and Health Master Directories & Registries**.
    - This can be achieved through a combination of **Aadhaar-based Identification/ Authentication** and **through other specified types** of identifiers.
  - **Citizen to be in Control:** The Blueprint achieves the complex and mandatory requirements of maintaining the confidentiality, security, and privacy of health records through **Consent Manager, Anonymizer and Privacy Operations Centre**.
  - **Service Access/ Delivery:** Access and delivery to be implemented by a combination of **Web (India Health Portal), Mobile (MyHealth App) and Call Centres besides Social Media Platforms**.
    - The Command, Control and Communication Centre enable real-time monitoring and

real-time interventions needed in the NDHE.

- Given the significant spread of smartphones and the prospects of its further growth, The Blueprint **emphasizes the 'Mobile First' principle** for the majority of stakeholder-facing services.
  - **Interoperability:** The Health Information Exchange and the National Health Informatics Standards enable and promote the interoperability of various building blocks.
- It can be noted that recently, as part of the high-level summit, the **Delhi Declaration on digital health for sustainable development** was adopted at the concluding session of the '**4<sup>th</sup> Global Digital Health Partnership Summit**'.

### Global Digital Health Partnership Summit

- The '**4<sup>th</sup> Global Digital Health Partnership Summit**' was held in **February, 2019 in New Delhi**
- It was hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)**.

### Global Digital Health Partnership

- The **Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)** is an international collaboration of governments, government agencies and multinational organisations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.
- It was **established in February 2018**, to provide an opportunity for transformational engagement between its participants.
- **Australia** was the host country for the **inaugural summit in 2018**.

### World Health Organisation

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations** that is concerned with international public health.
- It is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The WHO's constitution came into force on April 7, 1948 - a date now celebrated every year as **World Health Day**.
- The **World Health Assembly** is the supreme decision-making body in WHO. The assembly meets annually and is attended by delegations from 194 member states.