



SAMRIDH Initiative

For Prelims: SAMRIDH Initiative, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, Covid-19.

For Mains: Significance of SAMRIDH initiative in improving Healthcare Landscape.

Why in News?

[Atal Innovation Mission \(AIM\)](#), [NITI Aayog](#), and the **US Agency for International Development (USAID)** announced a new partnership under the **Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative**.

- The collaboration will focus on **innovations across the healthcare landscape with the common goal to mount an effective response** to the ongoing third wave of **Covid-19** and build health system preparedness for future infectious disease outbreaks and health emergencies.
- The **Planning Commission was replaced by a new Think Tank - NITI Aayog on 1st January, 2015** with emphasis on **'Bottom -Up' approach** to envisage the vision of **Maximum Governance, Minimum Government**, echoing the spirit of **'Cooperative Federalism'**.
- **AIM** is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to **promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship** in the country.

What is the SAMRIDH Initiative?

- **About:**
 - In 2020 the Indian government, academia, and the private sector developed the **innovative SAMRIDH blended finance facility** to combine **public and philanthropic funds with commercial capital** to create and rapidly scale market-based health solutions.
 - **Blended finance** is an approach towards financing where catalytic funding (e.g grants and concessional capital) from public and philanthropic sources is utilized to mobilize additional private sector investment to realize social goals and outcomes.
 - It will improve **access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations** in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.
 - This initiative is implemented **by a Technical Support Unit** managed by **IPE Global (a company)**.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Bridge supply-side gaps in healthcare facilities** to respond to health emergencies in the immediate, medium, and long term.
 - Accelerate scale-up and **adoption of innovative and market-based health solutions**.
 - **Mobilize resources** to support high impact health solutions and build sustainable healthcare systems.
 - **Promote local and comprehensive solutions** at the community and facility level for vulnerable populations.
- **Significance:**
 - AIM and SAMRIDH will **leverage philanthropic capital, and public sector resources to**

offset barriers for commercial investments in small and medium health enterprises to invest in and scale healthcare solutions.

- The new partnership announced will **enhance SAMRIDH's efforts to reach vulnerable populations**, leveraging AIM's expertise in innovation and entrepreneurship.



Identify and support a minimum of 35 to 40 healthcare innovators (over 3 years) by enabling access to affordable capital



Mobilize a capital pool of \$100 million+ from private sector and bilateral organizations to support inclusive business models



Strengthen comprehensive healthcare services focused at the vulnerable 40% of the population with a high disease burden



Reduce the out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) for lower economic and underserved communities

How is it different from the SAMRIDH Programme?

- The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** launched the '[Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and growth \(SAMRIDH\) programme](#)' in August 2021.
- It was launched to **create a conducive platform to Indian Software Product start-ups to enhance their products** and secure investments for scaling their business.

What is the current Healthcare Landscape in India?

- Although India's healthcare sector has grown rapidly over the last five years (Compound Annual Growth Rate of 22%), **Covid-19 has brought to the forefront persistent challenges** such as a weak health system, lack of quality infrastructure, and lack of quality service delivery to vulnerable populations.
- India's **healthcare spending is 3.6% of GDP**, including out-of-pocket and public expenditure.
 - The combined total government expenditure of both central and state is 1.29% of GDP.
 - India spends the least among BRICS countries: Brazil spends the most (9.2%), followed by South Africa (8.1%), Russia (5.3%), China (5%).
- The Government of India has launched the **flagship initiative [Ayushman Bharat \(AB\) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana \(PM-JAY\)](#)** the world's largest non-contributory Government-sponsored health insurance scheme that enables increased access to in-patient healthcare for poor and vulnerable families in secondary and tertiary facilities.

[Source: PIB](#)