INDIA-UK COLLABORATION ON HEALTHCARE IS STRONGER THAN EVER

The main principle of NHS that has stood the test of time successfully is delivering healthcare to all based on their clinical need rather than their ability to pay. It is this very principle that drives Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious National Health Policy as well

On July 5, 2018, National Health Service (NHS) of the UK will be celebrating its 70th year of foundation. According to Aneurin Bevan, Founder, NHS, it is largest experiment in social service undertaken anywhere in the world. It is a coincidence that India is celebrating its 70th year of independence as well. Seven decades ago when the legislation establishing the NHS was passed in the UK, the Bhore Committee in India was setting up the first national plan for health in India. The main principle of NHS that has stood the test of time successfully is delivering healthcare to all based on their clinical need rather than their ability to pay. It is this very principle that drives Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious National Health Policy as well.

According to Sir Malcolm Grant, Chairman, NHS England, "India's National Health Policy is arguably the most ambitious reform programme since Bhore Committee. When the Prime Minister of India launched the National Health Policy last year, he described it as 'a historic moment in our endeavour to create a healthy India where everyone has access to quality healthcare'. As Britain celebrates its own historic landmark, I look forward to India-UK collaboration on healthcare being stronger than ever."

There are numerous examples of impressive collaboration between the health systems of India and the UK. Indo UK Institute of Health (IUIH) that plans to build world-class medicities is one such example. Besides this, the Health Education England has begun an ambitious new programme to train Indian nurses and doctors in the NHS who will then return to India with enhanced skills.
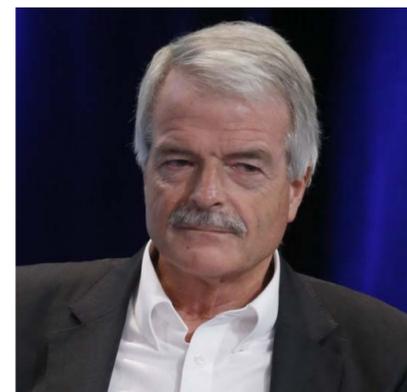
DR AJAY RAJAN GUPTA
MD and Group CEO, Indo UK Institute of Health (IUIH)

"What's remarkable for over 400 million Indians who'll benefit from IUIH bringing in the UK's NHS standard healthcare is the fact that nothing but the best in the world is coming to them. The NHS has been judged the best, safest and most affordable healthcare system out of 11 countries analysed and ranked by experts from the influential Commonwealth Fund health think tank.

JEREMY HUNT
UK's health secretary

"These outstanding results are a testament to the dedication of NHS staff who, despite pressure on the frontline are delivering safer, more compassionate care than ever."

SIR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman, NHS England

"India's National Health Policy is arguably the most ambitious reform programme since Bhore Committee. When the Prime Minister of India launched the National Health Policy last year, he described it as 'a historic moment in our endeavour to create a healthy India where everyone has access to quality healthcare'. As Britain celebrates its own historic landmark, I look forward to India-UK collaboration on healthcare being stronger than ever."

RICHARD MURRAY
Director of Policy, London-based King's Fund think tank

"The UK's ranking is welcome and reflects the strong fundamentals of the NHS. Universal access to health services, a founding principle of the NHS, is rightly recognised by the Commonwealth Fund ranking."

The UK's Global Health Alliance is already doing working in rural India and has launched in India a new fellowship in aviation medicine and a diploma in emergency medicine for nurses. Both India and the UK are looking for ways to use telemedicine to help support patients without high cost face-to-face clinical interactions. In India, this has the potential to transform the way healthcare is delivered to the two-thirds of the population living in rural areas

The UK's Global Health Alliance is already doing working in rural India and has launched in India a new fellowship in aviation medicine and a diploma in emergency medicine for nurses. Both India and the UK are looking for ways to use telemedicine to help support patients without high cost face-to-face clinical interactions. In India, this has the potential to transform the way healthcare is delivered to the two-thirds of the population living in rural areas. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is another area where the NHS has made important progress and is currently testing the deployment of AI for diagnosis of breast cancer, eye disease and kidney disease. India similarly has been conducting trials on the use of AI to diagnose cervical cancers and improve blood test accuracy.

Sir Malcolm Grant is of the view that these examples are only the tip of the iceberg in terms of opportunities that exist. Be it the use of electronic patient records, wearables and self-management apps, or the accelerating progress in 3D printing, predictive analytics and personalised medicine, there is little doubt that health systems of India and the UK will witness transform radically over the next decade. "We can together embark on this transformative journey, learning from each other's experiences and innovations," he adds.

According to Dr Ajay Rajan Gupta, MD & Group CEO, Indo UK Institute of Health (IUIH), "What's remarkable for over 400 million Indians who'll benefit from IUIH bringing in the UK's NHS standard healthcare is the fact that nothing but the best in the world is coming to them. The NHS has been judged the best, safest and most affordable healthcare system out of 11 countries analysed and ranked by experts from the influential Commonwealth Fund health think tank. It is the second time in a row that the study, which is undertaken every three years, has found the UK to have the highest-rated health system."

Jeremy Hunt, UK's health secretary, lauding the NHS's top ranking, said, "These outstanding results are a testament to the dedication of NHS staff who, despite pressure on the frontline are delivering safer, more compassionate care than ever."

Richard Murray, the director of policy at the London-based King's Fund think tank, said, "The UK's ranking is welcome and reflects the strong fundamentals of the NHS. Universal access to health services, a founding principle of the NHS, is rightly recognised by the Commonwealth Fund ranking."

The NHS of UK has been rated better than health systems of Australia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Canada, France, and the US. This ranking is even more notable because the think tank found the UK to put the fourth smallest amount of GDP into healthcare among the 11 countries.