

Public health in India has moved into a new phase

Chandra Ganjoo, Group Chief Executive Officer, Trivitron Healthcare emphasises that even though India has made progress in all areas, including healthcare, the pandemic has opened our eyes. It has identified the areas in our public health system that need immediate improvement and forced everyone to concentrate

The COVID-19 pandemic, which upended even the most advanced healthcare systems in prosperous nations, also affected India's healthcare system, posing unprecedented and catastrophic risks. Indian healthcare responded quickly to the situation by working closely with the public and private sectors and isolating patients, developing treatment plans, building isolation facilities, and producing vaccines.

Battling the pandemic

Our nation reported 4.14 lakh COVID-19 cases per day at its height in May 2021, when there was also a severe lack of beds in hospitals and critical medical supplies. The government's prompt response somewhat lessened this. Indeed, the entire journey has been tumultuous, particularly in public health.

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In recent years, public health in India has moved into a new phase. The COVID-19 pandemic increased our awareness of bolstering the public health system. Although the stakeholders have been working on initiatives to increase healthcare availability and accessibility, we still want more high-impact interventions in this area. But there is also hope that, as we approach the third anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lessons we learned are being applied to stronger public health policies.



There are a few lessons learned for a better public health system in the upcoming year

Increased attention to tier 2 and tier 3 cities' medical infrastructure and facilities:

The gaps and lack of investment in healthcare facilities were widespread at the height of the pandemic when mortality rates were high and hospital loads skyrocketed. As a result, there is a need to expand the number of clinics and hospital networks in these cities so that everyone can access reliable insurance coverage and high-quality healthcare systems.

Increasing investment to improve monitoring: The epidemic has taught us the importance of having real-

time data access, better monitoring and isolation facilities, and enhanced diagnostics. The infrastructure in these places has to be improved immediately. For so, our healthcare organizations would need to consistently invest a large sum in this area, which it has shown clear signs of doing over the previous two years.

Enhanced cooperation with other countries: The epidemic affected almost every region of the world. The barriers had no effect in stopping the virus's spread. So, another thing to keep in mind is the need for global cooperation. Nations must cooperate, spread awareness, learn from one another, and establish a monitoring system to gather early warnings and stop the

catastrophic effects of such dangers in the future.

Innovation in biomedical science continues to advance: Whether it was the creation of COVID-19 drugs or the pandemic vaccines, we saw how quickly science could advance when there is a coordinated and focused effort, with a lot of backing from regulatory bodies

now able to diagnose and treat patients at home with great speed thanks to telemedicine, remote monitoring, and instantly accessible testing, interpreting, and prescribing capabilities. Furthermore, patients won't need to be hospitalised thanks to digitally improved preventive treatment. With the help of

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and international healthcare organisations like the WHO. To prevent such health hazards in the future, biomedical science must make constant progress. Future lifesaving advances in fields like gene therapy and telemedicine could be facilitated by investments made now.

Government initiatives: Plans to develop national healthcare programs, like the National Digital Mission and Ayushman Bharat, might be helpful during upcoming health epidemics regarding centralised insurance and universal access to healthcare.

The virtualisation of healthcare: It will improve pre and post-hospital care, allowing for healthcare delivery in patients' homes. Caretakers are

digital technologies, patients can recover at home with their loved ones while still having access to the knowledge and professional care they require.

The COVID-19 outbreak was the vilest health crisis ever affecting India's public health system. A new emphasis on healthcare has emerged as a result of COVID-19. While revealing the many flaws in our healthcare system, it also highlighted creativity, entrepreneurship, and a never-before-seen zeal to confront these issues. As a result, more capable patients and healthcare professionals will emerge with the resources and expertise required to receive and offer high-quality medical care.