

**Independence Day Message from NATHEALTH Members
15th August 2018**

1) Mr. Gautam Khanna, Governing Council Member and CEO, P.D. Hinduja Hospital and MRC

Happy Independence Day to all!

As India celebrates its 72nd year of independence, the time has come for healthcare providers to come together with other stake holders in a forum like Nathealth and work with the government to make our country a healthy nation.

India has made great progress in several fields however it does lag behind in Healthcare. Facilities are still concentrated in the cities while the villages of India struggle for a basic healthcare facility. Affordability and quality healthcare is a challenge for many people of India but all this will hopefully change with the universal health scheme the 'Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme' (ABNHPS) – one of the largest benefit program in the world announced by the government in its 2018-19 Budget. With this, the government aims to increase the existing spend on healthcare from 1.15% of GDP to 2.5% till 2025. The government has also proposed to open 1.5 lakh healthcare centres to provide free essential drugs and diagnostics. We look forward to a successful execution of this scheme for the benefit of the nation.

On this Independence day, Let us pledge to be free of ill health and be a great, healthy nation.

2) Mr. Himanshu Baid, Governing Council Member and Managing Director, Poly Medicure Ltd.

Good health of people is not only a desirable goal of a nation, but also an essential investment in human resources. On the 72nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of India, it is with great pleasure that I extend heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes to all NATHEALTH members and the healthcare fraternity, and the people of India.

This year will be the marquee year for the healthcare Industry. The Indian Government's commitment to achieve universal health coverage through Ayushman Bharat- National Health Protection Mission scheme, the world's largest public health scheme, will represent a paradigm shift for the healthcare industry, where NATHEALTH will have a pivotal role to play. In collaboration with Make in India, the Ayushman Bharat scheme has the potential to fuel the medical device industry's growth substantially in coming years and reduce India's substantial dependence on Imports.

Affordable and global standard medical devices will be the key growth drivers in future for the industry, the latest advancement in technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and blockchain can enable the healthcare industry to provide cost-effective and scalable solutions to India's healthcare problems and make it a global healthcare destination.

We are on a mission to provide meaningful solutions to build a healthier India. Once again on behalf of POLYMED and NATHEALTH, our warm wishes of Independence Day to all Healthcare Industry stakeholders.

3) Mr. M Balasubramaniam, Member NATHEALTH and CEO, Cura Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.

As India launching its historic National health protection scheme, to benefit 50 Crore Indians, it is time for us to capitalize this once in a life time opportunity of meeting the healthcare demand of the nation by delivering more health for its money, build quality service and focus on primary care to those who

are most disadvantaged. Let's continue to deliver on healthcare outcomes and achieve our dream of Arogya Bharath and demonstrate with pride to every other nation that we are great people from a great nation. Jai Hind. Happy Independence Day.

4) Mr Arindam Haldar, Member NATHEALTH and CEO, SRL Limited

"As we celebrate the birth of our free, democratic nation, it's interesting to note the sea of changes that have happened over the years in the healthcare sector. In the last two decades or so, life expectancy in India has increased by more than 10 years, infant mortality rate (IMR) has reduced significantly, two infectious diseases have successfully been eradicated: smallpox, rinderpest, and WHO officially declared India 'polio-free' in 2014. The change is visible. But despite this growth, even after 72 years of independence, healthcare in India continues to grapple with a 3-fold challenge: lack of infrastructure to treat chronic secondary and tertiary diseases, exorbitant treatment cost and high level of out-of-pocket expenses. Healthcare delivery in India is at a decisive juncture and is now uniquely poised to undergo a change at all its stages — prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Private players and government must work in tandem to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both prevention and health promotion. This independence day, let's pledge to bring better healthcare in our nation, by not just focusing on the secondary and tertiary care but by giving equal importance to primary care (preventive care) as well. With a preventive mind-set and the consequential lesser spends on healthcare, a healthier country is born with an ability to spend more on other important aspects of socio-economic development.

5) Mr. PL Mehta , Member NATHEALTH and President, Association of Hospitals of Eastern India

15th August is marked not only as our liberation from the servitude of the English monarchy of over two centuries but also as a turning point in our national history. A country made utterly bereft of her prized jewels by the colonisers gained ground beneath its feet on this day in 1947. Like a toddler our nation crawled, crouched and learnt to stand on its feet. Ever since it has never looked back! Our nation's progress and influence have been phenomenal in every quarter of our lives. Today we're proud that our nation is a frontrunner in the fields of medicine, world class healthcare facilities and boasts some of the world's most trusted medical practitioners, healthcare institutions and administrators.

At Ambuja Neotia Healthcare, we are committed towards "making a difference to the way people live" by maintaining the highest standards of trust, integrity, technology, service and corporate social responsibility in delivering healthcare. We find resonance in NATHEALTH's mission of - bringing all healthcare stakeholders in India under a single forum and working alongside policymakers to create a better and a healthier future for India.

Today as we celebrate our 72nd Independence Day; we acknowledge your unflinching commitment and hereby extend our heartiest greetings to all members of NATHEALTH.

Jai Hind!

6) Dr Shraavan Subramanyam, Member NATHEALTH and Managing Director for Roche Diagnostics India & Neighboring Markets

Developments in healthcare continue to gather pace post 72 years of Independence. Thanks to the continuous policy changes, societal shifts and technological advances. Hospitals and Healthcare providers face increasingly intense - though regulated - competition. Rapidly changing profile of

diseases, rising patient expectations, improvement in digital infrastructure, sustainable financing solutions and optimised models of care are currently transforming Healthcare system in India.

Our country is witnessing an increasingly diverse portfolio in Medical technology and IT innovations that are significantly fueling the area of preventive diagnosis of illness. It is allowing individuals to monitor their vital signs and can be employed at every stage of disease to prevent the occurrence of disease, reduction of disability and impairments by the condition.

Improving the quality of healthcare at the system level requires a focus on governance issues, including improving public-sector management, building institutional capacity, and promoting a culture of data-driven policies. The government initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat are being introduced to address to propel the overall growth of the healthcare sector in India. This should be an excellent first step towards ensuring quality healthcare for the underprivileged segments of the society.

There has been progress in the health status - especially concerning life expectancy - in India. However, to deliver and provide healthcare systems suitable for the future requires a strategy that involves all sectors of society and maximise the contribution the system makes to the economy.

7) Dr. Shubnum Singh , Member NATHEALTH and Director-Medical Education, Medical Research &Advisor- Healthcare Framework Max Healthcare Institue Ltd

“Standing together hand in hand strong and tall
Unwavering in our thoughts and belief that we are “ONE and All”
Happy Independence day