



## Public-private partnership can tackle challenges in health sector, TN health secretary says

Janani Sampath,TNN | Jul 10, 2015, 09:26 PM IST

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CHENNAI: Cost of services and the uneven distribution of human resources are the biggest challenges faced by the government sector in delivery of health services, said Tamil Nadu health secretary Dr J Radhakrishnan on Friday.

He said in a year, the state government has spent Rs 8,245 crore on health services alone but the costs were still going up rapidly. "A strong public and private sector collaborating can help tackle these challenges," he said.

Speaking at the NATHEALTH Southern Roundtable Conference held here, the official pointed out that most of the doctors preferred to work in cities and not in rural areas and they should be motivated to practice in remote areas too.

"What they do not understand is that they have a lot of scope when they open clinics in smaller towns," he said.

The important sectors where healthcare in the country needs a boost is data management, telemedicine, skill development and innovation, said Sushoban Dasgupta, president of NATHEALTH. "So we have decided to focus on the 'Digital India' initiative where NATHEALTH has joined hands with NASSCOM to maximize digitization in India," he said.

This would go a long way in practicing preventive healthcare, he added.

Pointing out that IT has a transformational potential in healthcare, Anjan Bose, secretary general of NATHEALTH, said that Tamil Nadu would be a potential state for conducting pilots on digitization.

"The state has a lot of scope and the government is open to innovations. We will soon be submitting a report with suggestions for the betterment of healthcare," he said.

The main objective of the body was to enhance healthcare access, affordability and availability of healthcare across the country, he added.

[http://article.wn.com/view/2015/07/10/Publicprivate\\_partnership\\_can\\_tackle\\_challenges\\_in\\_health\\_sector](http://article.wn.com/view/2015/07/10/Publicprivate_partnership_can_tackle_challenges_in_health_sector)



## NATHEALTH pledges its support to PM's initiative of 'Digital India'

By *EH News Bureau* on July 10, 2015

### *Healthcare IT Taskforce formed by NATHEALTH-NASSCOM*

NATHEALTH extended its support and appreciated Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**'s endeavour to go digital. Sushobhan Dasgupta, President, NATHEALTH said, "PM's efforts to transform India into a connected knowledge economy and offering world class services at the click of a mouse through **Digital India** programme, is truly commendable. Initiative of using mobile and internet strategies – such as telemedicine, doctors on call and remote patient monitoring will help in improving the access of quality healthcare universally."

Anjan Bose, Secretary General NATHEALTH said, "Using wearable and mobile technology will help educate and engage citizens in healthy living and prevention of diseases...India has Mobile Penetration increasing at three per cent, Smartphones at 70 per cent and Internet at 22 per cent...Innovations in 'Digital Healthcare' will enable solutions across the healthcare value chain."

Dasgupta also added, "Telemedicine through tele-consultation, E-ICUs, remote patient monitoring, lifestyle management through education tools will further help in enhancing patient care to the next level. Through digital mode, a patient at the primary health center in a village can be connected to any medical specialist hundreds of miles away and diagnosed online. It can also be a powerful tool for real time disease surveillance which is needed to fight the risk of epidemics such as non communicable diseases, tuberculosis, trachoma, leprosy, malaria."

Bose said, "Through our collaboration MoU with NASSCOM, our vision is to leverage technology to address healthcare challenges, in order to improve patient care. NATHEALTH-NASSCOM joint initiative will try to build linkages across multiple stakeholders in healthcare and information technology sectors. We will try to evangelise a new class of technology solutions and service delivery platforms that enhance healthcare access, affordability, availability and therefore support the government's aim to achieve "Universal Health Coverage".

NATHEALTH and NASSCOM have formed a Joint Council (NNJC), comprising top leaders in member companies from both the institutions, representing respectively healthcare and IT sectors.

The Joint Council will focus on

- Creation of Central IT Healthcare Platform
- Remote Healthcare
- IT Enabled Preventive and Chronic Care
- Healthcare Workforce

"We aim to leverage digital technology for innovative solutions which will help both Healthcare and IT sectors grow further. Emerging technologies like cloud, analytics, pervasive presence of mobile telephony and broadband penetration has created new opportunities for both healthcare and technology sectors to collaborate and increase Healthcare quality, accessibility and affordability," informed Bose.

"As Digital India is an umbrella programme including several schemes for inclusive growth in multiple sectors through digitalisation of services, it would help us to create self-sustaining models in healthcare that will enable the rapid growth of the services, by creation of digital infrastructure and service delivery through digital mode," added Dasgupta.

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/healthcare/happening-now/nathealth-pledges-its-support-to-pms-initiative-of-digital-india/98719/>



# Just unplug and recharge

Friday, July 10, 2015 | Source: Shine Jobs | 0 | 15

Staying stuck to your phone or computer can minimise your productivity levels and impact your health. So what are you doing about it?

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At a time management workshop I attended a few years ago, we were asked to figure out how much time we spent each day in surfing the net, sending emails, using cellphones and doing other tasks. Though I was well aware of my short attention span and my compulsive need to check and recheck my mailbox, news sites and the weather app, which often took me away often from urgent, immediate tasks, I was surprised at what I found. A task which would normally take 30 to 20 minutes was stretching to an hour and beyond because of these distractions. Even at home, I was spending an hour or two playing Angry Birds, sending to and receiving virtual eggs from friends and feeding an imaginary 'virtual' pet dog (a black Labrador, if you must know).

Cellphones, computers and other attention grabbers are taking over our lives. Calling digital distraction and overload the scourge of modern professional life, Gaurav Gupta, country head, HR, AkzoNobel India feels the ubiquity of technology has enabled us the control of almost everything except our own peace of mind.

Though one might argue that social media empowers employees to stay connected and hence ensures faster communication, it “doubles as a distraction for a few and in some cases hampers their attention span,” says Ravichandran Purushothaman, president, Danfoss India.

Tony Schwartz, president and CEO of The Energy Project (its mission is to change the way the world works), writes in the Harvard Business Review about “the greater the performance demand, the greater the need for recovery.” There was a time, he says, when his brain felt overloaded, forcing him to take a nine-day break, “a period of total digital disconnection” without his laptop, iPad or cellphone. The result? A renewed capacity “for absorbed focus.”

It is precisely at times of “overload” that one needs to go back to the basics of giving the mind and body a rest – this has huge benefits both at an individual and organisational level. “I have personally seen far more productive meetings happen when attendees were disconnected (electronically) than when everyone was plugged in and multitasking,” says Gupta.

Health can be impacted too. Constant screen use and remaining connected to your work via email is known to result in fatigue, lack of productivity and increased stress. Taking a conscious planned break from using technology can limit the negative impact, says Dr Shibal Bhartiya, senior consultant, ophthalmology department, Fortis Vasant Kunj and Gurgaon.

Kiran Sawhney, fitness expert and owner, Fitnesolution, a personal fitness training centre, recalls how the “No news no shoes” policy of a hotel in Maldives where she was vacationing motivated her to disconnect. In vipassana, one remains silent for days and tries to disconnect completely. It is good to switch off your electronics and spend either “me” time or “family” time, she adds.

A break, however, is a personal choice, says Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India, advocate for retailing in India. He is not in favour of organisations “creating a rule around this” as it would mean withdrawal of choice for an individual. “Companies can promote a disconnection day as an HR initiative,” he adds.

Danfoss, too, does not have a stringent HR policy which necessitates employees to disconnect, but they are encouraged to switch off during meetings to avoid unnecessary distractions. Smartphones, however, are musts as the organisation feels it brings about a collaborative atmosphere where out-of-office work can be handled smoothly. “We encourage them to find a fine balance by disconnecting often and engage in more faceto-

face interactions, which help in increasing the bond an employee feels towards the organisation,” says Purushothaman.

If organisations are farsighted, and actually look at employee productivity, they will realise that it is in their interest to make ‘disconnect times’ mandatory, says Dr Bhartiya. HR managers must understand that even though having an employee available for 24 hours sounds like a very attractive proposition, productivity is inversely proportional to the time spent by the worker in front of his work station.

Seconding that, Vikas Mohan, associate director, Nathealth (Healthcare Federation of India) says organisations should make offline days mandatory for better results. “I always try not to disturb my employees on a weekend or after office hours, they also need time for themselves. I do have my disconnected days as it rejuvenates and energises me. We are humans, not machines,” he adds.

THE  NEW  
**INDIAN EXPRESS**

## ■ NatHealth Keen on 'Digital India' Tie-up With TN Dept

By Express News Service | Published: 13th July 2015 03:21 AM Last Updated: 13th July 2015 03:21 AM

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NatHealth's aim is to transform India into a connected knowledge economy and to offer world class services at the click of a mouse

CHENNAI: NatHealth, a healthcare body in India, is ready to tie-up with the State Health Department to extend digitalised healthcare service to people under the banner 'Digital India'. Various health care companies participated in the governing council meet of NatHealth in the city on Friday, and discussed the 'Digital India' project.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Sushobhan Dasgupta, president NatHealth, said efforts to transform India into a connected knowledge economy and offering world class services at the click of a mouse was the aim of NatHealth.

The company had signed an MoU with NASSCOM to leverage technology to address healthcare challenges in India.

Anjan Bose, secretary general, NatHealth, said India's mobile penetration has increased at 3 per cent, smartphones at 70 per cent and Internet at 22 per cent. "NatHealth would be tapping these resources and using them to engage people in healthy living and prevention of diseases," he added.

State Health Secretary J Radhakrishnan said that in the government sector, manpower and resources were unequally distributed and to balance these two, the role of private partners was important. "We would welcome it if NatHealth comes out with new plans and may also look for future collaborations, if needed," he added.

NatHealth officials assured that they would come up with a good healthcare providing facility suitable for Tamil Nadu, and expressed their interest in collaborating with the government. Dr Preetha Reddy, vice chairperson, Apollo Group of Hospitals, also spoke at the event.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/NatHealth-Keen-on-Digital-India-Tie-up-With-TN-Dept/2015/07/13/article2916514.ece>

mumbaionline.in



## Healthcare IT Taskforce formed by NATHEALTH-NASSCOM

*Sumitra Deb Roy, TNN* | Jul 13, 2015, 07.07 AM IST

MUMBAI: Keeping up with prime minister Narendra Modi's endeavor to go digital, the Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) and NASSCOM have formed a Joint Council (NNJC) to use digital technology for innovative healthcare solutions. The joint council will focus on creation of central IT healthcare platform, remote healthcare, IT enabled preventive and chronic care and healthcare workforce.

The NNJC will comprise of top leaders in member companies from both the institutions, representing healthcare and IT sectors. These bodies have already signed an MoU. "Through our collaboration with NASSCOM, our vision is to leverage technology to address healthcare challenges and improve patient care. NATHEALTH-NASSCOM joint initiative will try to build linkages across multiple stake-holders in healthcare and information technology sectors. We will try to evangelize a new class of technology solutions and service delivery platforms that enhance healthcare access, affordability, availability and therefore support the government's aim to achieve Universal Health Coverage," said Anjan Bose, secretary general, NATHEALTH.

"Initiative of using mobile and internet strategies - such as telemedicine, doctors on call and remote patient monitoring will help in improving the access of quality healthcare universally," said Sushobhan Dasgupta, president, NATHEALTH. He added that telemedicine through tele-consultation, E-ICUs, remote patient monitoring, lifestyle management through education tools will further help in enhancing patient care to the next level. "Through digital mode, a patient at

the primary health centre in a village can be connected to any medical specialist hundreds of miles away and diagnosed online. It can also be a powerful tool for real time disease surveillance.

Bose said that using wearable and mobile technology will help educate and engage citizens in healthy living and prevention of diseases. "India has mobile penetration increasing at 3%, Smartphones at 70% and Internet at 22%. Therefore innovations in Digital Healthcare will enable solutions across the healthcare value chain," he said.

<http://news.mumbaionline.in/Healthcare-IT-Taskforce-formed-by-NATHEALTH-NASSCOM-535153>





## Public-private partnership can undertake all challenges in health sector



*Public-private partnership can undertake all challenges in health sector*

The state government has already spent Rs 8,245 crore on health services alone and the costs were increasing day by day. A sound civic and private sector can help in tackling all these challenges,” he said. He also pointed out to the fact that most of the doctors liked to work in cities and not in small towns or village areas but doctors should also be motivated and sensitized to work in rural areas as that is where people fall ill.

He added that doctors also have scope in smaller towns. Health care needs improvement in data management, telemedicine, skill development and innovation as per Sushoban Dasgupta, president of NATHEALTH.

IT also plays a great role in health care. The state has a lot of extent and the government is open to modernisms as well. A report would also be submitted with suggestions on how to improve the government health care sectors .Now the main focus would be to improve health care access, affordability and accessibility of healthcare all over the country.

<http://www.thewiire.com/news/public-private-partnership-can-undertake-all-challenges-in-health-sector/2706/>

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The main objective of the body was to enhance healthcare access, affordability and availability of healthcare across the country, he added.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Public-private-partnership-can-tackle-challenges-in-health-sector-TN-health-secretary-says/articleshow/48023120.cms>

**THE TIMES OF INDIA** Mumbai

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