

Recommendations for Healthcare:

1. Make the right to healthcare a justiciable right.
2. Increase substantially the public expenditure on Health, financed primarily through general taxation to 2.5% of GDP (this would be annually around Rs. 4,000 per capita, at current rates, as recommended by the National Health Policy-2017) in the short term and 5% of GDP subsequently.
3. Expand and strengthen the public healthcare system to ensure quality and availability of health care appropriate to primary, secondary and tertiary level, make it entirely free of user fees and provide, universal access to the entire range of essential drugs and diagnostics at the public facility with a matching human resource policy and much better governance and management.
4. Ensure every person's Right to full range of free essential medicines and diagnostics in all public health centres and hospitals.
5. Abandon plans for the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' or "National Health Protection Scheme" as part of Ayushman Bharat as this is based on the discredited 'insurance model'. The projected annual outlay of Rs. 12,000-50,000 crores, as per different estimates would be much better utilized by investment in expansion of public facilities.
6. Effectively regulate the Private medical sector - modify the National Clinical Establishment Act-2010 to ensure observance of patient's rights, regulation of the rates and quality of various services, elimination of kickbacks for prescriptions, diagnostics and referrals and grievance redressal mechanisms for patients. All states must adopt the National Act or a state specific act.
7. Regularise all contractual health workers, including ASHA, Anganwadi Workers and helpers involved in delivery of public health services and ensure that they receive protection from the entire range of labour laws.