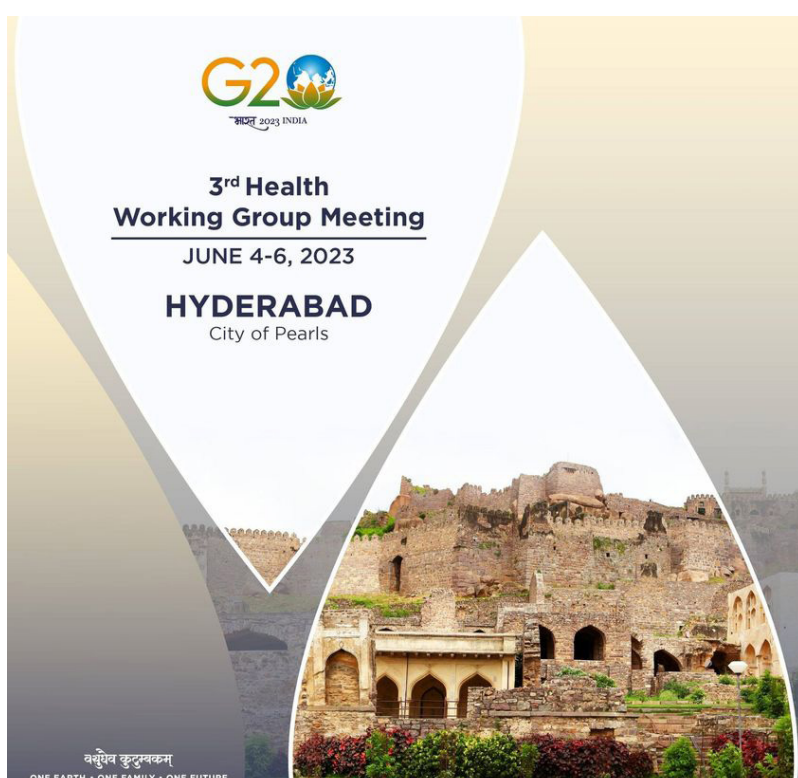# G20 HEALTH WORKING GROUP MEETING, **HYDERABAD**

The third G20 Health Working Group (HWG) meeting was held in Hyderabad, from 4th-6th June, where discussions revolved around digital health, which was proposed as one of India's three priorities, and the draft outcome document. While the delegates agreed on the importance of digital technology in achieving universal health coverage, they could not reach a consensus on financing the implementation.

The G20's focus now is on finalizing the ministerial declaration before the upcoming fourth working group and ministerial meetings in August. Before the meetings, 15 countries submitted written comments on the initial draft of the ministerial document. India emphasized the significance of digital health in various aspects of healthcare and proposed establishing a digital platform repository at the World Health Organization (WHO) to match existing technology with countries' needs. India also suggested a $200 million fund to support the implementation of these digital platforms, but there is currently no agreement on creating the fund due to concerns about Europe's economic situation. India is now tasked with building a consensus on this matter.

BIMSTEC HEALTH FORUM HIGHLIGHTS $7.4 BILLION IN REVENUE FROM MEDICAL TOURISM

Image source : thehindubusinessline

Medical tourism in India has contributed $7.4 billion in revenue over the past decade, and officials predict that this number will reach $43.5 billion in the next ten years. The Indian health sector has seen significant private investment in recent years. This discussion at the the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Health Forum, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, covered various topics such as mental health, universal health coverage, telemedicine, information sharing, human capital exchange, and collaborative opportunities. BIMSTEC is a regional organisation that was established in 1997. The region has a combined population of over 1.68 billion people and a GDP of around $ 2.88 trillion.

Officials emphasized the need for coordination between the commercial and public healthcare sectors and the government to address climate change concerns. A partnership with the Thailand Government has also been proposed to adopt 'Swastha Sathi' facilities (West Bengal government's healthcare scheme) and develop a progressive plan in medical insurance. BIMSTEC is a regional organization established in 1997, comprising countries with a combined population of over 1.68 billion people and a GDP of approximately $2.88 trillion.

8TH EDITION OF GLOBAL PHARMACEUTICAL QUALITY SUMMIT 2023

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) organised the 8th edition of the Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit from 21-23 June 2023. The two-day summit focused on the theme of "Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality." It brought together many industry leaders, global regulators, quality experts, and other stakeholders to discuss important aspects of the pharmaceutical landscape in India. The event featured a special address by Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare, who emphasized the importance of quality, R&D, and innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. Dr Mandaviya also expressed deep appreciation and pride on the role the Indian pharma sector played during the pandemic and stated that India displayed maturity, responsibility and leadership during a global crisis. During the summit, IPA also released a Best Practice document focusing on handling complaints related to defects in drug substances and products. It provides guidance on various aspects, including reporting complaints, conducting investigations, and implementing corrective actions.

The Summit attracted a significant number of journalists who attended the event and did stories on the discussions, presentations, and industry developments. The presence of journalists underscored the importance of the summit as a platform for disseminating crucial information and raising awareness about pharmaceutical quality. Overall, the summit covered topics such as manufacturing, building a quality culture, regulatory affairs, technology architecture, industry advancements, continuous manufacturing, digital technology, and the future of the Indian pharmaceutical industry. The sessions focused on collaboration, innovation, and strengthening of industry-academia linkages and a roadmap for establishing India as a global benchmark in quality, emphasizing the need for continuous investment in quality systems, technology, and talent.

NATIONAL SICKLE CELL ANEMIA ELIMINATION MISSION LAUNCH BY PM

Prime Minister Narender Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission to combat the disease affecting over 70 million tribal populations in 17 states of India, including Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. The Sickle Cell Anaemia Mission 2047 aims to eradicate the disease nationwide and will commence in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, where the launch also took place. The PM gave out sickle cell generic status cards at the event to beneficiaries present. In his speech at the event, the PM reaffirmed commitment to the welfare of india's tribal communities and said that the mission across 278 districts in 17 states will focus on raising awareness, universal screening and counselling initiatives around sickle cell anemia (SCA).

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced this initiative during the Budget 2023, emphasizing the government's goal of eliminating sickle cell anaemia in India by 2047. Sickle cell anaemia, a hereditary blood disorder, causes a change in the shape of red blood cells from round to C-shaped, leading to impaired functionality and overall blood deficiency, resulting in anaemia. According to available reports, India has the second-highest global prevalence of this disease.

PM MODI'S SPEECH AT LAUNCH OF
SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA
ELIMINATION MISSION

EGOV FOUNDATION AIDS 23 GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, AS **A PART OF 10BEDICU PROJECT WITH ASSAM GOVERNMENT**
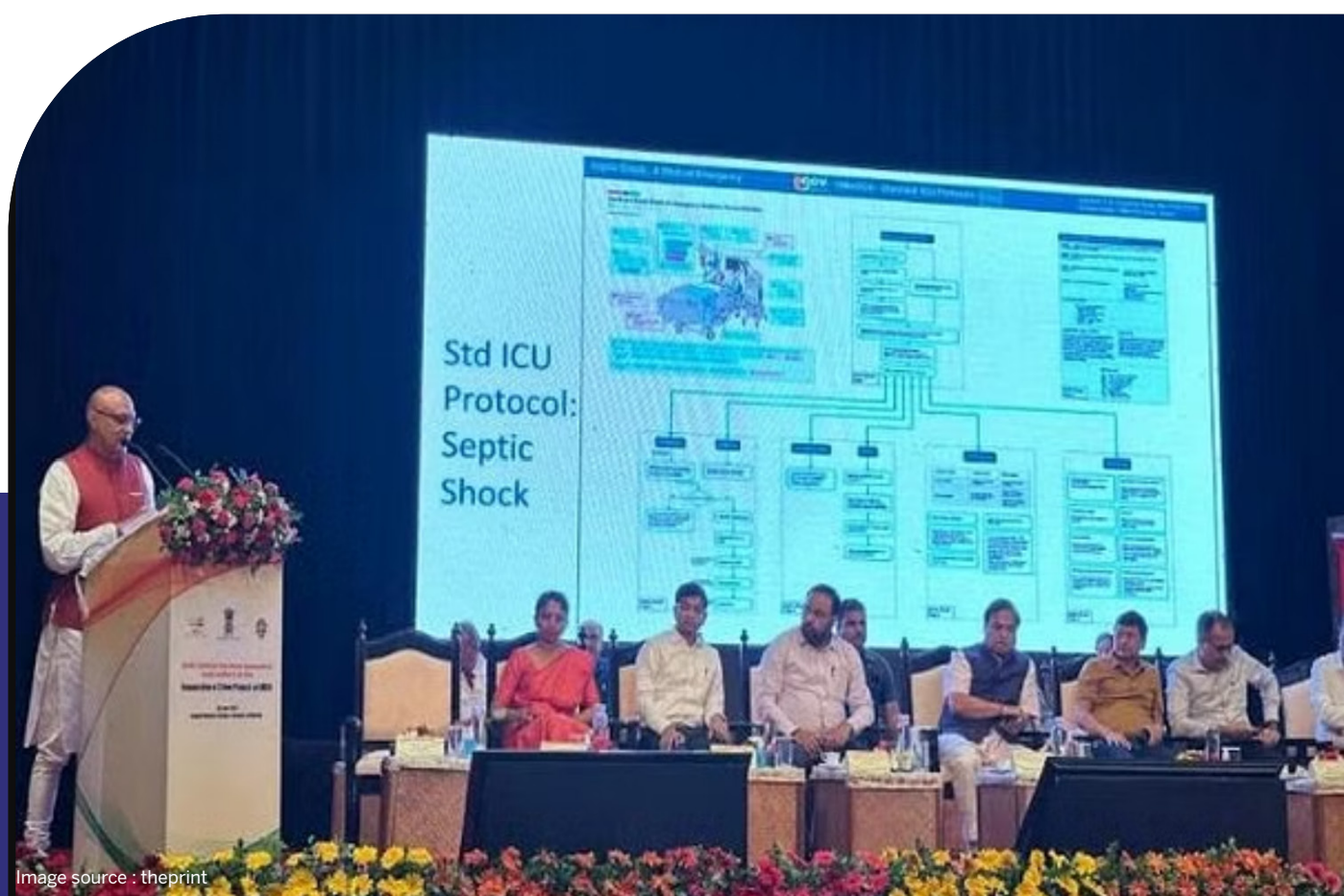

Image source : theprint

eGov Foundation, in collaboration with the Assam Government, has launched the 10BedICU Project, aiming to revolutionize critical care in the state. The project involves creating 10-bed ICUs in 23 government hospitals, resulting in a total of 365 ICU beds across Assam. Additionally, three TeleICU Hubs will be established in state medical institutions. This public-private partnership initiative aims to provide critical care services to every district, including unreached areas and those where access is a challenge. Funding for the ICUs has been provided by Vinod Khosla and HDFC Parivarthan, and the project involves the efforts of eGov Foundation, Karuna Trust, Hamilton Medical and Google Cloud.

The launch event on June 26, 2023, marked a significant milestone in Assam's healthcare journey towards comprehensive and technologically advanced healthcare services for all citizens. The TeleICU Hub and spoke model, facilitated by eGovernments Foundation's CARE platform, allows specialist doctors to provide online consultations for resource-constrained and remote locations. The project aims to bridge healthcare gaps and improve critical care accessibility throughout India.

DIGITAL HEALTH CONNECT SUMMIT, **KOCHI**

NATHEALTH, in collaboration with Arthur D Little India, Infopark, and Technopark, organized the 'Digital Health Connect' summit, a two-day event held in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram, India. Distinguished experts from the healthcare industry, both domestic and international, gathered to discuss the future of digital healthcare in India and the opportunities available for digital service providers to facilitate the industry's digitization.

The first day of the summit, held at Infopark, included a session titled "Potential Opportunities for Digital Players - Use Cases and Future Pathways & Strategies." Notable speakers, such as Sudarshan Bhamare (CEO of Apollo ADLUX Hospitals), Vaishak Seetharam (Service Excellence Cluster Head of Aster DM Healthcare), Dr Ajay Nair (CEO of Swasth Alliance), and Brajesh Kumar Singh (Director of Philips Healthcare India), delivered keynote presentations. The summit also featured sessions addressing ABDM integration, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and ABDM adoption, among other relevant topics, providing the right platform for in-depth discussions.

Image source : medicalbuyer

Image source : pinkerala