

Introduction:

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Manish Aurora, Chief Editor ET Edge,
Manoj Nair, Director, Conferences,
Ms. Harshita Saini , Abhishek Datta,
Alka, and the ET Edge Team,
Esteemed Members of the Times Group,
My earlier speakers on various serious topics,
IMA President Dr Dilip
Sr CMO-NCDC- Dr Madhu
Rajeev Sibal from Lupin
Distinguished Dignitaries,
Renowned Doctors,
Healthcare Leaders,
Policymakers,
Esteemed Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Afternoon.

It is with immense pleasure and a deep sense of responsibility to join this prestigious Times Now - Doctor's Day Conclave.

My sincere gratitude to ET Edge, a Times Group Initiative, and especially to Ms. Harshita Saini, for this gracious invitation.

To stand among India's foremost healers, thinkers, and policymakers on the eve of National Doctors' Day is both an honour and a profound privilege.

This Conclave has established itself as a cornerstone of India's healthcare dialogue since 2018. More than a conference, it is a powerful confluence – a dedicated space where policymakers, industry innovators, and the heart of our healthcare system, our dedicated medical professionals, converge to shape the future.

I commend ET Edge and the Times Group for giving this vital platform testifies to its role as a crucible for critical reflection and actionable dialogue.

This occasion is our nation's collective tribute to the unwavering dedication, profound sacrifices, and boundless compassion of our medical fraternity.

We honor heroes who walk hospital corridors at night, stand steadfast uncertainty, offer solace through science, and guard the sacred flame of human life.

The pandemic years burn into our memory the extraordinary courage of our healthcare warriors – their selflessness was an act of supreme humanity rendered at immense personal cost. This conclave stands as a testament to our enduring gratitude.

In Tripura, we are actively addressing these challenges by strengthening primary health centers, expanding telemedicine networks, upgrading district hospitals, and investing in our healthcare workforce. We recognize that the nation's health depends on every state's progress. Esteemed doctors and healthcare pioneers, your role extends beyond care giving – you are architects of India's health destiny. Your ground-level insights, innovations, advocacy, and ethical commitment drive progress. May this conclave amplify your voices to shape the national agenda.

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As we gather today to celebrate International Doctors' Day, we are reminded that **the vitals of our nation** – the very pulse of our progress in the health, trust, and wellbeing of every citizen.

The **trust** between a doctor and patient is perhaps the purest form of human bond that forms the bedrock of our healthcare system.

In an era where misinformation spreads faster than disease, your white coats have become beacons of truth and reliability. Every time you patiently explain a diagnosis, every time you hold the hand of an anxious family member, you are doing something far greater than practicing medicine – you are restoring faith in our institutions, one interaction at a time.

Transparency in healthcare is the oxygen that sustains this trust. Our government stands committed to creating systems where treatment protocols are clear, drug pricing is fair, and health outcomes are measurable. Initiatives like the National Digital Health Mission are creating architectures of accountability, ensuring that quality care isn't just available, but verifiable. Yet, we recognize that true transparency begins at the bedside – in your honest counsel, your ethical practice, and your unwavering commitment to put patients before profits.

When we speak of **access**, we confront our greatest challenge and our most sacred duty. a mother in rural Odisha might lose her child to a condition, easily treated in urban hospitals. This is why we are revolutionizing grassroots healthcare through telemedicine networks that bring specialists to remote areas, through mobile units that deliver care to doorsteps, and through training programs that empower community health workers.

EX:Drones

Farmers using Video facility for Pest control

But technology and infrastructure alone cannot heal – it requires your skill, your compassion, and your willingness to serve where the need is greatest.

On this Doctors' Day, we remember that health is the first dividend of development and its most important measure. Our PM's vision of a **Healthy India** recognizes that nation-building happens not just in parliament or in factories, but in your clinics, you're operating theaters, and your late-night rounds. Every vaccination you administer builds group immunity for our society. Every patient you counsel creates awareness that ripples through communities. Every life you save contributes to our national potential.

We are here to recognize the extraordinary tapestry of sacrifice, innovation, and humanity woven by our medical community. Your hands mend bodies, your wisdom guides policy, and your compassion rebuilds lives – truly, your dedication forms the heartbeat of our nation's health. To every healer present, and those serving in distant corners of our land, we offer our deepest gratitude.

India stands at a pivotal moment in healthcare. Our vision is clear: universal coverage, cutting-edge research, and infrastructure that leaves no citizen behind. But ambition demands robust foundations. We are pioneering innovative financing models to fuel this transformation – scaling public-private partnerships, significantly increasing health budget allocations, and incentivizing private investment in Tier 2 and 3 cities. Initiatives like **Ayushman Bharat** have already been lifelines for millions, yet our commitment extends further. We are building sustainable frameworks where every rupee prioritizes prevention, enhances accessibility, and sparks innovation, relentlessly pursuing a system where no Indian is denied care because of cost.

Beyond the vital task of healing, you, our doctors, are the very architects of our nation's future. Whether in a remote village clinic or a bustling urban ICU, your work fortifies the very fabric of our society. When you save a child, you secure a future contributor to our nation's progress.

When you mentor the next generation of medical professionals, you ignite the spark of tomorrow's leadership. Your unwavering resilience, so starkly evident during the crucible of the COVID-19 pandemic, proved beyond doubt that healthcare is the ultimate infrastructure. India's growth story, its aspirations, its very soul, remain fundamentally incomplete without acknowledging your unparalleled skill and sacrifice.

This vision of health for all demands we bridge a critical divide: ensuring specialized care reaches every citizen, whether a farmer tending fields in Tripura or a teacher shaping minds in Telangana. The answer lies in strategic decentralization and harnessing technology's power. We are rapidly expanding telemedicine networks, establishing specialist hubs within district hospitals, and deploying mobile health units to the last mile.

Programs like the National Telemedicine Service and the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission are actively bringing cardiology, oncology, neurology, and critical maternal care to grassroots communities. However, technology alone is merely a tool. Its true power is unlocked by your compassion and willingness to serve where the need is greatest. Your presence in underserved areas transforms policy documents into tangible impact and hope.

Supplying over 60% of the world's vaccines, our generic medicines save countless lives daily across continents, and our doctors excel on international stages. The next frontier is clear: becoming the global epicenter of healthcare innovation. We must lead in AI-driven diagnostics, develop affordable medical devices accessible to all, and fortify global pandemic preparedness. Let us harness our immense scale, our exceptional talent, and our timeless tradition of Seva to make India not only the world's pharmacy but also its foremost laboratory for human health solutions.

This conclave serves as a vital call to action. To our revered doctors your hands heal, but your voices are equally crucial. Partner with us to shape equitable policies, mentor the passionate minds that will follow you, and hold us accountable to our shared mission.

We urge industry leaders to invest in research and development that prioritizes humanity over mere markets, creating solutions that serve the many, not just the few. And to all gathered here, let us reaffirm a fundamental truth: health is not a privilege reserved for some; it is an inalienable right for every human being.

As we celebrate Doctors' Day, let us recommit to the profound wisdom of the ancient healer **Charaka**. The physician's mission is humanity itself. Together, hand in hand, government, medical fraternity, and industry, we will build a healthier, stronger, more equitable India where every citizen thrives. .

About Govt:

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India emerging as the preferred medical destination because we offer something unique a combination of

high-quality, affordable care delivered by some of the most skilled medical professionals in the world. Our hospitals, including prestigious institutions are setting global benchmarks in research, patient care, and innovation.

Medical procedures that may cost several lakhs of rupees or even more abroad are performed here at a fraction of the cost, without compromising on quality.

Even advanced nations like the United States and Singapore are recognizing the value of India's healthcare system. Patients from these countries are now traveling to India for treatment not because of a lack of facilities back home, but because India offers exceptional care at a much lower cost, quick appointment and with equal or greater expertise with more doctors.

About Doctors:

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As we celebrate India's rise as a global medical destination, we must pause and reflect on the hands that make this possible — our doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers.

Indian doctors are often the unsung heroes of our healthcare system. Many work long hours, often with limited facilities, and yet deliver outcomes that match — and often surpass — global standards.

Let me also make a heartfelt appeal: while many of you are achieving remarkable breakthroughs in your fields, often these are not recorded in international journals or shared widely.

We know your achievements , but the world needs to know them too. The global medical community must see what Indian doctors are capable of. Let them document, publish, and present our work to the world.

Ex: Patients touch your Feet

About Technology:

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The landscape of healthcare is undergoing a radical transformation — and technology is at the very heart of this revolution.

There was a time when the MBBS degree was considered the highest milestone in the medical profession.

EX: In the final year they got jobs at that time

But that time has changed. Today, we are seeing a wave of Postgraduate specializations, super-specialties, fellowships, and focused research. Medicine is evolving , so must our approach to education, training, and practice must advanced.

The future of medical education lies in the seamless integration of pedagogy with technology — especially AI, ChatGPT-based platforms, simulation tools, and robotic surgical training.

Artificial Intelligence is no longer a futuristic concept it is all ready assisting doctors in diagnostics, personalizing treatment, and even predicting disease outbreaks. Simulation-based learning environments are preparing our young doctors for a safe, controlled way.

EX:

We must encourage blended learning — where medicine and engineering merge — producing professionals who can not only treat patients but also build tools and platforms that redefine the standards of care.

EX: BiBI Cancer Hospital demand for Radiation

The age of robotic surgery is dawning rapidly. New doctors must not only know anatomy and pathology, but also machine interfaces, bio-sensors, and digital diagnostics. An innovative, future-ready healthcare workforce is not optional — it is essential.

EX: Tripura Patient ID

When I had the opportunity to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji after assuming office as Governor, we spoke at length — and what struck me deeply was his strong emphasis on the health sector. Among all issues, he highlighted healthcare as a top priority and asked me to focus especially on the eradication of TB, Malaria, not just as diseases, but as challenges to national development.

Innovations such as umbilical cord tissue preservation are already changing how we view treatment. What was once medical waste is now a lifesaving resource, particularly for genetic and life-threatening diseases.

And as people live longer, we face a new wave of challenges: chronic diseases, weakened immunity, and a greater need for long-term care. These conditions often come with heavy medical costs — turning illness into a pathway to poverty.

EX: Institutions like SPARSA Hospitals are stepping up to address these needs with a long-term, holistic view of patient care.

So, as we embrace these changes, let us remember: this is not just about adopting technology. It's about reimagining healthcare.

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Conclusion:

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In my personal view, we must also re-evaluate the increasing trend of cesarean deliveries and promote natural childbirth wherever safely possible. Furthermore, cost-effective generic medicines must be prioritized, as quality healthcare is not a privilege — it is a right.

We must also vigilantly monitor organ transplantation practices, guarding against misuse and upholding ethical standards.

In today's world, with rising threats like the Big Bug and emerging diseases, we need to be better prepared. There must be open discussions on issues like mandatory hospital stays, new viral threats, and evolving treatment protocols — perhaps even a national medical charter to guide consistent, patient-centric practices across the country.

To aspiring medical professionals, you inherit a noble legacy. Embrace technology, cultivate empathy, pursue lifelong learning, and uphold this sacred profession's highest ideals.

The future of Indian healthcare rests significantly in your hands. As we move forward, collaboration is essential – between Centre and States, public and private sectors, and across medical disciplines. We must build ecosystems where knowledge flows freely and innovation thrives for collective good.

Let this Doctors' Day ignite a renewed commitment: from governments to act decisively on needs voiced here; from institutions to prioritize both patient care and caregiver well-being; from society to offer unwavering respect and safe environments; and from our doctors to continue serving with dedication that defines you're calling. It is now my privilege to felicitate exemplary doctors whose dedication shines as a beacon for our profession. I congratulate ET Edge and The Times Group for orchestrating this transformative platform. May this 8th Edition propel us decisively toward a Healthier, Stronger, and More Resilient India.

Let us educate, innovate, and collaborate — to build a healthcare system that is ethical, affordable, intelligent, and compassionate. A system that leads not only India but the world into a new era of medical excellence

Let us walk together on this path — one of compassion, innovation, and ethical strength — as we build a healthcare system not just for India, but for the world.

Jai Hind

Jai Bharat