

**Ministerial Session: South-South Cooperation and the
ICPD@30: Accelerating the Move Forward;**

Time: 09.30 - 11.30

Pattaya Exhibition and Convention Centre (PEACH)

Excellencies, dignitaries, distinguished experts, ladies and gentlemen,
Greetings from our Hon'ble Health & Welfare Minister, Shri Mansukh Madaviya who could not attend ICFP due to urgent commitments. With the completion of 40 years of Alma-Ata Declaration recently, the ICFP 2022 makes for an apt background today to discuss Family Planning in the broader theme of Universal Health Coverage. Also this is the year when India has completed 75 years of Independence.

Our health system has been tested by the COVID-19 pandemic and this an opportune time to revisit how we conceive, design, regulate, build, and operate strategies in our country while ensuring global solidarity.

Guided by the approach of 'One Earth, One Health', our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized on two things will define how the progress journey of humanity will unfold in the times to come. First is the health of our people. Second is the health of our planet. Sustainable development will thus require a multipronged approach.

Meeting the healthcare needs of the people has multi-dimensional benefits, which by now all the nations realize, extends beyond health to a society of social inclusion and economic development. To achieve the aim of Health for All, the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978 showed

the way by recognizing the importance of Universal Primary Healthcare. ICPD + 25 further emphasized the need for Universal health care.

Much ahead of this, India had become the first country in the world to launch a National Family Planning Programme in 1952. For us, Family Planning is at the core of improving women's and children's health and empowering couples to take charge of their reproductive choices. I am proud and happy to announce that India has been making tremendous progress in this arena as evidenced from the recent MMR data released by the Registrar General of India. We have recorded a decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), of 54 points, which has been the highest since the last several decades (from 167 per lakh live births in 2011-13 to 103 per lakh live births in 2014-16), thanks to the collective and systematic efforts of the national Government along with all the states in a spirit of co-operative federalism. We are on our way to achieving the SDG before time if the rate of decline continues.

Our teenage pregnancies have halved from 16% (NFHS III) to 6.8% (NFHS V). The experience has provided us with the cognizance to move ahead on the path towards our goal and has been the result of various landmark initiatives in the healthcare arena.

The Government of India launched 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan' whereby private specialists are being encouraged to volunteer and provide ante-natal checkups for every pregnant woman on a fixed

day every month. The efforts are based on a strong model of Public-private partnership

We have carried forward our approach of providing special attention to underserved geographies through our Mission Parivar Vikas scheme.

With a very strong political commitment, India is rapidly making strides towards the goal of Universal Health Coverage. This we believe will significantly contribute to the health of our citizens, especially the women and children. Providing affordable and accessible care including quality family planning services closer to peoples' homes is at the core of this landmark programme.

The Government has launched a new scheme by the name of "Ayushman Bharat".

The lack of effective primary care leads to fragmentation of services and disproportionate burdening of secondary and tertiary levels. Therefore, a Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) is essential to avert disease and promote well-being with continuity of care and enable gate-keeping so as to reduce the burden on secondary and tertiary level facilities, thus saving costs. This premise became the driving force for the first component of Ayushman Bharat - It envisages the strengthening of the existing government health facilities at the level of the Sub Centre and Primary Health Centre into Health and Wellness Centres (H&WCs). The H&WC will provide preventive, promotive, rehabilitative and curative care. Family Planning services

will be covered under reproductive and child health services (RMNCH+A) and free essential drugs and commodities under Family Planning viz. oral contraceptives, condoms will be provided here.

In order to cater to our population of 1.2 billion, the Government launched the second flagship programme under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (National Health Protection Scheme) to serve the poor and vulnerable for secondary and tertiary care. It is the world's largest government funded healthcare program which will cover over 100 million (10 crore) poor and vulnerable families (approximately 500 million i.e. 50 crore beneficiaries) from rural as well as urban backgrounds. It adopts a continuum of care approach wherein coverage up to half a million US Dollars (5 lakh INR) per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization will be provided.

With these schemes in place, the Family Planning beneficiaries are assured services through the continuum of care right from primary to tertiary level service provision. These collective approaches have proved crucial for India's commitment for increasing contraceptive coverage under FP2030. A focused strategy under the National Family Planning programme through schemes such as Mission Parivar Vikas, introduction of new contraceptives, Home Delivery of Contraceptives, promoting healthy spacing between children coupled with regular orientation and training of service providers has resulted in an increased demand and uptake of FP services.

Moving ahead and for accelerating our efforts the global community needs to align their efforts and resources to help millions of beneficiaries worldwide. Forums such as the PPD; ICFP showcase the plethora of work happening around the world towards this very end.

Thank You.