

NATHEALTH calls for boost in healthcare spending, reforming GST in Budget 2024-25

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Recommendations cover short-term and long-term strategies to increase access to healthcare services



NATHEALTH-Healthcare Federation of India has submitted a visionary blueprint aimed at revolutionising India's healthcare landscape. Through a concrete set of recommendations submitted for the Union Budget 2024-25, NATHEALTH has urged the government to embark on transformative measures that prioritise bolstering healthcare infrastructure and making strategic investments to overcome supply side constraints.

India's public healthcare spending remains low, at only around 1.6-1.8 % of GDP. These allocations are insufficient to tackle the magnitude of healthcare challenges. NATHEALTH recommends increasing budget allocation to 2.5% of GDP to augment the social insurance schemes, boosting healthcare reforms and infrastructure and fast-tracking digital health services across India.

NATHEALTH strongly recommends outlining a reform agenda in the Finance Bill aimed at restructuring the healthcare GST framework.

Another recommendation is for the government to allocate funds for training and development programmes for doctors, nurses, and allied healthcare workers, putting special emphasis on digital learning stack and smart certification standards.

