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India's Healthcare Budget 2024-2025: A Strategic Leap Towards Comprehensive Health Reform

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The Rs 109,551.36 crores allocation underscores a significant increase aimed at enhancing infrastructure, expanding medical education, and boosting healthcare services, positioning India to address current challenges and future health crises effectively.



India's Healthcare Budget 2024-2025

The healthcare budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 signifies India's robust approach towards strengthening its healthcare infrastructure, expanding medical education, and enhancing healthcare services. The budget allocation for the Department of Health and Family Welfare stands at Rs 109,551.36 crore, showcasing a strategic increase from the previous year's Rs 104,683.00 crore. This article delves into the detailed allocations and strategic priorities that underpin this significant budget.

Overview of Budget Allocation

Category	2022-2023 Actual (Rs Crore)	2023-2024 Budget (Rs Crore)	2023-2024 Revised (Rs Crore)	2024-2025 Budget (Rs Crore)
Revenue	95,934.88	99,382.66	88,923.99	105,939.07
Capital	3,050.82	5,300.34	2,709.36	3,612.29
Total	**98,985.70**	**104,683.00**	**91,633.35**	**109,551.36**

The budgetary increase is primarily aimed at enhancing various healthcare initiatives, improving infrastructure, and addressing the critical needs of the population through targeted programs.

Key Allocations and Strategic Initiatives

1. **Central Sector Schemes and Projects**
    - **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**: Allocated Rs 2,200.00 crore, PMSSY aims to correct regional imbalances in healthcare services and augment medical education facilities by establishing new AIIMS and upgrading existing medical institutions.
    - **National AIDS and STD Control Programme**: With a budget of Rs 2,892.00 crore, this program focuses on preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases through comprehensive strategies and interventions.
    - **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**: Receiving Rs 556.57 crore, PM-ABHIM is dedicated to developing health system capacities to respond effectively to future pandemics and disasters.
2. **Establishment Expenditure**
    - Major institutions like Safdarjung Hospital and Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, and Lady Hardinge Medical College have been allocated substantial funds to support their operational costs and infrastructural development. For instance, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences receive â?¹1,610.00 crores, reflecting an increased focus on enhancing healthcare delivery.

Institution	2023-2024 Budget (Rs Crore)	2024-2025 Budget (Rs Crore)
Safdarjung Hospital and Vardhman Mahavir Medical College	1,853.34	1,874.00
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Atal Bihari Vajpayee	1,272.18	1,610.00
Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt. S.K. Hospitals	768.15	750.00

3. **National Health Mission (NHM)**
    - The NHM has been granted â?¹36,000.00 crores to strengthen rural and urban health systems, address healthcare needs of vulnerable sections, and support state and district-level health plans.

Program	2023-2024 Budget (Rs Crore)	2024-2025 Budget (Rs Crore)
National Health Mission (NHM)	29,085.26	36,000.00
Infrastructure Maintenance	6,798.37	7,000.00

4. **Human Resources for Health and Medical Education**
    - A critical area of focus, this segment is allocated Rs 1,274.79 crore to establish new medical colleges, upgrade nursing and paramedical institutions, and increase the number of undergraduate and postgraduate seats in existing medical colleges.
5. **Regulatory and Statutory Bodies**
    - Bodies like the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), and the National Medical Commission (NMC) have been allocated funds to ensure the maintenance of high standards in medical education, food safety, and drug regulation.

Regulatory Body	2023-2024 Budget (Rs Crore)	2024-2025 Budget (Rs Crore)
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	639.10	675.21
Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)	8.53	8.53
National Medical Commission (NMC)	53.20	54.00

Focus on Innovation and Pandemic Preparedness

The budget places a strong emphasis on innovation and preparedness, particularly in response to the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Initiatives like the **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)** and the **National Tele Mental Health Programme** highlight the government's commitment to leveraging technology to improve healthcare access and delivery. The NDHM aims to create a comprehensive digital health ecosystem, while the tele-mental health program seeks to provide equitable and affordable mental health services nationwide.

Program	2023-2024 Budget (Rs Crore)	2024-2025 Budget (Rs Crore)
National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)	341.02	200.00
National Tele Mental Health Programme	133.73	90.00

A Strategic Blueprint for Future-Ready Healthcare

The 2024-2025 healthcare budget is a testament to the government's strategic approach to building a robust healthcare system capable of addressing both current and future challenges. By focusing on infrastructure development, strengthening healthcare services, enhancing medical education, and leveraging technology, the budget aims to ensure that quality healthcare is accessible to all sections of the population. These investments are expected to yield significant improvements in health outcomes and contribute to the overall well-being of the nation.

In summary, the healthcare budget for 2024-2025 sets a clear direction for India's health policy, emphasizing innovation, preparedness, and inclusive growth. It reflects a commitment to not only overcoming present challenges but also to building a resilient and efficient healthcare system for the future.