

Seventy-Eighth Session of the World Health Assembly
19th to 27th May 2025, Geneva

SPEECH BY Hon'ble HFM FOR PLENARY

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Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Namaste!

It is an honour for India to address the 78th Session of the World Health Assembly. We extend our congratulations to the elected committee chairs and look forward to meaningful discussions. The theme, "*One World for Health*," reflects India's long-standing vision of universal health and inclusivity.

Guided by this principle, India has made significant strides in healthcare through transformative initiatives like **Ayushman Bharat**, which has expanded access to comprehensive healthcare, improved infrastructure, provided financial protection for advanced treatments, and accelerated digital health adoption—paving the way toward **Universal Health Coverage**.

Excellencies

Our achievements have been recognized globally. The **United Nations Population Fund** acknowledged India's progress in **Maternal Health and Family Planning**, while the **UN Inter-Agency Group** reported major reductions in **childhood mortality and stillbirths**.

India has recently received the "**Trachoma-Free**" **certification** from WHO-SEARO and now commits to eliminating five more diseases—**Leprosy, Lymphatic Filariasis, Measles, Rubella, and Kala-azar**—within five years.

In a major policy step, India has extended coverage under the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** to all citizens above 70. The country has also expanded its medical education capacity significantly, increasing medical colleges by over 100% in the last decade—from 387 to 780 to enhance the availability of medical professionals.

Excellencies

We applaud WHO and member states for advancing the **Pandemic Treaty** through the INB Bureau, following the adoption of IHR amendments. India emphasizes that **equity** must guide all global public health initiatives.

In line with our belief that *“Health is the ultimate fortune,”* India reaffirms its commitment to building a healthier, more inclusive world.

Dhanyawad!