

**High Commission Of India
Pretoria**

PRESS RELEASE

High Commissioner of India Shri. Prabhat Kumar hosted a Press Briefing on 09 July 2026 at the Consulate General of India (CGI), Johannesburg, to highlight the key findings and long-term trends of India's 6th National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) released recently. Highlighting India's steady march towards Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals, the High Commissioner detailed how focused execution of flagship welfare programmes have significantly altered India's socio-economic and public health landscape and significantly strengthened women's empowerment across the nation.

2. The survey, conducted during 2023-24, executed across 715 districts by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, is an essential evidence-driven milestone documenting a monumental shift in national well-being. The key takeaways from the NFHS-6 survey includes notable progress in maternal and child health, fertility, family planning, nutrition, immunization, education, financial protection, non-communicable diseases and women empowerment.

3. India has achieved near-universal electrification and major gains in basic amenities with overall electricity coverage reaching 98.3%; drinking water access at 96.5%, 89% of women owning bank accounts, increased internet penetration, historic highs in maternal and child healthcare, with institutional deliveries reaching 90.6%, skilled birth attendance at 91.3%, and full immunization coverage rising to 87.1%; an over twelve-fold expansion in health insurance coverage to 60.2%, 95.9% of pregnant women receiving Antenatal Care (ANC), Maternal Mortality rate (MMR) declined to 87 from 254 per 100000 live births (65% reduction from 2004-06), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) decreased from 39 to 24 compared to last decade. Furthermore, India's demographic and social transitions have firmly consolidated: the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has stabilized at the replacement level of 2.0, while crucial indicators for gender-based violence have significantly improved, highlighted by a major decline in spousal violence among ever-married women from 37% down to 22.3%. These major gains were propelled by flagship initiatives for electrification, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), financial inclusion with opening of bank or post office account under a Jan Dhan accounts and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) delivery systems.

4. India's progress is anchored by a robust primary healthcare network of over 187,000 operational Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs (AAMs)/Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs). At the grass-roots level, a network of over 1.03 million Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers drives early registration by utilizing a mother and child digital tracking system to actively monitor missed ANC visits through active community outreach. This infrastructure is further reinforced by more than 467 million eSanjeevani telemedicine teleconsultations providing specialist care, an NHM-supported expansion of additional

healthcare workers (including nurses and community health officers), and the synergistic deployment of targeted schemes for pregnant women, newborns, ante natal and post natal care; improvement in child nutrition through holistic nutrition schemes, revamped Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS); Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA), Infant and Young Child Feeding, Iron and Folic Acid supplementation, and growth monitoring. To overcome rising adult obesity, the government has also accelerated healthy lifestyle movements like Khelo India, Fit India, Eat Right India, and Yoga, backed by wellness sessions and screening and management of Non Communicable Diseases. These efforts further strengthened by the world's largest government funded insurance scheme.

5. The press briefing concluded with an overall assessment of the survey's macro trends, emphasizing that NFHS-6 presents concrete evidence of India's substantial long-term improvements across living standards, healthcare access, financial inclusion, and digital empowerment. It was noted that while India has successfully consolidated its demographic transition, the country has entered a vital new phase focused heavily on elevating the quality of healthcare, improving nutritional outcomes, and managing the growing burden of lifestyle-related Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Ultimately, these milestone findings reaffirm India's steady, inclusive development towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) via robust inter-sectoral convergence and strengthened last-mile delivery.

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