

### **Following is the full text of speech –**

Very Good Morning and Greetings to all.

- Indeed honoured to inaugurate the FICCI's 16th Annual Healthcare conference – FICCI HEAL 2022 in the august company of leaders of the industry.
- With an apt theme - 'Healthcare Transformation: Driving India's Economic Growth', this conference is bound to be an important deliberative platform for the health sector from the industry's as also national perspective.
- Congratulations to Mr Gautam Khanna, for rendering a thought provoking theme address.
- Grateful to Dr Sangita Reddy for wholesome observations about me.
- Healthcare is one of the most important pillars of nation-building - impacting not just the economy, but the productivity, well-being and happiness of citizens.
- Healthcare mechanism indicates Health of the Nation.
- Health and Education are twins that need to be well looked after and pandered for our present and future being.
- Their obvious springs are innovation, entrepreneurship. These twins if well-groomed will take care of

पहला सुख निरोगी काया,

दूजा सुख घर में हो माया।

- Series of governance affirmative steps have generated an ecosystem that now affords ample opportunities to all to exploit one's talent and potential. The positive results are a ground reality.
  - Affordable and quality Healthcare are inalienable facets of any vibrant society.
- AYUSHMAN BHARAT - PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA is a wholesome reflection.
- This mega health programme 'Ayushman Bharat' covers the entire continuum of healthcare and is effectively taking us towards Universal health Coverage.
  - It has been successful in bridging the gap between rich and poor in terms of accessibility of healthcare services in the country.
  - Greatly appreciate our budgetary march towards the target of 2.5 percent of GDP by 2025 as set out in the National Health Policy, 2017.
  - We have a basket of unique challenges as well as unprecedented opportunities in the sphere of public health.
  - Presently Infant Mortality Rate is less than 30 per thousand.
  - I recollect Infant Mortality was thrice looming at 88 per thousand births in 1990.
  - These figures are testimony to massive contribution of those engaged in Health Sector.

- India is on course to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets for health.
- Last month Bharat became Fifth largest economy, marching ahead of the UK. By turn of the decade we would be the third largest economy in the world. A feat that few years ago was a distant dream.
- In the last few decades, India has experienced record-breaking economic growth – accompanied by significant reductions in poverty and improvement in health.
- Emergence of world class infrastructure of roads and connectivity contributes to geometric growth of Health Sector.
- As of 2021, the healthcare sector is one of India's largest employers consisting of 4.7 million persons.
- As a Nation we have potential to cater the world needs of human resource in this sector as well.
- Series of recent governance initiatives have resulted in significant improvement in skill upliftment in this sector.
- Appreciate the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in having in 2014 Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to coordinate all skill development efforts across the country.
- The role of the industry in keeping pace with technological developments and skill upgradations in the Health Sector is commendable.
- The Health Ministry has made steady progress in digital healthcare delivery and has demonstrated full use of digital health in major national health programmes.
- I suggest that we further leverage our strengths in Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) for improving our healthcare.
- Public Private Partnerships are also imperative for healthcare infrastructure expansion in the country. Public health in India cannot be improved by only state-led, one-size-fits-all solution.
- With the diversity and scale of our healthcare demands, we need to involve all stakeholders- public, private and people to build and strengthen India's health and wellbeing.
- The government has also envisioned positioning India as a global hub for medical and wellness tourism through the 'Heal in India' initiative.
- In view of the excellent healthcare infrastructure and natural beauty of the countryside, India has the potential to become a prime health tourism destination.
- Would like to acknowledge the role of FICCI as the leading industry chamber of the country. FICCI has been contributing immensely to the COVID-19 response in close coordination with the Empowered Groups and has been providing valuable suggestions.
- I am happy that FICCI, through its HEAL platform, is extending the right stimulus and encouragement for the industry through exchange of innovative ideas for best practices.

- I also appeal to all chambers to come together on a single platform for addressing such important issues.
- Let us work together – public and private, centre and states, citizen and government – for our collective dream of Universal Healthcare - affordable, accessible, advanced and quality healthcare for all our people.
- Let's work to make Bharat a choice destination for Health Care.
- Wishing the best to you all! Thank you

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