

## National Health ID

### Why in news?

Prime Minister announced a national health ID for every Indian.

### What is the national health ID system?

- The national health ID will be a **repository** of all health-related information of a person.
- According to the National Health Authority (NHA), a person who wants their health records available digitally must create a Health ID.
- Each Health ID will be linked to a health data consent manager such as National Digital Health Mission that will be used to seek the patient's consent.
- It will allow for seamless flow of health information from the Personal Health Records module.

### How will the Health ID be created?

- It will be created by using a person's basic details and mobile number or Aadhaar number.
- This will make it unique to the person, who will have the option to link all of their health records to this ID.

### What was the original proposal for the health ID?

- The National Health Policy 2017 aimed at creating a digital integrated health information system that would serve the needs of all stakeholders.
- This system could improve efficiency, transparency and citizens' experience with linkage across public and private healthcare.

### What did the Niti Aayog do?

- Based on this proposal, in 2018, Niti Aayog floated a consultation of a digital backbone for India's health system - National Health Stack.
- In this consultation, a Digital Health ID was proposed to reduce the risk of preventable medical errors and increase the quality of care.
- The system will also enable the users to obtain a longitudinal view of their healthcare records.

## **What did the Central government do?**

- This Niti Aayog proposal was then further taken up by the Central government.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the NHA, and the MietY prepared a strategy overview document.
- The document is about making India a digital health nation by enabling digital healthcare for all.

## **Which systems does the national health ID interact with?**

- Various healthcare providers such as hospitals, labs, online pharmacies, insurance companies, etc., will participate in the health ID system.
- While option of digital Health ID will be there, in case a person does not want Health ID, then also treatment should be allowed.

## **Have there been global instances of such a health record system?**

- In 2005, the UK's National Health Service (NHS) started deployment of an electronic health record system.
- The goal was to have all patients with a centralised electronic health record by 2010.
- Many hospitals acquired electronic patient records systems as part of this process.
- But, there was no national healthcare information exchange.
- The project had been plagued by changing specifications, technical challenges and clashes with suppliers.
- This left it years behind schedule and way over cost.
- The program was dismantled after a cost to the UK taxpayer was more than £12 billion.

**Source: The Indian Express**