EMBASSY OF INDIA
GUATEMALA CITY

PRESS RELEASE

The Embassy of India in Guatemala organized a press conference on 03 July 2026 to share the remarkable achievements of the Government of India in the field of public health, as reflected in the findings of the recently released Sixth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) (2023-24).

Addressing members of the media, the Embassy highlighted India's significant progress in improving healthcare access, maternal and child health, nutrition, immunization, women's empowerment, and financial protection in healthcare under the framework of the National Health Mission (NHM) and other flagship initiatives of the Government of India.

The NFHS-6, one of the world's largest health and demographic surveys, covered nearly 679,000 households and over 700,000 women across 715 districts in India. The survey provides a comprehensive assessment of health and socio-economic indicators and demonstrates India's steady progress toward achieving Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The survey findings reveal substantial improvements in maternal and child healthcare services. Institutional deliveries have increased to 90.6 percent, while skilled birth attendance has reached 91.3 percent. Ante-natal care coverage has expanded significantly, with 95.9 percent of pregnant women receiving ant-enatal care. These achievements reflect the success of targeted interventions under the National Health Mission, including Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, and other maternal health programmes.

India has also recorded notable gains in child immunization. Full immunization coverage among children has increased to 87.1 percent, while more than 95 percent of vaccinations are now administered through public health facilities, underscoring the growing confidence of citizens in the public healthcare system. Programmes such as Mission Indradhanush and the U-WIN digital vaccination tracking platform have played a crucial role in achieving these outcomes.

The Embassy also highlighted India's success in reducing maternal and child mortality. India's Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined from 254 per 100,000 live births in 2004-06 to 87 in 2022-24, representing a reduction of approximately 65 percent. Similarly, infant and under-five mortality rates have shown substantial declines over the past decade.

The NFHS-6 findings further demonstrate India's progress in women's empowerment and financial inclusion. Nearly 89 percent of women now participate in household decision-making, 89 percent own and operate bank accounts, and internet usage among women has increased dramatically to 64.3 percent. These achievements have been supported by initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Digital India, and other programmes aimed at enhancing women's socio-economic participation.

The survey also highlights improvements in nutrition outcomes, with child stunting declining significantly over the past decade. Flagship initiatives such as POSHAN Abhiyaan and POSHAN 2.0 have contributed to these gains through a comprehensive approach to maternal and child nutrition.

Speaking on the occasion, the Embassy emphasized that the achievements reflected in NFHS-6 demonstrate India's commitment to inclusive development and equitable healthcare delivery. The Government of India continues to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, expand digital health services, and improve access to quality healthcare, particularly for vulnerable and underserved populations.

The Embassy noted that India's public health experience offers valuable lessons for developing countries seeking to improve healthcare outcomes through evidence-based policymaking, community participation, digital innovation, and sustained investment in public health systems.

The Embassy of India remains committed to sharing India's developmental experiences and strengthening cooperation with Guatemala in the fields of health, wellness, traditional medicine, capacity building, and sustainable development.

Guatemala City, 03 July 2026

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