International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA), 2025

Why in News?

The third "International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA 2025)" was recently held in New Delhi.

- **ISHTA** – Is an *annual conference* that gathers experts to discuss new research and developments in Health Technology Assessment (HTA).
- **Aim** – The symposium focuses on bridging evidence and policy through effective HTA.
- It marked a significant step towards a robust Indian healthcare system.
- **Vision** – Emphasized on a holistic healthcare approach encompassing preventive, curative, and rehabilitative care.
- **Organized by** – The Department of Health Research (DHR) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with:
  - The World Health Organization (WHO) India Country Office and
  - The Centre for Global Development (CGD).
- **Theme** – "Bridging Evidence to Policy: Health Technology Assessment for Affordable Healthcare."
- **Significance** – Would Help researchers, policymakers, healthcare professionals, and industry representatives to share ideas and collaborate.
- ***HTA*** *– It is a commonly adopted approach for generating evidence to inform decision-making in the healthcare sector and for optimizing resource use in health.*
- **HTA India resource centers** – Are spread over 19 states, which serves as an important mechanism for priority setting.
- It has helped immensely in achieving various health goals such as for TB detection, optimizing healthcare costs and incorporating evidence-based data in national health programs.
- **Open Real-Time PCR Kit** – Was recently released by the Union Health Minister which can help for the Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- **Health Technology Assessment in India (HTAIn)** - was approved for establishment with 4 divisions on 9 th May 2023.
- **Collaboration & Innovation** – Between researchers, policymakers, and industry, focusing on cost-effective health technologies.
- **Digital Health & Evidence** – Digital health technologies, like eSanjeevani and Ayushman Bharat, are bridging rural-urban gaps.
- **Challenges & Future Scope** – Policy translation and capacity building in HTA methodologies are crucial. Integrating socioeconomic and cultural contexts and expanding HTA to emerging technologies are vital for future progress.
- The symposium fostered collaboration, knowledge sharing, and strengthened the ecosystem for cost-effective health technologies, contributing significantly to India's

"Viksit Bharat" vision.

Reference

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