Unified Health Interface (UHI)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launches Unified Health Interface, Interoperable Network for Digital Health Services.

- It is an open network designed to create a ***citizen-centric digital health services*** ecosystem in India.
- **Developed by -** National Health Authority (NHA).
- **Framework -** It operates through open protocols on a core gateway of the ***Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)***.
- **Mechanism -** It acts as a common language layer.
- When a citizen searches for a service via any UHI-enabled app, the request is routed through the central gateway to registered service providers, eliminating platform dependency.

Foundational pillars

- **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) -** Serves as the unique patient identifier.
- **Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) -** For verifying and credentialing doctors.
- **Health Facility Registry (HFR) -** For verifying hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centers.
- **Health Information Exchange -** Facilitates consent-based health data sharing.

Core Principles

- **Interoperability -** Patients and providers can interact smoothly across any UHI-compatible platform.
- **Fair Discoverability -** Ensures equal visibility for all verified healthcare providers, regardless of their size, geography, or platform.

- **Verification -** Restricts network participation only to HPR and HFR-credentialed doctors and facilities to build trust.
- **Open Protocols -** Built on open specifications, allowing developers to build health applications in any language or on any device.

Service	Key Feature / Integration
Blood Bank Discovery	Real-time nationwide blood availability tracking, integrated with e-RaktKosh.
PMJAY Empanelled Hospital Search	Helps PMJAY beneficiaries find empanelled hospitals via the Health Empanelment Module (HEM).
Jan Aushadhi Kendra Discovery	Locating nearby outlets for affordable generic medicines.
Ambulance Discovery & Booking	Real-time booking of verified emergency ambulance services.
Doctor Consultations	Discovering nearby providers and booking in-person consultations on a single app.

Next Phase Services

- Lab diagnostics discovery and slot booking.
- Vaccination center discovery and slot booking.
- Pharmacy discovery (covering both licensed private pharmacies and government-run outlets).
- Integration with major government health platforms to connect citizens directly to national health programs.

Reference

PIB | Unified Health Interface

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