



13TH INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DIALOGUE

EVENT REPORT





Bringing together diverse voices from across the world, the 13th International Health Dialogue reinforced a collective commitment to building safer and more sustainable health systems.

A woman with dark hair is speaking at a podium. The background is a large, circular logo with a globe and text, partially obscured by a blue overlay. The overall image has a blue tint.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

The International Health Dialogue (IHD) 2026 convened global healthcare leaders at a moment when patient safety, quality, and system resilience are no longer aspirational goals, but urgent imperatives. Across health systems worldwide, rising complexity, workforce pressures, and accelerating innovation have created both unprecedented opportunity and heightened risk. Against this backdrop, IHD 2026 emerged as a critical platform for alignment, bringing together global voices to move from shared concerns to shared direction.

Guided by the theme “Global Voices, One Vision,” the 13th edition of the International Health Dialogue reaffirmed the belief that safer healthcare cannot be achieved in isolation. It demands collaboration across borders, disciplines, and sectors, anchored in strong leadership, evidence-based practice, and

a deep commitment to people. Held over two days, IHD 2026 brought together policymakers, health ministers, clinicians, hospital leaders, academicians, and industry experts from across the world. The Dialogue integrated the International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC), the Healthcare Operations and Patient Experience Conference (HOPE), CLINOVATE, and action-driven platforms such as SAFE-A-THON and academic paper and poster presentations.

As the International Health Dialogue continues to evolve, the 2026 edition marked a decisive shift from conversation to commitment. The insights, solutions, and collaborations that emerged over these two days reflect a shared resolve to translate knowledge into action and to strengthen healthcare systems that are safer, more resilient, and fundamentally human-centred.

IHD 2026 AT A GLANCE

The International Health Dialogue (IHD) 2026 reflected the growing global consensus that patient safety, quality improvement, and healthcare resilience must be addressed through collective action. The scale and diversity of participation underscored IHD's role as a trusted convening platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration across healthcare systems.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **5,000+ delegates from across healthcare and allied sectors**
- **400+ speakers, including global leaders, policymakers, clinicians, and industry experts**
- **1.2 million+ online views across live streams and digital platforms**
- **34 international hospitals represented**
- **221 national organizations**
- **62 academic institutions**
- **32 government organizations**
- **18 other healthcare and allied institutions**

IHD 2026 brought together a diverse and multidisciplinary audience, creating a unique space where global policy perspectives met frontline realities. Participation spanned senior government officials, international health ministers, accreditation leaders, hospital CEOs, clinicians, nurses, quality professionals, researchers, and innovators.

More than a gathering of numbers, IHD 2026 represented a shared intent: to strengthen healthcare systems by aligning leadership, culture, operations, and clinical practice around patient safety and experience. The scale of participation reinforced a growing recognition that the future of healthcare depends on collaboration, accountability, and the willingness to learn across borders and disciplines.

OPENING PLENARY & KEY SESSIONS

DAY 1 OVERVIEW



The International Health Dialogue 2026 commenced on a strong and inspiring note with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the shared commitment to knowledge, compassion, and excellence in healthcare. The opening set the tone for two days of dialogue focused on patient safety, quality improvement, and healthcare transformation.

Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, formally welcomed the distinguished gathering and introduced the conference theme, "Global Voices, One Vision." In her address, she highlighted the importance of global collaboration, shared learning, and collective responsibility in advancing patient safety and healthcare quality worldwide.

This was followed by a high-level discussion on the Global Landscape of Patient Safety, featuring Dr. Jonathan Perlin, President and CEO, Joint Commission International; Mr. Marc D. Paradis, Principal & Founder of SIYOM Consulting, LLC; Prof. Tran Trung Dung, CEO, Vinmec Healthcare System; and Dr. Sangita Reddy. The panel shared global perspectives on patient safety challenges, best practices, and the evolving role of healthcare systems in strengthening quality and patient-centered care.

A subsequent session titled A Global Call for Patient Safety brought together leaders from government, accreditation bodies, and healthcare organizations. The panel included Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Government of Telangana; Dr. Carsten Engel, CEO, ISQua; Dr. Atul Mohan Kochhar

CEO, NABH; and Mr. Madhu Sasidhar, President & CEO, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited. The discussion emphasized the role of policy leadership, accreditation, and shared accountability in building safer healthcare systems.

The forward-looking session *Chorus of Change: Future-Facing Transformation* featured Dr. Atul Mohan Kocchar, CEO, NABH; Mr. Som Mittal, President, PFPS; Prof. (Dr.) Patrick McNeil, Macquarie University; and Dr. Rohini Sridhar, Apollo Hospitals. The panel explored innovation, leadership, and system-level transformation shaping the future of healthcare.

The second half of the day featured multiple engaging panel discussions that encouraged active participation and peer-to-peer learning. Delegates shared perspectives, raised questions, and discussed real-world challenges, reinforcing the collaborative spirit of the Dialogue and setting the stage for focused discussions across subsequent sessions.





13TH INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH DIALOGUE



CONFERENCE 2026



KEY PLENARY & LEADERSHIP SESSIONS

DAY 2 OVERVIEW



Day 2 of the International Health Dialogue 2026 commenced with the Joint Plenary on “A World Aligned: Innovation, Inclusion, and Impact in Healthcare,” bringing together IPSC, HOPE, THIT, and CLINOVATE on a single platform. Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, set the context by emphasizing the importance of aligning innovation with inclusion and measurable impact to advance patient safety and healthcare quality worldwide. The session featured an address by Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Visionary Founder and Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group, who reflected on India’s evolving role in global healthcare and reiterated the need for values-driven leadership and long-term vision in shaping resilient healthcare systems.

Global perspectives were further strengthened by Dr. Jonathan Perlin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Joint Commission International, who spoke on the role of accreditation, continuous learning, and global benchmarking in driving safer care. Distinguished health ministers from across regions, including Prof. Jean Rosaire Ibara, Hon’ble Minister of Health and Population, Republic of Congo; Dr. Grace Ayensu-Danquah, Hon’ble Deputy Minister of Health, Ghana; Mr. Hu’akavameiliku Siasosi Sovaleni, Hon’ble Minister of Health, Tonga; and Dr. Sarah Cleto Rial, Hon’ble Minister of Health, South Sudan, shared insights on innovation, equity, and the shared challenges facing healthcare systems globally.

The morning continued with Unscripted with Mr Arnab Goswami, one of the most anticipated sessions of the conference. The candid conversation featured Ms. Shobana Kamineni, Executive Chairperson, Apollo Health Co Ltd and Apollo Pharmacies Ltd. The session offered unfiltered reflections on leadership, entrepreneurship, and the evolving healthcare landscape, providing insights into decision-making at scale, the role of private enterprise in healthcare transformation, and the importance of patient-centric thinking in a rapidly changing environment.

The afternoon session, The Top Gear – Speed, Precision & Power, brought a dynamic close to the day's key sessions. The fast-paced leadership dialogue featured Dr. James I. Merlino, Executive

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Joint Commission International; Dr. B K Rana, Chief Executive Officer, Quality & Accreditation Institute; and Dr. Ilankumaran Kaliamoorthy, Regional Chief Executive Officer, Apollo Hospitals. Chaired by Mr. Gaurav Loria, Senior Vice President and Head – Operations and Patient Experience, Apollo Hospitals, the session focused on execution excellence, accreditation, and leadership under pressure. Through rapid-fire insights and practical reflections, the discussion underscored the importance of speed, precision, and disciplined systems in sustaining high standards of patient safety and care delivery.





Towards the conclusion of Day 2, Dr. Preetha Reddy delivered the closing address, bringing the Dialogue to a reflective and purposeful close. In her remarks, she underscored the importance of translating collective intent into sustained action, reaffirming Apollo's commitment to advancing patient safety, quality, and innovation through collaboration, leadership, and system-wide learning.

The closing address was followed by the Winner of Winners Awards and the SAFE-ATHON Awards Ceremony, celebrating exemplary initiatives, teams, and individuals who demonstrated outstanding impact in patient safety and healthcare improvement. The ceremonies recognized innovation, rigor, and real-world implementation, reinforcing the central theme of IHD 2026.

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Parallel sessions at IHD 2026 provided focused, practice-driven discussions that deepened the Dialogue's engagement with patient safety, quality, and system resilience. Sessions on VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India, chaired by Dr. Suneeta Dubey, brought together leading voices including Dr. Ritu Garg and Prof. Harpreet Kapoor, highlighting the role of quality practices and collaboration in advancing safe and equitable eye care.

A dedicated session on storytelling in healthcare, led by Ravishankar Iyer, emphasized how powerful narratives can translate innovation into action. The discussion underscored that in healthcare, clarity of communication and purposeful storytelling play a critical role in building trust, driving adoption, and aligning teams around patient-centered change.

Clinical safety remained a strong focus, with discussions on radiology and MRI safety led by Dr. Rajiv Lochan Sha, addressing silent risks associated with advanced technologies and reinforcing safeguards for patients and healthcare workers. Infection prevention sessions, guided by Dr. Ranga Reddy Burri and Dr. Meera Challapilla, highlighted outbreak preparedness, surveillance, and structured response systems as essential pillars of patient safety.

Workforce and systems-focused conversations featured leaders such as Mayank Rautela, who emphasized the need for proactive, people-first workforce strategies, while academic paper presentation sessions showcased research on patient safety, quality improvement, patient engagement, and emerging trends shaping safer, more resilient healthcare systems.



HOPE 2026

The HOPE Conference at IHD 2026 unfolded over two days as a focused exploration of how healthcare operations and patient experience can be strengthened together to deliver safer, more compassionate, and future-ready care. Day 1 opened with The Experience Dividend, chaired by Sivareena Sarika, which positioned experience as a measurable driver of trust, outcomes, and organizational performance. James I. Merlino emphasized compassion as a core metric in human-centred care, while Harkaran Sahni shared practical approaches to designing meaningful patient journeys. Joy Chakraborty reinforced the importance of listening to patients as a foundation for continuous improvement.

The conversation moved seamlessly into Efficiency by Design – The Art of Smarter Systems, chaired by Surinder Singh Bhatia, where speakers examined how intentional system design can enhance efficiency without compromising care quality. Shilpa Tatake spoke on enabling seamless patient and staff workflows, Bharateesh Reddy highlighted AI-enabled integrated healthcare ecosystems, and Sheetal Agarwal brought a unique perspective on joy, empathy, and emotional well-being as essential elements of effective healthcare delivery.

Day 1 concluded with Friction to Flow – Mastering Process Efficiency, co-chaired by Giridhar Gyani and Ravi Shankar.



The session explored translating operational challenges into streamlined processes, with Sarang Deo sharing data-driven operational quick wins, Rajeev Chourey discussing efficiency in resource-constrained settings, and Venkatesh Thouti focusing on embedding policy and safety frameworks into frontline practice. Ravishankar Iyer demonstrated how storytelling can be a powerful catalyst for driving change and sustaining process improvements.

Day 2 of the HOPE Conference deepened the focus on safety, regulation, and compassion. Sessions examined integrated safety models for future-ready hospitals, highlighting the convergence of technology, leadership, and high-reliability operations to strengthen patient and staff safety. Discussions on The Safety Matrix emphasized structured safety frameworks, infection prevention, and risk assessment as cornerstones of operational excellence.

A dedicated session on The Science of Compassion reinforced the role of empathy, simulation-based training, and thoughtful use of technology in creating sustainable, human-centred care. The concluding panel on Healthcare in Transition: Steering Through the Regulatory Renaissance addressed navigating evolving regulatory landscapes while sustaining patient-centric operations.

Across both days, HOPE 2026 reinforced a consistent message: operational excellence and patient experience are inseparable. Through global perspectives, real-world insights, and practical strategies, the conference equipped healthcare leaders with actionable approaches to build safer, smarter, and more empathetic healthcare systems.



CLINOVATE

CLINOVATE at IHD 2026 served as a focused platform for clinical innovation and excellence, bringing together practitioners, leaders, and experts to examine how proactive practices and streamlined systems can enhance patient safety across specialties. Discussions emphasized the need to move from reactive care models to anticipatory, evidence-driven approaches that reduce risk, improve outcomes, and strengthen trust in clinical care.

Across key specialty areas including Oncology, Women's Health & Longevity, Cardiac Sciences, and Laboratory Medicine, conversations highlighted how clinical safety is increasingly shaped by early risk identification, multidisciplinary collaboration, and integration of innovation into routine practice. Speakers underscored the importance of standardization, protocol-driven care, and continuous monitoring in managing complexity, particularly in high-acuity and high-risk clinical environments.

A recurring theme was the role of technology as an enabler of safer clinical decision-making, when thoughtfully implemented and supported by strong clinical governance. Sessions explored how diagnostics, data, and clinical workflows can be aligned to support timely interventions while maintaining patient-centered care. Equally emphasized was the need to balance innovation with ethical responsibility, clinical judgment, and system readiness.

CLINOVATE discussions also reinforced the importance of collaboration between clinicians, administrators, and academia in advancing patient safety. By sharing real-world experiences, best practices, and emerging research, the platform fostered knowledge exchange aimed at translating innovation into measurable improvements at the bedside.



THIT 2026



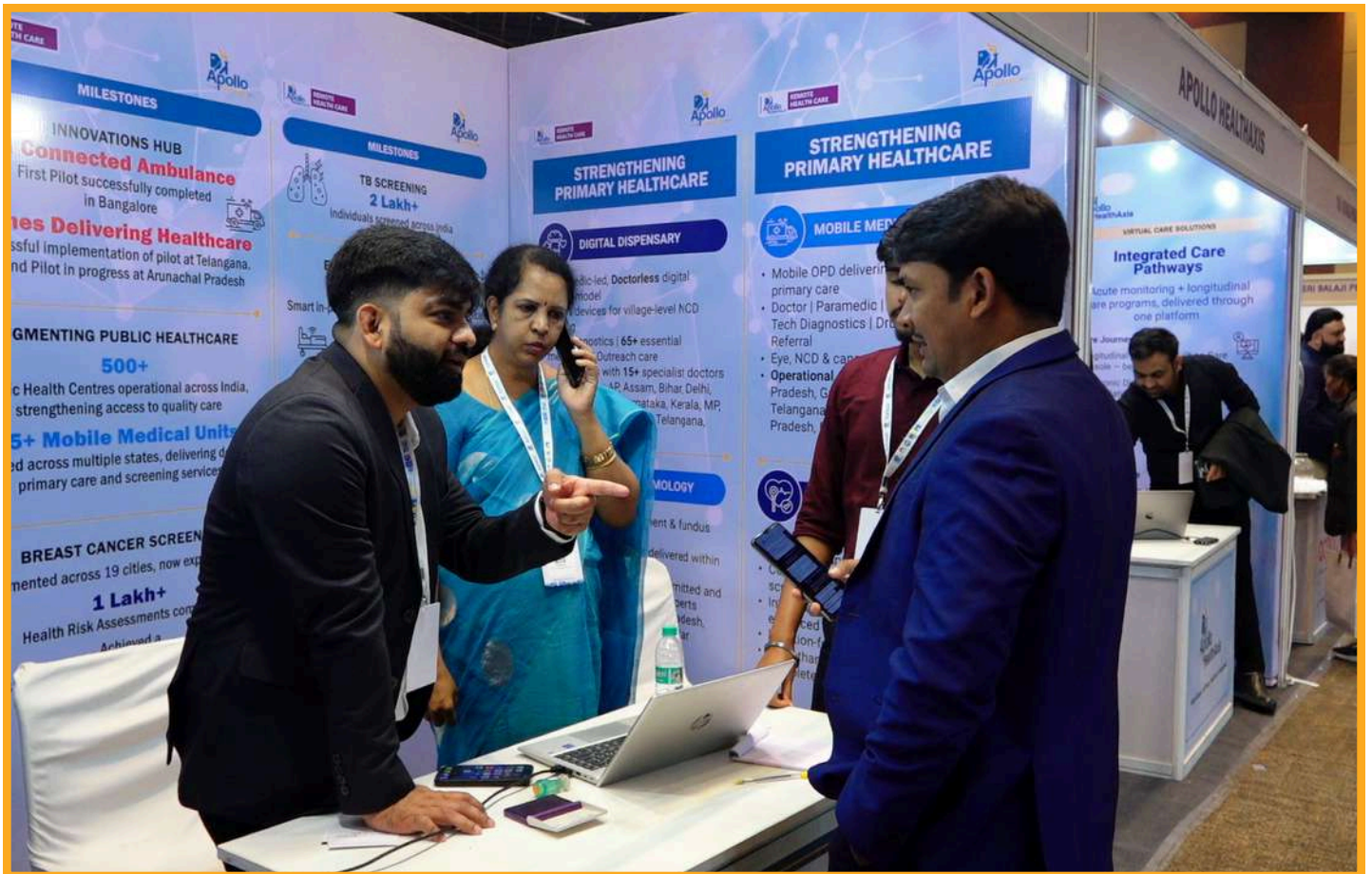
The Transforming Healthcare with Information Technology (THIT) conference at IHD 2026 highlighted the critical role of digital innovation in enabling safer, smarter, and more connected healthcare systems. Discussions focused on the practical application of health IT, artificial intelligence, data interoperability, cybersecurity, and digital public infrastructure to strengthen clinical decision-making and operational efficiency. Through real-world case studies and expert insights, THIT emphasized how technology, when thoughtfully designed and responsibly implemented, can enhance patient safety, support clinicians, and improve system resilience across diverse healthcare settings.

EXHIBITION AREA

The Exhibition Area at the International Health Dialogue 2026 was a dynamic centre of innovation and engagement, featuring over 161 stalls showcasing solutions across healthcare technology, diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, digital health, and patient safety. The exhibition enabled meaningful interactions between industry leaders, clinicians, hospital administrators, and policymakers, translating conversations from the conference halls into practical, real-world applications. We extend our sincere gratitude to all sponsors and partners who contributed to the success of IHD 2026, including Apollo Hospitals, Apollo Pharmacy, Vinmec, Roche Diagnostics, Roche Pharma, Pfizer, Abbott, Siemens, Varien, Samsung, Philips, Sun Pharma, Cipla, AstraZeneca India Pvt Ltd, BD India, GE Healthcare, BPL Medical Technologies, 3M India, Boston Scientific, Portzo, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Meril Life Sciences, Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India Pvt Ltd, Aldun, QuidelOrtho, Intas Oncology

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SEMI, NABH, ISQua, Public Health Foundation of India, American Hospital Association, QAI, Elsevier, Astron Healthcare, National Board of Examinations, Medvarsity, News9-TV9 Network, Express Healthcare, Medarabia, BioSpectrum, Novotel, Namdhari Events, AIHA, ANBAI, Apollo Medical College, Sri Venkateshwara College of Pharmacy, Gastrointestinal Oncology Society (GIOS), THANA, TSHA, IndiGo Airlines, and Maa Live.



“The International Health Dialogue provided a valuable platform to engage with healthcare leaders from across the ecosystem. The conversations around patient safety, innovation, and system readiness were highly relevant, and the forum enabled meaningful exchange between technology partners and healthcare providers.”

Mr Rohit Abrol, BD

“I loved attending IHD 2026. It offered practical insights that I can take back to my organization. The sessions went beyond theory and focused on how patient safety and experience can be improved on the ground. Looking forward to the next edition”

Sonal, Delegate

“IHD 2026 stood out for its strong focus on implementation. The Dialogue brought together diverse stakeholders and created space for honest discussions on quality, safety, and operational challenges facing healthcare today.”

Rudra, Industry Partner



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Healthcare for all.





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