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It gives me immense pleasure to present this special edition of The BRICS Health Journal, reflecting the shared commitment of BRICS member countries towards strengthening health cooperation and advancing equitable, resilient and people-centred health systems. India's BRICS Chairship in 2026 provided an important platform to translate our shared priorities into concrete outcomes through sustained technical engagement, knowledge exchange and consensus-building among member states.

Under India's Chairship, the BRICS Health Track advanced cooperation across a wide range of priorities, including tuberculosis research, health emergency preparedness, medical products regulation, digital health, healthy lifestyle, mental wellness, Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM), diseases driven by social determinants of health, public health institutions, vaccine research and development, and nuclear medicine. These deliberations culminated in the adoption of the 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Declaration, reaffirming our collective resolve to strengthen collaboration and address emerging and persistent health challenges through coordinated action.

Several important deliverables were advanced during India's Chairship, including launch of BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and its Roadmap for joint initiative (2026–2029), a Sub-Working group on the BRICS

Integrated Early Warning System, proposed establishment of an expert working group on TCIM, exchange of country experiences and innovations on digital health, establishment of a BRICS Training Hub Network and BRICS Network of Centre of Excellence for promotion of mental wellness and operational framework for cooperation among National Public Health Institutes while facilitating the exchange of national best practices through thematic compendiums.

These outcomes demonstrate that effective multilateral cooperation can translate shared aspirations into practical and sustainable initiatives. I am confident that this edition of The BRICS Health Journal will further promote knowledge-sharing, research and innovation, and provide a platform for continued collaboration. The outcomes of India's Chairship provide a strong foundation for advancing the BRICS health agenda and contributing meaningfully to global health cooperation.

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