

Press Brief

The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on ‘Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services’, Government of Kerala, Report No.6 of the year 2024 has been laid on the table of Kerala Legislative Assembly on 21 January 2025. The Audit Report has been presented to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in accordance with Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India. The summary of the important points highlighted in this Report is given below:

- Shortage of doctors against sanctioned posts was noticed at all levels of hospitals under Modern system of Medicine, which was more severe in the case of specialist doctors. Similarly, shortage of nurses, pharmacists and lab technicians was also noticed in the test-checked hospitals.

(Executive Summary and Paragraphs 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5)

- The vacancies of nurses, pharmacists and lab technicians reported to Kerala Public Service Commission by the Homoeopathy Medical Colleges remained unfilled as no appointments were made during the audit period.

(Paragraph 2.1)

- The number of doctors in the Out-Patient Departments of the hospitals was not commensurate with the number of patients seeking medical care, creating overload for doctors as well as inconvenience to patients.

(Executive Summary and Paragraph 3.1.4)

- The minimum essential services as prescribed by Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) were not available in many of the hospitals.

(Executive Summary and Paragraph 3.2)

- There were 62,826 instances of stock-out of drugs in the test-checked hospitals and the stock out period ranged upto 1745 days.

(Paragraph 4.1.2)

- Penalty amounting to ₹1.64 crore in 82 instances was not levied, where supply of drugs was less than the ordered quantity.

(Paragraph 4.2.2)

- The policy of subjecting only 10 *per cent* of drugs to quality check (QC) did not yield desired results as all the batches of 46 drugs and all supplies from 14 suppliers evaded QC during the audit period.

(Executive Summary and Paragraph 4.3)

- Many vital medical equipment were not available in hospitals due to delay in purchase and non-maintenance of equipment.

(Executive Summary and Paragraph 4.7)

- The shortage of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in the State when compared with IPHS was 14 and 35 *per cent* respectively.

(Executive Summary and Paragraph 5.1)

- There was inordinate delay in the establishment and commencement of academic activities at the Government Medical Colleges in Kasaragod, Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Wayanad.

(Paragraph 5.8.2)

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, inordinate delay in payment of insurance claims to beneficiaries was noticed.

(Executive Summary and Paragraph 7.7)

- Under the Janani Suraksha Yojana and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, 28.83 *per cent* and 55.52 *per cent* of beneficiaries respectively did not receive assistance.

(Executive Summary and Paragraphs 7.6 and 7.8)

- State sector health spending did not meet the target of more than eight *per cent* of the budget as envisaged in the National Health Policy, 2017. Against the expenditure of ₹48,735.92 crore on health during the Audit period, the capital expenditure was only 4.24 *per cent*.

(Executive Summary and Paragraph 6.3)

- Kerala has not yet formulated the action plan/ vision document for achieving the targets under Sustainable Development Goals.

(Executive Summary and Paragraph 9.3.1)