



Lancet Commission Report on Citizen-Centred Health System for India

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Context: The Lancet Commission report (Jan 2026) gives a roadmap for India to achieve **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2047**.

Key Problems Identified

1. **Fragmented system:** Health services run in silos (disease-wise) with poor linkage between primary, secondary, and tertiary care.
2. **High out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE):** Even with Ayushman Bharat, people spend heavily on outpatient care, medicines, and diagnostics.
3. **Poor quality of care:** “Know-do gap” — doctors often do not follow standard treatment guidelines.
4. **Changing disease burden:** Rising NCDs along with infectious diseases.

Major Recommendations

1. Empower citizens:

oStrengthen local bodies (VHSNCs), grievance redressal, and access to health data.

1. Reform public health system:

oCreate **Integrated Delivery Systems (IDS)** linking primary care with secondary hospitals for a defined population.

1. Align private sector with UHC:

oMove from **fee-for-service** to **capitation/global budgets**.

oExpand insurance to cover **outpatient care and medicines**.

1. Other measures:

oScale up **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**.

oUse real-time data for transparency and surveillance.

oPromote evidence-based policymaking.

5. Global Water Bankruptcy – UN University Report

Context: The UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) released a report on **21 January 2026**, warning that the planet has entered the era of **Global Water Bankruptcy**.

What is *Water Bankruptcy*?

- A **long-term, post-crisis condition** where **water use exceeds renewable supply and safe depletion limits**.
- Results in **irreversible or near-irreversible damage** to water systems.

Unlike short-term shortages, recovery is **not realistically possible**.

Key Findings: Large parts of Earth's **water and natural capital** are damaged beyond full recovery: Rivers, Lakes, Aquifers, Wetlands, Soils, Glaciers

Difference: Key Concepts

1 Water Stress:

o High demand vs limited supply

o **Reversible** impacts

1. Water Crisis:

o Sudden shock (drought, flood, conflict)

o Systems can recover with **emergency measures**

1. Water Bankruptcy:

o **Chronic overuse + ecological damage**

o **Irreversible degradation**

Factors Leading to Water Bankruptcy

1. Slow-onset depletion

o Continuous overuse of surface and groundwater

o Early warning signs ignored until tipping points crossed

1. Infrastructure-driven overshoot

o Large dams and inter-basin transfers allow expansion beyond sustainable limits

1. Ecological liquidation

o Destruction of wetlands, floodplains, forests, and soils

o Short-term gains at the cost of long-term water storage and filtration

1. Climate-amplified overshoot

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o Climate change reduces reliable supply and increases variability in already stressed systems

