

## Dinesh Arora joins as Director for PM's healthcare programme

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**Arora had been working on the programme for more than a month before it was announced in the budget speech by finance minister Arun Jaitley on February 1.**



Dinesh Arora, director (health) at federal policy think tank Niti Aayog, has been appointed director of the prime minister's flagship healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat, in the health ministry.

Arora had been working on the programme for more than a month before it was announced in the budget speech by finance minister Arun Jaitley on February 1. He is a qualified doctor and has worked in public health in the past, heading the National Rural Health Mission in Kerala from May 2006 to September 2009. He moved to Niti Aayog in July.

Union health ministry's additional secretary, Manoj Jhalani, has been appointed mission director of the project. Both Arora and Jhalani in different capacities have been involved in government's flagship programme — National Health Mission (NHM) — which has several key health initiatives under it, including Mission Indradhanush.