

## "A welcome step for severe shortage of skilled healthcare manpower in India": ICRA

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**Shamsher Dewan, Senior Vice President & Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA shares his reaction on Union Budget 2023-24**



*"The budgetary allocation of Rs. 891.6 billion for the healthcare sector for FY2024 translates to 12.6% YoY growth compared to the RE for FY2023. The roll-out of new programmes to promote R&D in the sector through centers of excellence and select ICMR lab facilities being made available for medical colleges and the private sector is a progressive step towards improving public-private partnerships and thus overall thrust on R&D. Further, setting up of new nursing colleges, and introduction of multi-disciplinary courses for medical devices is expected to increase the availability of skilled manpower in the healthcare and medical devices sectors. This is a welcome step given the severe shortage of skilled manpower in India as compared to the global average and other developing nations.*

*Overall, the budget aims at increasing spending on the sector, improving universal health coverage, promoting R&D, and increasing skilled manpower, which is a positive. That said, continuing modest allocation towards the healthcare sector leaves India's healthcare spend as a percentage of GDP well below the world average and other developing and developed nations."*