- They in turn connect to general practitioners and specialist through a hub-and-spoke model & this approach can be applied to deliver other health care services.

- In remotely shared medical appointments (SMA), multiple patients with similar medical needs meet with clinicians at once who receive individual attention which will increase telehealth capacity.

- This method is successfully adopted in the United States for over 20 years.

- SMAs enable peer support, peer-to-peer learning which can improve both productivity and outcomes for many conditions, notably diabetes.

- The Aravind Eye Hospital in Puducherry has successfully trialled in-person SMAs for patients with glaucoma and found that patients engage more and ask more questions.

- E-Sanjeevani and other telehealth platforms could offer such virtual shared medical appointments.

- Moreover this will help in building supportive bonds, enable sharing of local knowledge which can attract supplementary providers (physiotherapists, optometrists).

What are the challenges in it?

- Switching to radically different care delivery models requires rigorous testing combined with mentoring, training and behaviour change for both patients and providers.

- Adoption of in-person shared medical appointments has been slow.

- ECHO which train primary-care providers through an online can accelerate this model of care.

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1 Fighting Against Corruption

Why in news?

Recently Odisha government declared that all public servants are mandatorily required to file their property returns with the Lok Ayukta.

What is the existing mechanism to fight corruption?

- In India, politico-bureaucratic nexus is the cause for systematic corruption & the preventive aspect of it is often neglected.

- Lokpal and Lok Ayuktas Act, 2013 which fights against corruption is existing for more than half a decade.

- But its implementation is uneven and the deadline to file the property declarations is constantly deferred.

- Initially it was set at September 15, 2014, but later this date was extended for six times.

What causes corruption?

- Information asymmetry is the primary culprit behind illegal wealth acquired by bureaucrats and political functionaries.

- Now Odisha government stated that all political and bureaucratic functionaries have to publicly declare their assets at the end of every year.

- This baseline data-base of assets provides significant insights into the asset ownership pattern of officials at different positions.

- It also creates transparency between the citizens and those in power at every level, reduces information asymmetry.

- Moreover lack of accountability is another cause for corruption.

How accountability can be promoted?

- People's participation (P) is also critical in preventing, detecting and reducing corruption in the system.

- Hence this formula can be rearranged as C = M + D – A – P.

> *Robert Klitgaard, "Systemic corruption is due to monopoly (M), discretion (D), accountability (A) which can be denoted in formula as C = M + D - A."*