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THE ECONOMIC TIMES AWARDS
FOR CORPORATE EXCELLENCE

Often referred to as the 'Green MP' for cycling to Parliament to promote fitness, Mansukh Mandaviya is one of the most important ministers in the Narendra Modi cabinet. As health minister, his decision-making was instrumental in the economy bouncing back from Covid, especially the devastating Delta wave, making him the ET Awards jury's choice for Business Reformer of the year.

Mandaviya was given the critical health portfolio in July 2021 when the country was still reeling from the second Covid wave. He was promoted to the cabinet — having been minister of state for ports, shipping and waterways and chemicals and fertilisers — at this key juncture.

He is credited with the successful implementation of 1 billion Covid vaccinations in nine months and 2 billion vaccinations in 18 months, raising India's vaccination coverage against Covid-19 to 70% of the population. In the last 18 months, he has focused on formulating India's response to the Covid omicron variants, promoted capacity building and research, coordinated efforts with the Serum Institute of India, Bharat Biotech, Biological E and Zydus Cadila at all stages of the vaccination programme and anchored the digital health mission to create easily accessible health records and improved telemedicine.

A veterinary doctor by training, Mandaviya executed and sustained the large-scale operation at the government level, besides developing awareness and outreach programmes to create and sustain trust among the people by putting in place a sustainable delivery infrastructure while also developing a community health cadre of workers, particularly vaccinators. He was instrumental in managing the supply of 21 essential drugs, and among the few ministers to be part of all empowered committees for Covid-19, even before he was made the health minister. He drove the vaccine supply when there were doubts not just about supply but also distribution, even as vaccine hesitancy was reported from some parts of the country. Mandaviya coordinated with global and Indian vaccine makers to get vaccines at an unprecedented speed. He pushed for the recognition of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin in 96 countries. He recently launched iNCOVACC, the company's Made-in-India nasal Covid vaccine.

"India's manufacturing, research and innovation capabilities are admired in the world. India will not be just known as the pharmacy of the world but will be known for research and innovation too. My job is to take Modi's vision forward and get the country to realise its potential," he told ET.

Mandaviya is also in charge of implementing the ambitious Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission — which he says is bigger than Obamacare — and for the expansion of the National Health Mission, in which citizen health accounts will be created while ensuring privacy.

BUSINESS REFORMER

...and the award goes to

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA

Minister for Health and Family Welfare,
Chemicals and Fertilisers

**Vet in Mission Mode:
Fighting a Pandemic,
Vaccinating 2 billion
and Building a Bigger
'Obamacare' in India**

