



The [Swasthya Slate](#) is a health care device that connects to Android tablet or phone and conducts 33 diagnostic tests. It can measure routine metrics like heart rate, ECG, blood pressure, blood type, or body temperature; test for diseases like malaria, dengue, hepatitis B, HIV-1 and HIV-2, and typhoid; and use disposable strips to perform a variety of other diagnostics on urine and blood samples.

Quartz reports that in addition to being cheap, the tests are [95 percent accurate](#). The device was created by Dr. Kanav Kahol, a former assistant professor at Arizona State University who returned to India to head up the affordable health technologies division at the Public Health Foundation of India. According to *OPEN*, Kahol was able to develop the device in three months and [at a cost of \\$11,000](#), a fraction of what he estimated development would take in the U.S. The device will be commercially available for \$640 by the end of the year, and tests represent a huge cost savings; a Swasthya Slate test for dengue, for example, costs \$5 versus the \$25 to \$80 it would cost in a city clinic or hospital.

Millions of people in India don't have access to hospitals or clinical laboratories, and would have to travel for hours to have diagnostic tests performed. World Bank data shows that India has [0.7 physicians](#) for every thousand people, versus 2.5 in the U.S. With the Swasthya Slate, midwives or community health workers can conduct tests, administer basic treatments, and decide which patients to refer to a physician.

Kahol's goal with the Swasthya Slate is to save lives that would previously have been lost due to lack of diagnosis or even lack of screening in areas where access to health care is poor. So far, the device has been tested in eighty locations worldwide, with tests currently being conducted in thirteen states in India. When the portable device conducts a test, it transmits the results to the connected Android device via Bluetooth, and later uploads the results to a central database via a 3G connection. The database can serve as a resource both for doctors and for the government, which finds it challenging to create public health policies due to a traditional lack of relevant statistics. Kahol tells *Quartz* that the Swasthya Slate can help create information-driven health systems instead of intuition-driven systems.