

TG to establish 109 trauma centres along highways: Raja Narasimha

Government has launched a comprehensive Trauma Care Policy aimed at saving lives by immediately transporting victims of road accidents and other emergencies to hospitals, says the Health Minister

HYDERABAD

HEALTH Minister Damaraju Raja Narasimha stated that the government is establishing 109 trauma care centres equipped with all necessary facilities along national and state highways across the Telangana state.

The Minister, along with MLA Arikapudi Gandhi, laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 100-bed critical care block in Kondapur on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Raja Narasimha said the government has launched a comprehensive Trauma Care Policy aimed at saving lives by immediately transporting victims of road accidents and other emergencies to hospitals.

He said the State government is strengthening the emergency response system



Health Minister Raja Narasimha laid the foundation stone for construction of a 100-bed critical care unit in Hyderabad on Thursday



to ensure that help reaches the scene of a road accident or other emergency within ten minutes and as part of this initiative, it is increasing the number of (108) ambulances and establishing 31 Critical Care Blocks across the state.

The Minister said the government has already inaugurated Critical Care Blocks

in Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Mahabubabad, Jagtial, Sangareddy, Narayanpet, and Adilabad.

The construction of another 21 CCBs is currently underway. We will make all of them operational by the end of this year, he said.

The Minister stated that the State government has today laid the foundation

stone for the construction of a 100-bed Critical Care Block in Kondapur, at a cost of ₹41 crore and is taking measures to complete the construction as expeditiously as possible and to provide medical services equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.

"Health issues are on the rise within the IT corridor

due to sedentary lifestyles. We are currently providing enhanced medical services to the local residents at the Kondapur Area Hospital. In the future, we will introduce even more advanced medical services. These critical care services will prove to be immensely beneficial to the people residing in this area," Raja Narasimha said.

1.14 lakh HIV, AIDS patients receiving free treatment: Health Minister

HYDERABAD

MINISTER for Health Damaraju Raja Narasimha on Thursday participated in a human chain programme organised on the cable bridge by the Telangana AIDS Control Society to promote awareness on HIV/AIDS.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister stated that, as part of statewide initiatives, rallies, human chains, and medical camps are being organised to enhance public awareness on HIV/AIDS.

Raja Narasimha explained that HIV is a virus that weakens the immune system and, if left untreated, can progress to AIDS. He clarified that HIV spreads through unprotected sexual contact, transfusion of contaminated blood, and similar causes, and does not spread through casual contact such as handshakes, hugging, or sharing food.

The Minister emphasised that lack of awareness leads to fear, misconceptions, and discrimination, and stressed that awareness is the only solution to address these challenges. He stated that people living with HIV should not face so-



cial discrimination and must be treated with dignity, support, and equal rights.

He further noted that under the HIV & AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, discrimination against HIV-positive individuals is a punishable offence.

Highlighting medical advancements, the Minister said that while HIV was once considered a fatal disease, timely testing and proper treatment now enable individuals to lead normal lives for several decades. The government is providing free testing, treatment, and medicines. Across the state, 1.14 lakh patients are receiving medical services through 127 testing centres and 33 ART centres. Special screening camps for HIV and TB are also being conducted in government general hospi-

tals and prisons, he said.

The Minister urged youth to avoid sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy habits, and to stay away from drugs, particularly injectable drugs, which significantly increase the risk of HIV and other infections.

Stressing the importance of public health, he stated that without health, wealth has no value. Healthy individuals contribute to healthy families, which in turn build a strong society and a robust state.

He called upon all sections of society to work together towards building a more vibrant Telangana. Health Secretary Christina Chongthua, Commissioner for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Sangeeha Satyanarayana, Collector Ranga Reddy Narayana Reddy and others participated in the programme. (S88)

ANGANWADI TEACHERS GET MOBILE PHONES

HANS NEWS SERVICE WANAPARTHY

PEBBAIR municipal chairman Akki Srinivas Goud stated on Thursday that the Anganwadis play a crucial role in delivering government welfare schemes to people more quickly and effectively. At a programme organised under the supervision of ICDS at the municipal office, he distributed smartphones to Anganwadi teachers.

He said the mobile phones would help in improving the functioning of Anganwadi



centres and in regularly updating beneficiary details online.

"There would no longer be delays in recording health data of pregnant women, lac-

tating mothers, and children," he said. Anganwadi teachers expressed their happiness over receiving the phones and hoped they would reduce the workload.

Rudra Pradeep meets Ramchandra Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE KHAMMAM

BJP leader Rudra Pradeep on Thursday met Telangana BJP president Ramchandra Rao and expressed gratitude for being appointed as a member of the party's state executive committee.

During the meeting, Ramchandra Rao congratulated Pradeep and advised him to work towards strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party in Khammam district. He also urged party leaders to focus on the upcoming Khammam Municipal Corporation elections and strive to secure a majority of seats to take control of the civic body.

Pradeep thanked the state leadership for the



opportunity and assured that he would work diligently to expand the party's base in the district. Senior BJP leader Mothukuri Narayana Rao was also present during the meeting.

Collector assures accreditation cards for eligible journalists

HANS NEWS SERVICE WANAPARTHY

DISTRICT Collector Adarsh Surabhi announced that media accreditation cards will be issued to every eligible journalist. He stated that a district media accreditation committee has been formed.

"As per GO 239, the validity of the accreditation cards issued in 2022 will expire on April 30. Therefore, steps are being taken to issue new cards starting from May 1, with a validity period of two years,"

he said, in a statement on Thursday.

"Journalists are advised to submit their applications with required documents, without errors, on or before April 12. Only the applications received by the evening of 12th will be considered for the first accreditation list. The applications will be reviewed by the district committee, and eligible journalists will be issued accreditation cards. Applications received after the deadline will be considered in the second list," Surabhi said in a release.

100-BED GOVT HOSPITAL IN NAKREKAL SOON: GOVT WHIP

HANS NEWS SERVICE NAKREKAL (NALGONDA)

GOVERNMENT Whip and MLA Vemula Veeresham alleged that the previous government had pushed the state into a financial crisis by accumulating debts of nearly Rs 8 lakh crore over the past ten years. He made these remarks on Thursday while distributing Chief Minister's Relief Fund cheques worth Rs 1.78 lakh to 488 beneficiaries in Nakrekal town. During the event, he announced that a 100-bed government hospital would soon be inaugurated in Nakrekal to improve healthcare facilities for local residents.

He also revealed plans to construct an integrated school in Kanaparthi, aiming to provide better educational infrastructure. Recalling earlier commitments,



Government Whip and Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham addressing a gathering

he said that schools on the lines of Hyderabad model institutions would be established in every constituency. Additionally, he mentioned that the government has introduced a tiffin (midday meal) facility in government schools to support students.

Criticising the previous administra-

tion, Veeresham stated that several key irrigation projects in Nalgonda district—such as Dindi, Brahmanavellamla, IT Pamula, and Shivannagudem—were left incomplete. He emphasized that the current government is focusing on welfare and development, highlighting the distribution of ration cards and Indiramma housing schemes to the poor.

Looking ahead, he announced that IIT coaching would be provided in 25 government schools starting next year, aiming to enhance academic opportunities for students from rural backgrounds.

The programme was attended by dignitaries including Dairy Chairman Gutta Amit Reddy, Market Committee Chairpersons Gutta Manjula and Madhava Reddy, and several councillors and local leaders.

EXPANDING POCHAMPALLY IKAT

Sri Lankan buyers explore ikat handloom craft

HANS NEWS SERVICE BHOODAN POCHAMPALLY

TWO buyers from Sri Lanka, Irfan and Sajid, visited Pochampally on Thursday to observe the process of making traditional handloom Ikat fabrics and to understand the uniqueness of the designs at the grassroots level.

During their visit, the buyers toured a handloom cluster unit where they observed various stages of the production process. They examined the functioning of handlooms, the preparation of yarn, dyeing techniques, and the method of tying threads (known as "chitkulu chuttadam"), which is a distinctive feature of Ikat weaving.

Speaking on the occasion, Hema, a representative of Telangana Trade Promotion Corporation and Jagadeesh Private Limited, highlighted the cultural



relevance of traditional textiles in Sri Lanka. She mentioned that a significant number of Hindus in Sri Lanka worship Lord Subrahmanya Swamy, and there is a strong appreciation for traditional attire in the country.

She further stated that the purpose of bringing Sri Lankan buyers to Pocham-

pally was to promote Ikat designs in the Sri Lankan market. "Until now, there has been limited awareness about Pochampally handloom products in Sri Lanka. This visit is expected to create new opportunities for introducing these unique textiles to a wider international audience," she said.

SCARF UP!



Bike riders shield themselves from hot sun by wrapping up their head with scarves in Hyderabad on Thursday **Photos: Srinivas Setty**

WORDY DUEL TAKES A BITTER TURN...

Harish goes all guns blazing at Ponguleti for dishing out 'concocted lies' on charges

Spoke like builder, not Minister,' says BRS leader

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao on Thursday said that Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has gone on the defensive and spoke not like a minister, but like the owner of Raghava Constructions.

Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, accusing him of trying to divert attention from serious corruption and illegal mining allegations through abusive language and fabricated explanations.

Speaking to the media at Nagapur village, he said the minister's remarks inside the Assembly had only further exposed the Congress government's desperation and moral bankruptcy.

Ponguleti did not speak as a responsible cabinet minister, but as the head of Raghava Constructions, clearly trying to protect his own

family and business interests. When people have no facts, no answers, and no defence, they resort to abuse, distractions and emotional drama, he alleged.

Harish Rao said that in trying to defend himself, Ponguleti ended up exposing the broader corruption in the Congress government. "In the process of defending himself, he has virtually admitted that not just he, but several ministers in this government are tainted," he said.

He pointed out that by referring to the names of senior ministers and the Chief Minister, Ponguleti had opened the door to wider scrutiny over corruption allegations within the government. The most important point was that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had admitted on the floor of the House that irregularities in Raghava Constructions had been detected by government officials, and that a penalty had been imposed.

Rao said that officials from Revenue, Electricity, Pollution Control Board and Mining Departments had jointly inspected the site and confirmed illegal mining activities.

"So who is lying?" Harish Rao asked. "Is Ponguleti right, or are the officials right? Is the Chief Minister wrong? Or are all of them speaking the truth, and only Ponguleti is denying it?" Harish Rao questioned.

Harish Rao also addressed Ponguleti's comments on the Nadargul land issue, and said the BRS government had in fact protected those lands as government property.

He said it was the BRS government that included the land in the prohibited list, fought the case in the High Court, and secured orders that action should be taken against those who sold and purchased ceiling-surplus lands illegally.

He questioned why the Congress



government was now trying to suppress these facts. He questioned whether there were links between Shilpa, Raghava and AQ Square, and asked why the government is not coming clean on these relationships.

Rao demanded that if the government was sincere, it should immediately act against the encroachers, send HYDRAA to the site, and prove its honesty through action rather than statements. He said Ponguleti's attempts at creating noise and drama have failed to bury the facts.