



Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy chairing a high-level review meeting on El Niño preparedness at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Thursday

El Niño effect: Uttam prods babus to come out with contingency plans

Uttam Kumar Reddy directs officials to prepare district-wise strategies to protect farmers from rainfall uncertainty

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HYDERABAD

WITH forecasts indicating the possibility of El Niño influencing the current monsoon, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday directed officials to be ready with comprehensive contingency plans to effectively tackle any challenges arising from the weather phenomenon.

Stating that Telangana could not remain immune if El Niño affected the country, the Minister called for seamless coordination among the Irrigation, Agriculture, and Meteorological Departments to minimise risks to agriculture and protect farmers' livelihoods. Chairing a high-level review meeting on El Niño preparedness at the Secretariat, Uttam Kumar instructed officials to prepare detailed contingency plans at both the State and district levels, taking into account rainfall projections, ground-water availability, reservoir storage, irrigation potential

and local cropping patterns. He said every district should be equipped with a clear response strategy to address any adverse impact arising from deficient rainfall or prolonged dry spells.

Following the review meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy held a video conference with District Collectors and senior officials of the Irrigation, Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, directing them to immediately initiate district-specific preparedness measures and maintain constant coordination at the field level.

Emphasising scientific crop planning, the Minister advised farmers not to depend exclusively on traditional water-intensive crops wherever water availability was uncertain.

Instead, he directed officials to promote suitable alternative crops based on expected rainfall and available irrigation resources. Gram Sabhas, Rythu Vedikas and field-level extension programmes should be extensively utilised to create

awareness among farmers about appropriate cropping choices and climate-resilient farming practices.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also instructed officials to provide transparent information on reservoir storage and water availability so that farmers could make informed cultivation decisions. Agricultural scientists, he said, should ensure that technical recommendations on crop selection and cultivation practices reach every farmer well in advance of critical sowing decisions.

Reviewing the irrigation scenario, the Minister directed the Irrigation Department to keep all infrastructure ready to efficiently store inflows in the Godavari basin, including the Sripada Yellampalli Reservoir, immediately after substantial rainfall is received in the upstream catchments of Maharashtra and Karnataka. He asked engineers to scientifically utilise every available water resource to maximise irrigation potential during the season.

Nadda touts AIIMS Bibinagar as a beacon of healthcare in S India

With 1,800 daily OPD footfall and advanced medical facilities, institute moves towards becoming a premier healthcare hub

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HYDERABAD

UNION Health and Family Welfare Minister Jaya Prakash Nadda on Thursday said that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar, has made remarkable progress within a short span of four years and is set to emerge as a beacon of healthcare excellence in South India.

Reviewing the progress of AIIMS Bibinagar and the pending works since its inception in June 2022, Nadda said the institute has achieved operational status in a record period, reflecting the Centre's commitment to providing accessible and quality healthcare facilities across the country.

Addressing the media after the review meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the expansion of AIIMS institutions under the BJP-led Central government. He said that while the country had only one AIIMS in Delhi during the 20th century, another AIIMS was added at Rae Bareilly between 2004 and 2014. However, after 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 19 new AIIMS in-



Union Minister J P Nadda during a visit to AIIMS Bibinagar on Thursday as part of a review of the institute's expansion and development works

stitutions were established, taking the total number to 23, of which 18 have already been completed. Nadda said that Rs 1,110 crore has been sanctioned for the development of AIIMS Bibinagar. The institute currently has 132 faculty members across nine specialities and is witnessing a daily OPD footfall of around 1,800 patients, indicating the growing trust among people in the region. He said AIIMS Bibinagar has already started providing comprehensive healthcare

services, including in-patient care, emergency services, CT scans, MRI facilities and other advanced diagnostic services. The institute has also introduced e-consultation and telemedicine services, benefiting around 1.56 lakh patients in a short period.

The Union Minister said AIIMS Bibinagar has emerged not only as a healthcare centre but also as a hub for research and community service. The faculty members have published more than 1,156 research papers, while

the institute has conducted 547 medical camps and provided treatment to over 66,000 patients in nearby villages.

He also appreciated AIIMS Bibinagar for establishing the country's first community radio station at a medical institute, which is helping spread health awareness among people at the grassroots level.

Nadda said that 87 per cent of the campus construction work has been completed and the institute is expected to achieve full

operational status by December 2026. He pointed out that converting an existing building constructed in 2008 into a modern AIIMS facility was a challenging task.

Comparing the growth of AIIMS institutions, Nadda said AIIMS Delhi took nearly 20 years to gain recognition, and institutions of such stature require time to mature. However, he expressed confidence that AIIMS Bibinagar would achieve greater heights within a shorter period due to its strong foundation, medical facilities, research activities and dedicated faculty.

He said the Centre has strengthened the healthcare system by linking primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. Under this approach, 1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been connected with people across the country, while the number of medical colleges has increased from 370 to 820.

Nadda expressed confidence that AIIMS Bibinagar would soon become a leading institution in medical education, research and patient care, fulfilling the vision of establishing world-class healthcare facilities in the country.

CM TURNS HOME CHEF



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy prepares puris for his grandson at his residence in Hyderabad. The CM tweeted that his grandson insisted on having puris made by him in the kitchen.

Furious Surekha wants TPCC to take action against Kadiyam

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TELANGANA Forest and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha has intensified her efforts against turncoat BRS MLA Kadiyam Srihari, demanding action against him. The minister met TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud on Thursday and submitted a complaint seeking immediate action. She is also scheduled to meet Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan on

Surekha explained the issues she has been facing due to Srihari. Responding to her complaint, Goud assured her that he would examine the matter in detail and take appropriate steps after discussions.

The minister stated that she and her husband had visited Kadiyam Srihari's residence in an attempt to resolve the dispute, but the MLA was not willing to settle the issue or reconcile. She said she would



TPCC chief assures examination of complaint and appropriate action after reviewing facts

meet Meenakshi Natarajan on July 14 to discuss the matter further.

Surekha questioned Srihari for holding a meeting with Endowments officials without informing her. She said the officials explained that they had attended the meeting as Srihari had been pressuring them

for the past three months.

She added that she had already brought the issue to the notice of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud. Both leaders, she said, assured her that action would be taken after examining all the facts. The minister also reacted to the issue of donations collected in the name of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir. She said that Lord Sri Rama would punish those who misused his name and exploited devotees for personal gains.

TG PGCET admissions 2026: Registration deadline extended

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THE Telangana PGCET (Other) Admissions Committee-2026 has announced an extension of the last date for online registration and certificate upload for admission to ME, M.Tech., and M.Arch courses. The Admissions Committee Convener, Prof. I. Pan-

duranga Reddy, in a statement on Thursday, said that aspiring candidates can now complete the registration and certificate submission process till July 16.

As per the revised schedule, the list of eligible candidates will be displayed on July 18, and students may send corrections through email. The Phase I web

options window will be open from July 19 to 21. This will be followed by a one day editing window on July 22, and the college wise provisional selection list for Phase I will be published on 26 July.

Prof Panduranga Rao said that the candidates allotted seats should report to their respective colleges for original certificate verification between 27 and 30 July 2026 to complete the final stage of the Phased-1 admissions process.

BRICS TUFS Summit: Roadmap for future-ready workforce

Summit under India's chairmanship to discuss social security, AI transformation, skill development and women's participation

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BRICS Trade Union Forum Summit (TUFS) Chairman S Mallesham said that the forthcoming BRICS TUFS in the city will be a pivotal step towards shaping the future of work in a rapidly changing global landscape.

He said on Thursday that, under India's chairmanship, it will put forward a special agenda highlighting four critical issues for deliberation among member nations. Recognising the vital role of employees' voices, the forum aims to foster multilateral cooperation and social justice in the world's leading emerging economies.

As part of the proposed agenda for the summit, "The universalisation of social security and international portability" will be on the agenda. As migration corridors actively connect several BRICS countries, the continuity of social security benefits for cross-border workers has become increasingly important.

"Building on the 2016 BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration and subsequent discussions," the forum, during the ensuing summit, seeks to advance policies that ensure migrant workers can access and transfer social security entitlements seamlessly, re-



BRICS Trade Union Forum Summit (TUFS) Chairman S Mallesham

gardless of their country of employment, he added. This would provide much-needed stability and protection to the growing migrant workforce within BRICS nations.

Mallesham said the second issue on the agenda is the rapid digital transformation of workplaces driven by artificial intelligence, automation, and digitalisation. Against this backdrop and as the BRICS nations experience significant changes in labour dynamics, "The forum calls for a debate on human-centric technology and the responsible governance of AI in the workplace."

This was with a view to achieving a goal "to ensure that technological advancements respect workers' rights, promote fair employment practices, and are im-

plemented in a way that benefits both businesses and employees. This discussion is particularly timely, given the global debates on balancing innovation with ethical, inclusive policies," he said.

The BRICS TUFS Chairman stated that skill development will also be discussed, as it is emerging as the third focal point. The Forum emphasises the trade unions' proactive role in driving continuous, state-supported acquisition of vocational, sector-specific, and digital skills. "The objective was to address labour shortages and surpluses collaboratively among BRICS members, ensuring that workers are equipped for the demands of the new digital economy." Besides, Mutual recognition of qualifications and the ability to pivot to new skill sets are seen as key to both national and international economic resilience.

Given the overall expectations from the ensuing summit, he said, the forum will reaffirm the bedrock principle of inclusive labour markets by proposing a special discussion on "Women and Future of Work." Equal opportunities for all, irrespective of gender, are essential for social justice and sustainable economic progress. The BRICS Trade Union Forum is committed to gender equality and a more inclusive future of work.

Tadicherla-II coal block a game changer for Singareni: Kishan Reddy

HYDERABAD: Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said the Central Government has taken historic decisions to safeguard Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), describing it as the energy lifeline of Telangana and South India and the heartbeat of thousands of local families.

Addressing the media, Kishan Reddy said the activities and livelihoods of nearly 75,000 people directly and around 10 lakh people indirectly across six districts, including the erstwhile Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam regions, depend on Singareni.

He recalled the role played by Singareni workers during the Telangana movement and said the Modi government allocated new coal blocks as a recognition of their contribution and sacrifices.

The Union Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a historic decision to allocate the Tadicherla-II coal block to Singareni by using available legal pro-



Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy addressing the media in Hyderabad on Thursday

visions. He said the decision was taken after he brought the appeals of various stakeholders, including Labour Congress, communist trade unions, officials, engineers' associations, general managers' organisations, MPs and MLAs, to the Prime Minister's notice beyond political affiliations.

Kishan Reddy said Tadicherla-II has the largest coal reserves among all blocks currently under Singareni's

control. He stated that while the GVR open-cast mine at Sathupalli had 227 million tonnes of reserves, Tadicherla-II has 434 million tonnes of high-quality Grade-8 and Grade-9 coal. Along with the 455 million tonnes available in the Naini block, Singareni now has access to around 795 million tonnes of coal reserves.

He said production of 10 million tonnes annually from Tadicherla would pro-

Union Minister says new coal block will strengthen Telangana's energy security, create jobs and secure long-term stability for SCCL

vide stability to Singareni and ensure Telangana's energy security for nearly 45 years. The project is expected to generate a turnover of around Rs 2.25 lakh crore over four decades, including Rs 1.50 lakh crore from Tadicherla and Rs 75,000 crore from the Naini block.

The Union Minister said Tadicherla would utilise Singareni's existing workforce and provide permanent employment to over 2,000 workers for 45 years. He added that the two coal blocks would create around 3,500 new jobs and boost infrastructure development, including railway networks and road connectivity.

Kishan Reddy also urged the state government to focus on resolving Singareni's financial issues and clear outstanding dues of Rs 54,148 crore. He said the dues include Rs 28,876 crore owed by the Telangana gov-

ernment for electricity supplied by Singareni's thermal power plant and Rs 25,272 crore owed by Telangana GENCO entities for coal supplies.

Criticising the previous BRS government, he alleged that Singareni was treated like a private company and accumulated around Rs 30,000 crore in dues before the government changed. He claimed that the present Congress government added another Rs 24,000 crore to the arrears.

Kishan Reddy said his visit was not aimed at political criticism but at sharing details of the Tadicherla-II allocation, which he described as a major achievement for Singareni and Telangana. He expressed disappointment over Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka's criticism and said he would leave the judgment on those remarks to the people.