

## Nadda touts AIIMS Bibinagar as a beacon of healthcare in South India

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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 institutions 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, indicat-



ing 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.

# Agriculture receiving top priority in Cong govt: Bhatti

SAYS OPPOSITION HAS NO MORAL AUTHORITY TO QUESTION THE CONGRESS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO FARMERS

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KHAMMAM

DEPUTY Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday said the Congress government is committed to transforming Telangana into a "farmers' state" by prioritising agriculture and ensuring timely financial assistance to cultivators.

Addressing a press conference after inspecting arrangements for the 'Rythu Ashirvada Sabha' at Jagannadhapuram-Mathkepalli Cross Road in Chinthakani mandal, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government's vision is to make agriculture "a festival" by extending comprehensive support to the farming community.

Bhatti Vikramarka announced that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with Cabinet colleagues, would participate in the Rythu Ashirvada Sabha on Friday in Khammam district, where the final instalment of the Rythu Bharosa assistance for the current season would be credited directly to farmers' bank accounts.

He said the government had already released Rs 8,759 crore under the scheme in just nine days and that an-



other Rs 1,009 crore would be transferred on Friday, taking the total disbursement to nearly Rs 9,000 crore for the season.

The Deputy Chief Minister said agriculture and allied sectors have received top priority since the Congress assumed office, describing farmers' welfare as the government's foremost objective.

Drawing a comparison with the previous BRS administration, Bhatti Vikramarka claimed that while the former government had spent Rs 72,000 crore on Rythu Bandhu over a decade, the Congress government released Rs 35,839 crore under the Rythu Bharosa scheme in

just two-and-a-half years.

Inaugurating the Mega Rythu Mela at Jagannadhapuram in Chinthakani mandal along with Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Bhatti said the Indiramma People's Government has been investing thousands of crores of rupees in irrigation, agriculture, paddy procurement, MARKFED operations, farm mechanisation and several other initiatives aimed at strengthening the farming sector. Referring to the recently concluded procurement season, he said the administration had also procured maize and sorghum despite various challenges.

Bhatti Vikramarka claimed the opposition had no moral authority to question the Congress government's commitment to farmers. He said the government was prepared to substantiate its performance with official figures and maintained that it believed in governance through implementation rather than speeches.

Highlighting irrigation initiatives, he said water was now flowing through the Nagarjuna Sagar, Sri Ram Sagar and Kadem irrigation projects, reflecting the government's emphasis on strengthening the agricultural sector.

The Deputy Chief Minister accused opposition parties of

indulging in misinformation and alleged that the previous BRS government had concentrated its resources on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, whose present condition, he claimed, was evident to the public. In contrast, he said, irrigation projects constructed during earlier Congress governments continued to provide water to farmers decades after their completion.

He said the event had been named 'Rythu Ashirvada Sabha' at the request of farmers themselves and appealed to cultivators from across the State to attend the programme in large numbers and make it a grand success.

## PM to flag off India's first hydrogen train from Jind on July 17

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to flag off the country's first hydrogen train from the Jind railway station in Haryana on July 17. The train will cover 356 km daily by making two round trips of 89 km each between Jind and Sonapat. It has 682 seats and a total passenger capacity of 2,600. "As of now, we have received confirmation from the PMO that Prime Minister Modi will flag off the hydrogen train from Jind on July 17," a senior railway official said.

## India gets world's first once-a-week insulin

Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk launches Awiqli  
NEW DELHI: One injection a week instead of one every day. Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk has launched Awiqli, or insulin icodex, in India -- the world's first once-weekly basal insulin-cutting the annual injection count for diabetes patients from 365 to just 52. Approved for adults with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and delivered through a pen device called FlexTouch, the launch makes India the sixth market globally to get the therapy.

## Oz to fuel India's green future with uranium supply: PM

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Delivering a joint press conference alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Melbourne, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the atomic breakthrough a transformative catalyst for India's ecological targets. "Australia will supply uranium to India. We have signed an important agreement in the field of nuclear energy. It will give new momentum to our clean energy goals," PM Modi announced. The Prime Minister framed the deepening consensus within a shared geopolitical vision, noting that India and Australia, as "two vibrant democracies, multicultural societies and important ocean powers", share a common worldview that continues to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

## Heavy monsoon rain wreaks havoc across India

NEW DELHI: The southwest monsoon covered the entire country on Thursday, a day later than its normal date, after advancing into the remaining parts of the north Arabian Sea, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, IMD officials said.

Under the influence of the monsoon, torrential rains unleashed widespread destruction across several parts of the country, inundating roads, uprooting trees and disrupting normal life.

Roads and residential areas remained submerged in several cities, with commuters wading through knee-deep water and traffic crawling on major roads and highways. Trees uprooted by strong winds blocked roads at several places, while flooding disrupted vehicular movement and damaged houses.

Rescue operations also continued at the site of a building that collapsed a day earlier at a waste-to-energy plant in Maharashtra's Pimpri Chinchwad near Pune after

a massive mound of garbage gave way due to heavy rain. One body was recovered on Thursday, while around eight people are still feared trapped under the debris. Nine people have been rescued so far.

Delhi witnessed one of its heaviest spells of rain this season, with widespread waterlogging, uprooted trees and traffic snarls throwing life out of gear. The India Meteorological Department issued a 'red' alert for the day as the Safdarjung, the capital's base weather station, recorded 72.6 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours that ended at 8.30 am, and Tukhmirpur in northeast Delhi's Khajuri received the highest rainfall at 160 mm during this period. Hours of incessant rain spelled chaos on roads, uprooting trees and leaving several areas waterlogged. In Rajasthan, widespread rainfall soaked parts of the state, with the Met department forecasting extremely heavy rainfall in isolated areas of Kota and Bharatpur divisions on Thursday.



## Curb sexual offence against children: SP Patil to officials

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NAGARKURNOOL

DISTRICT Superintendent of Police Sangram Singh G Patil stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments to curb sexual offences against children and create a secure environment for their growth and development.

The SP chaired a Bharosa convergence meeting with officials from various departments with a focus on pre-

venting child sexual abuse and ensuring a safe childhood.

Officials from the Education, SHE Teams, Bharosa Centre, Child Welfare, Labour and other departments participated in the meeting.

The SP reviewed the measures being taken for child protection and issued necessary guidelines to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, enhance awareness, and ensure timely intervention in cases involving chil-

dren. On the occasion, Mission Vatsalya -- district child protection unit pamphlets were released by the SP. The pamphlets provide guidance on the steps children and families should take during emergencies or distress and contain important child protection helpline information. Nagarkurnool DSP Srinivas, CCS CI Shankar, DCRB SI Ramesh, Bharosa SI Rajitha, and officers from various departments attended the programme.

## 'Terror camps crumbled during Op Sindoor'

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Underscoring that "terror camps crumbled during Operation Sindoor," PM Modi said India's initiatives to combat terror have sent a clear message across the world, which is now also witnessing the "capability and credibility of India's defence platforms." During Operation Sindoor, you must have seen the explosions that struck terrorist hideouts. Those explosions have resonated across the world," he said. "When such a decisive strike was carried out against terror camps, didn't it make you feel proud?" he said.

At the same time, he also

highlighted India's governance, tweaking the Sanskrit adage of Athithi Devo Bhaba (a guest is a god) to "Nagarik Devo Bhava (the Citizen is a god)". In this context, he mentioned the key initiatives of the government, including the healthcare system where records are now stored, digi-locker and the current ease of getting passports. In a strong pitch for "Make in India", he said Indian products were gaining recognition worldwide. Indian technology too, he said, is soaring. With the country becoming the world's largest 5G market, work is on to indigenously develop the 6G technology. He added.

## Stricter H1B, Green Card rules coming in August, Indians could face more hurdles

NEW DELHI: The Trump administration is preparing a fresh set of immigration rules that could make it more difficult for foreign professionals, students and employers to navigate the US immigration system. The proposed changes cover some of the most popular routes used by Indians to study and work in the United States. Therefore, Indians, who form one of the largest immigrant groups in the US, could especially face more hurdles under proposed changes to the H1B programme, L1 visas and student visas. The proposals are part of the latest Unified Regulatory Agendas released by the US Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), Labor (DOL) and State (DOS). While none of the measures has taken effect yet, they offer the clearest indication of the administration's plans.

## India working to become a developed nation: PM

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"We are a nation of 1.4 billion people brimming with aspirations; we are impatient and eager. We are the world's fastest-growing economy, yet we aim to become one of the top three economies in the world as quickly as possible. Because our driving force is 'Grow More, Achieve More,'"

he added. Modi said the mantra of "Nagrik Devo Bhava" has become the guiding principle of governance in India. "The foundation of India's big dreams and great aspirations is its people... We, the People," he said, adding that the government's policies are centred on citizens' welfare.

## India, Australia unveil new defence declaration

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By doing this, the two countries seek to strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and contribute to a free, open and stable Indo-Pacific.

The declaration, adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese, reaffirms the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2020 and builds on the foundation laid by the India-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed in 2009.

The two leaders said strategic convergence between India and Australia has accelerated in recent years, with stronger economic ties, closer people-to-people links and enhanced cooperation through bilateral mechanisms such as the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue, the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue and the Defence Ministers' Dialogue. They also highlighted the role of multilateral platforms, including the Quad, in promoting

peace, security and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific. PM Modi is in Australia as part of his three-nation tour.

Expressing concern over growing geopolitical uncertainty and threats to regional peace and stability, the two countries called for the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law and without the threat or use of force or coercion.

Reaffirming their commitment to a rules-based Indo-Pacific, India and Australia underscored the importance of respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and strengthening transparent and inclusive regional institutions.

The declaration also reiterated support for regional organisations, including the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN and ASEAN-led regional architecture, and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

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## US, Iran trade strikes for 2nd night in a row

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Iran reported explosions in several coastal areas and said it targeted US assets in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar in response. Iran's foreign ministry denounced the US strikes as a "gross war crime", saying it said targeted civilian infrastructure including railway bridges. In a statement, the ministry described the US administration as "evil and psychopathic" and that it condemned the attacks which have damaged bridges and a railway route connecting Tehran to the city of Mashhad, where the late supreme leader Ali Khamenei is due to be buried at a funeral service later on Thursday.

## Musi rejuvenation project kick-off soon

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It does not include the land acquisition costs. The state government grant will come from Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) or the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC). The Telangana government has proposed to revive the entire Musi River ecosystem through integrated riverfront facelift, urban infrastructure development, environmental improvement and sustainable mobility initiatives.

## More investments must to boost growth: Revanth

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Speaking on the occasion, CM asserted that politics should be restricted to election seasons. "Despite facing numerous political allegations, we are working with the goal of developing Telangana to contribute a 10 per cent share to the national economy." Pointing to mounting challenges in the metropolitan cities across the country, the CM said that a slew of measures had been initiated to ensure pollution-free development in Hyderabad.