

Shri JP Nadda launches intensified 100-Day TB elimination campaign

On December 7, 2024, Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign in Panchkula, Haryana, alongside Haryana CM Shri Nayab Singh Saini and Health Minister Smt. Arti Singh Rao. Targeting high-risk groups, the campaign aims to find and treat undetected TB cases across 347 districts, advancing India's TB-Free vision. Shri Nadda highlighted significant progress, with TB decline rates doubling from 8.3% in 2015 to 17.7% in 2023, exceeding global averages.

The initiative emphasizes decentralization and improved diagnostics, supported by over 8,000 TB testing labs. Under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana, TB patients now receive 1000 per month for nutritional support. Haryana reaffirmed its commitment with past successes like the Jan Bhagidari campaign. Mobile vans for TB detection and advanced AI-enabled X-ray screening enhance accessibility, especially in remote areas. The campaign also introduced updated guidelines for drug-resistant TB treatment.

Leveraging Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs, the initiative ensures quality TB care closer to communities. These efforts align with the government's focus on technology, community participation, and expanded healthcare infrastructure to reduce TB-related deaths and achieve a TB-Free India.



जन-जन का रखे ध्यान, TB-मुक्त भारत अभियान

निःक्षय शिविर

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मुख्य अतिथि

श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा

माननीय केंद्रीय मंत्री, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
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Pravasi Rajasthan Conclave focuses on sustainable rural healthcare

On 10th December 2024, healthcare industry players and policymakers gathered at the Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave during the Rising Rajasthan Summit to discuss strategies for building a sustainable rural healthcare system in Rajasthan.

The session, held at JECC Sitapura, focused on key areas such as telemedicine, mobile health units, mental health services, and improving access to primary healthcare infrastructure.

Mr. Jhabar Singh Kharra, Minister of Urban Development and Housing, emphasized the transformative potential of the diaspora's expertise and assured that the recommendations would be given due attention. Similarly, Mr. Jawahar Singh Bedam, Minister of State for the Home Department, highlighted the importance of "innovative solutions" in addressing rural healthcare gaps and pledged to forward the proposals to the state government for further action.

Dr. Manisha Arora, Commissioner of the Rajasthan Foundation, underscored the vital role of diaspora engagement and affirmed that inputs from the session would be documented and shared with relevant officials to drive meaningful change.

The event showcased a collective effort by policymakers and industry leaders to address rural healthcare challenges and leverage innovative approaches for lasting impact. The discussions aimed to bring actionable solutions to improve healthcare accessibility and outcomes in Rajasthan's underserved regions.



India's first diabetes biobank established in Chennai

On 15th December 2024, India's first diabetes biobank was established in Chennai by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF). This biobank will collect, process, store, and distribute biological samples to support scientific research on diabetes. It will primarily focus on understanding the causes of diabetes, its variations, and related disorders, particularly in India. The biobank contains samples from two major ICMR-funded studies: the ICMR-INDIAB study, which assessed the prevalence of diabetes across India, and the ongoing registry of young people with diabetes.

The biobank stores samples of various types of diabetes, including Type 1, Type 2, and gestational diabetes, which will aid future research. The initiative aims to identify novel biomarkers for early diagnosis, improve treatment strategies, and track diabetes progression over time. Furthermore, it will support studies on complications and enable the development of personalized treatments for patients. The biobank is expected to play a key role in advancing diabetes research and contribute to the global fight against the diabetes epidemic.

The biobank, which has been in development for two years, is considered an essential resource for biomedical research. With the growing incidence of diabetes in India, it will help researchers better understand the disease and its impact on the population, ultimately leading to improved prevention and treatment approaches. The ICMR-INDIAB study, which reported alarming statistics on diabetes prevalence, and the registry of young diabetes patients highlight the urgency of this research effort.



World Health Innovation Forum meet held in Visakhapatnam

The World Health Innovation Forum, held on December 17, 2024, at the Kalam Convention Centre in Visakhapatnam, brought together global leaders, innovators, and experts to discuss advancements in healthcare. Led by Dr. Jitendra Sharma, MD & Founder CEO of AMTZ, the plenary session featured prominent figures like Dr. Tom Judd from the GCEA, Ms. Millicent Alloh of Rice 360, and Dr. Rob Abbott, CEO of ISPOR.

A highlight was the Med Tech Expo, showcasing advanced medical technologies and digital health solutions with participation from over 200 exhibitors, including startups and global innovators. The expo emphasized improving healthcare accessibility and equity through innovation.

The forum facilitated collaborations between academia, industry, and policymakers, with representation from major organizations like WHO, World Trade Centre, ICMR, and PATH. Key discussions focused on addressing global health challenges and enhancing healthcare delivery.

Notable outcomes included agreements on investments, certifications, and joint ventures, promising significant advancements in healthcare technology and accessibility. The event successfully fostered partnerships and laid a foundation for transformative healthcare solutions, signaling a brighter future for global health innovation and equity.



Free healthcare for 60+ announced under Kejriwal's 'Sanjeevani' Scheme

On December 18, 2024, AAP leader and former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal announced the 'Sanjeevani' scheme, promising free healthcare for senior citizens in Delhi. Scheduled for implementation after AAP's anticipated 2025 election win, the scheme offers free medical treatment at private and public hospitals for residents aged 60 and above, irrespective of income or expenditure limits. The Delhi government will cover all costs, with AAP volunteers facilitating door-to-door registrations and issuing health cards for easy access.

The announcement follows the introduction of the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojna, which provides financial assistance of 1,000 per month to women, increasing to 2,100 post-elections. These initiatives aim to strengthen AAP's support among women and elderly voters ahead of the February 2025 Assembly elections.

During the launch, Mr Kejriwal highlighted a survey showing 60% of Delhi women intended to vote for AAP, urging the remaining 40% to join. AAP's outreach reflects its strategy to secure a third consecutive term, building on its 2020 landslide victory of 62 out of 70 seats. Both schemes showcase AAP's focus on welfare programs to expand its voter base and reinforce its commitment to social equity and healthcare access.

India's oncology test market to grow at 2% CAGR by 2033: GlobalData

India's oncology diagnostics market, driven by lifestyle changes, environmental factors, and an aging population, was projected to grow at a 2% CAGR through 2033, according to GlobalData. The report highlighted that India accounted for over 3% of the Asia-Pacific oncology tests market in 2024.

Bengaluru-based Strand Life Sciences, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, launched CancerSpot, a blood-based test for early cancer detection. Using advanced methylation profiling, it identified tumor DNA fragments in the bloodstream. Mr. Shreya Jain, Medical Devices Analyst at GlobalData, spoke about how the oncology tests in India face several challenges related to access, affordability, and technological adoption.

CancerSpot, developed using Indian cohorts, demonstrated reliability across ethnicities and provided a convenient screening tool. Mr. Jain further emphasized that tailored diagnostics could improve early detection, enhance risk stratification, and align treatments with Indian genetic profiles. He further added that this not only helps improve survival rates in India but also contributes to the global understanding of cancer biology.

Strand's new Genomics Diagnostics & Research Centre aimed to drive innovation, develop advanced diagnostic solutions, and address healthcare needs globally. Despite challenges, initiatives like CancerSpot highlighted India's increasing role in advancing oncology diagnostics and improving survival outcomes.



India achieves total fertility rate of 2.0, aligned with national policies

India reached a total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.0, as per the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), aligning with the National Population Policy 2000 and the National Health Policy 2017. Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, outlined several family planning initiatives, including expanded contraceptive choices, such as the Antara Program and Centchroman (Chhaya). The Mission Parivar Vikas initiative targeted high-burden states, improving access to contraceptives. Additionally, government programs provided post-pregnancy contraception and sterilization compensation.

Patel also discussed ongoing awareness campaigns, like World Population Day and Vasectomy Fortnight, aimed at increasing family planning knowledge. Furthermore, the Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS) was established to streamline the management of family planning commodities.

On healthcare quality, Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav shared that over 16,500 health facilities had received National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS). This initiative aims to ensure the quality and efficiency of public healthcare services, including the launch of NQAS for Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHLs) in June to improve testing accuracy and precision. These efforts reflect India's ongoing commitment to advancing healthcare services and family planning in line with its national policies.



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