Centre pushes for holistic healthcare and innovation, says Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda

On 3rd June 2025, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, while speaking at the 15th convocation of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER) in Belagavi, said the Centre had been facilitating integrated healthcare practices across the country in phases. He emphasised the need for a holistic approach to disease prevention, combining allopathy with ayurveda, homoeopathy, and other traditional systems. He said medical students should be motivated to embrace this integrative path and noted that the government had been considering offering Ayurveda alongside allopathy in medical degrees.

He highlighted that the Union government had been focused on both curative and preventive care. He shared that 1.75 lakh Ayushman Health Centres were functioning nationwide. In the past decade, 319 medical colleges have been launched, and MBBS and PG seats have increased by 130%.

Mr. Nadda also urged young medical professionals to adopt artificial intelligence (AI) to drive medical innovation and encouraged them to stay in India to pursue research and serve the underprivileged. He said India now had world-class AIIMS institutions and noted the government's growing support for medical research. He concluded that while the government was doing its part, building a healthy society lay in the hands of young doctors.

Indian scientists simplify nano-cup method to enhance cancer therapy

On 18th June 2025, Indian researchers developed a one-step method to create nano-cups, tiny bowl-shaped particles, that could enhance photothermal therapy (PTT), a non-invasive cancer treatment. The innovation was led by scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali; ACTREC, Tata Memorial Centre; and IIT-Bombay. Their PEGylated semi-shells (SS), featuring a unique nano-cup shape, were made using biocompatible materials under mild conditions, avoiding traditional toxic methods involving hydrofluoric acid.

The team used ZIF-8, a metal-organic framework, as a sacrificial template. As ZIF-8 dissolved, gold nanoparticles formed the cup-shaped shells, aided by ascorbic acid as a reducing agent. The semi-shells strongly absorbed near-infrared light, making them highly effective for PTT. The polyethylene glycol (PEG) coating further improved their water stability, shelf life, and safety for intravenous use.

In lab tests on mice, these nano-cups successfully ablated metastatic breast tumours, improved survival rates, and reduced relapse. The study, published in Communications Chemistry, also highlighted the potential of these particles for future biosensing applications such as surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS). Researchers planned to explore combining chemotherapy with PTT for enhanced results. The project was supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Delhi to strengthen emergency care with new critical care blocks

On 18th June 2025, Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Singh directed officials to identify suitable spaces within government hospitals for the immediate establishment of critical care blocks. He issued the directive during a review meeting with senior Health Department officials, where he announced a series of reforms aimed at bolstering the capital's public healthcare infrastructure. Under the central government's PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), the new blocks were intended to improve emergency preparedness and expand access to advanced life-saving care.

Mr. Singh emphasised the urgent need to expedite the installation of dialysis machines in government hospitals to ensure patients do not have to move between facilities. The government aimed to increase the number of such machines to over 300. With the monsoon approaching, he also directed that an uninterrupted supply of essential medicines be maintained, instructing officials to complete emergency procurement within the stipulated timeline.

Additionally, Mr. Singh asked all government hospitals to complete their registration under the Hospital Information Management System (HIMS) without delay. Plans were also announced to set up model health labs offering essential diagnostics. To improve mental healthcare, the minister said brain health clinics, similar to the one at Dwarka's Indira Gandhi Hospital, would be established across all districts.

Delhi reviews health upgrades, plans more dialysis units, and PPP diagnostic services

On 22nd June 2025, the Delhi government reviewed several upcoming healthcare initiatives during a Health Department meeting chaired by Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh on June 18. The discussions focused on strengthening public health infrastructure, including the addition of over 30 dialysis machines in hospitals, outsourcing of MRI, CT scan, and ultrasound services under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, and constructing VishramGrih (rest houses) for patients and attendants.

Mr. Singh stated that 150 dialysis machines had already been installed in 16 hospitals under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme – PPP model, and 32 to 40 additional machines would be added soon. The meeting also reviewed the progress of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, critical care blocks under PM-ABHIM, and the rollout of Jan Aushadhi Kendras and a centralised procurement system.

Officials discussed staffing gaps at hospitals and Mohalla Clinics, outsourcing of OPD/IPD registration services, and the Hospital Information Management System. Mr. Singh directed the identification of sensitive posts and the formation of various health councils and committees. A senior official said timelines were issued, with most tasks expected to be completed within three to four weeks or by the following month. These efforts aimed to enhance efficiency and access in Delhi's public health system.

Bharat Biotech cuts malaria vaccine cost to boost access in Africa

On 25th June 2025, in a significant move to enhance access to malaria prevention in Africa, Bharat Biotech and GSK announced a major price reduction for the RTS,S malaria vaccine. The vaccine was set to be made available to malaria-endemic countries at under $5 per dose by 2028, marking a more than 50% price drop, enabled by manufacturing scale-up, technology transfer, and minimal profit margins.

The announcement aligned with pledges made to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, as part of its 2026–2030 replenishment strategy. The RTS,S vaccine, developed by GSK in collaboration with PATH, became the first malaria vaccine recommended by the WHO in 2021. Since then, GSK has scaled up production and partnered with Bharat Biotech to transfer technology. Bharat Biotech invested over $200 million to build high-output manufacturing infrastructure.

Health leaders called the move a pivotal moment for malaria control. Early data from Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi, where over 2 million children received the vaccine between 2019 and 2023, showed a 13% drop in overall mortality and 22% fewer severe malaria hospitalisations. The companies emphasised that affordability would no longer be a barrier, with the new pricing expected to accelerate efforts to protect millions of African children from the deadly disease.

ICMR to add mobile labs for faster disease outbreak response

On 26th June 2025, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) initiated the procurement of two additional Mobile BSL-3 (MBSL-3) laboratories to enhance outbreak preparedness and strengthen public health services in remote areas. Named RAMBAAN, these laboratories were fully indigenous and developed in partnership with Klenzaids Contamination Controls under the Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

Two RAMBAAN labs were already operational, stationed at the National Institute of Virology in Pune and the RMRC in Gorakhpur. These field-deployable labs were designed to meet high-risk diagnostic demands during outbreaks of known and unknown pathogens. The MBSL-3 units were first deployed during the 2023 Nipah virus outbreak in Kozhikode, Kerala, and again in Malappuram district in July 2024.

Built on a Bharat Benz heavy-duty chassis compliant with BS-VI norms, the labs were classified as Type-IV Rapid Response Mobile Laboratories by WHO's GOARN network. Each unit featured negative air pressure zones, HEPA-filtered HVAC systems, autoclaves, decontamination systems, and biometric-controlled entry-exit showers.

Power was ensured through diesel generators, UPS systems, and petrol backups, while communication and security were maintained via walkie-talkies and CCTV. ICMR's expansion of this fleet marked a critical step in decentralising advanced biosafety diagnostics for timely outbreak control.

About Avian WE's Healthcare E-Newsletter:
The content for this newsletter is sourced from news and information available in the public domain, in industry reports and as reported by mainline media.

Contact us: For any questions or feedback, please write to AvianWE-Healthcare@avianwe.com