

# News Digest

## NATIONAL

### President Launches 'Ayushman Bhav' Campaign for Enhancing Universal Health Coverage

President Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'Ayushman Bhav' campaign and the Portal virtually from Gandhinagar, Gujarat on September 13. This historic launch marks a significant leap towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and ensuring healthcare for all. It strives to further consolidate the accessibility and affordability of healthcare services particularly for the underserved. The campaign hinges on the philosophy of "antyodaya," where successful Gram Panchayats will be declared as Ayushman Gram Panchayats. The campaign focuses on expanding Ayushman cards, generating ABHA IDs, and raising awareness about essential health schemes and diseases. It comprises three components: Ayushman - Apke Dwar 3.0, Ayushman Melas, and Ayushman Sabhas, all designed to expedite healthcare access at grassroots levels.



### PM Modi Unveils Transformative Projects in MP, Chhattisgarh

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched a series of groundbreaking projects in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, promising substantial economic growth and job creation. In Madhya Pradesh, he initiated a Rs 50,000 crore ethylene cracker project at the Bina Refinery, virtually inaugurated 10 major industrial projects with investments exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore, and announced plans for an electrical and renewable energy equipment manufacturing area, two IT parks, and a mega industrial park. In Chhattisgarh, PM Modi dedicated over Rs 6,400 crore worth of railway projects and unveiled healthcare improvements while distributing sickle cell counselling cards.

### Skill India Digital Platform Launched for Holistic Skill Development and Digital Empowerment



Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched Skill India Digital (SID), a comprehensive digital platform aimed at revolutionising skill development, education, employment, and entrepreneurship in India. SID, a Digital Public Infrastructure

(DPI), focuses on digital technology and Industry 4.0 skills, accelerating skilled talent hiring and lifelong learning. It aligns with the G20 framework for DPI and provides a gateway to government skilling and entrepreneurship initiatives. SID incorporates features like Aadhaar/AI-based facial authentication, digital verifiable credentials, AI/ML recommendations, mobile-first accessibility, security measures, and interoperability. Digitally verified credentials and digital CVs empower users to showcase their qualifications securely, while integrating government training programs fosters a unified hub for skill development. Numerous MoUs have been signed between the Government and private organisations to advance digital skilling and industry participation.

### Kozhikode Adopts Strict Controls to Contain Nipah Virus Spread

Tighter controls have been implemented in Kozhikode, Kerala, to contain Nipah virus infections. Stringent testing of high-risk individuals is being done and isolation wards are being set up in private hospitals. The Union Health Ministry is keeping a strict vigil over the situation. In neighbouring Karnataka, the state administration has issued an advisory to local bodies for enhancing surveillance in areas bordering Kerala, monitor roads, and prepare hospitals for potential Nipah virus infection cases, while making it mandatory for private healthcare facilities to report suspected cases of Nipah virus infection to state health authorities.

## INTERNATIONAL

### India and Saudi Arabia Sign Eight Agreements for Cooperation in Various Domains

India and Saudi Arabia have inked eight agreements encompassing various domains such as energy, digitalisation, and investment. During the State visit of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia in New Delhi, both nations expressed satisfaction with the successful G20 meeting and celebrated the launch of the India-



Middle East-Europe Corridor. They pledged support for the swift execution of west coast refinery projects, accelerated negotiations for the India-GCC Free Trade Agreement, and heightened cooperation in FinTech, including exploring local currency trading opportunities.

### India, Russia Discuss Potential Use of Upcoming Sea Routes for Maritime Cooperation

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, met with the Minister of the Russian Federation for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic, A.O. Chekunkov, in Vladivostok, Russia, to discuss maritime cooperation between the two countries. The leaders explored the potential utilisation of new transport corridors such as the Northern Sea Route (NSR) and the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) between Vladivostok and Chennai. They also agreed to train Indian seafarers in Polar and Arctic waters at the Russian Maritime Training Institute in Vladivostok. Shri Sonowal invited Russia to participate in the upcoming Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS), 2023. Minister Chekunkov discussed the potential cargo base of the NSR, including coking coal, oil, LNG, and fertilizers, and expressed readiness to visit Chennai for further collaboration in October.

### E3 Extend Nuclear Sanctions on Iran amidst Non-Compliance Concerns

Britain, France, and Germany, collectively known as the E3, have declared their decision to extend sanctions related to ballistic missiles and nuclear proliferation on Iran. These sanctions, originally set to expire in October 2023, will be upheld due to what the E3 nations describe as "Iran's persistent and serious non-compliance" with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The sanctions encompass prohibitions on Iran's development of ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear payloads, as well as restrictions on the purchase, sale, or transfer of drones and missiles to and from Iran. Additionally, the sanctions involve the freezing of assets belonging to several Iranian individuals and entities involved in nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

## ECONOMY

### Defence Acquisition Council Approves Rs 45,000 Crore Procurement Proposals

The Defence Acquisition Council, led by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, has cleared nine capital acquisition proposals valued at Rs. 45,000 crore. These acquisitions will strengthen the Indian defence industry and support the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. Key approvals include Light Armoured Multipurpose Vehicles, High Mobility Vehicle Gun Towing Vehicles, Next-Generation Survey Vessels for the Navy, and upgrades for Dornier Aircraft. Meanwhile, India has officially received its first C-295 MW transport aircraft from Spain. Airbus handed over the aircraft to the Indian Air Force as part of a larger acquisition of 56 C-295 aircraft to replace the AVRO fleet. Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft, while Tata Advanced Systems in India will assemble the remaining 40. This partnership will boost Make in India initiatives, stimulate investment, and create jobs in the aviation sector. The C-295 is designed for tactical transport and logistics in challenging locations.

### Ministry of Defence Tops Government eMarketplace in Order Value and Quantity



The Ministry of Defence has achieved a prominent position on the Government eMarketplace (GeM), ranking first in both order value and quantity among 56 participating Ministries and Departments. GeM's Gross Merchandise Value reached an impressive Rs. 73,225.30 crore as of September 12, 2023, with the Defence Ministry contributing significantly. In the current fiscal year alone, procurement through GeM has exceeded Rs. 18,790.60 crores.

Under the Department of Defence Production, Defence Public Sector Undertakings sold goods and services worth over Rs. 2,600 crores on GeM in 2022-23. This milestone underscores an impressive average daily order value of Rs. 109 crore in the current fiscal year, highlighting the Defence Ministry's commitment to digital transformation within government procurement since GeM's inception in August 2016.

## SPORTS

### Hockey India Felicitates Hangzhou Asian Games-bound Men's and Women's Teams

Sunehra Safar, organised by Hockey India in Bengaluru, witnessed a joyous and memorable send-off ceremony for the Indian Men and Women Hockey Teams headed for the Hangzhou Asian Games. The occasion was doubly significant for the players because the federation had invited their parents and family members to be a part of the event, which also included the teams and their family members being felicitated. The Hangzhou Asian Games-bound players received jerseys, while their families received Angvasra, Bouquet, and Hockey India mementos. The Indian teams would continue to practise at SAI in Bengaluru until their departure for Hangzhou.



(Source: AIR/PIB)