

Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research organises awareness activities for World Breastfeeding Week

On 1st August 2026, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) marked World Breastfeeding Week 2026 with a week-long series of awareness activities from August 1 to 7, beginning with an awareness rally at the JIPMER Women and Children Hospital (JWCH). The programme was organized by the Nursing Department, College of Nursing, in collaboration with the Departments of Neonatology, Paediatrics, and Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

The rally was inaugurated by Dr. Saga Vinodkumar, Medical Superintendent, JIPMER, and Dr. Adhisivam B, Professor, Department of Neonatology, who flagged off the event at the JWCH entrance. Nursing officers, faculty members, nursing students, and healthcare professionals participated in the rally and carried placards highlighting the importance of early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and continued breastfeeding with appropriate complementary feeding.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Saga Vinodkumar and Dr. Adhisivam B emphasized that breastfeeding provided optimal nutrition, protected infants from infections, supported healthy growth and development, and offered long-term health benefits for mothers and children. They also stressed the importance of support from healthcare providers, families, and communities.

The week-long programme featured health education sessions, poster and rangoli competitions, role plays, open-house discussions, folk awareness programmes, quizzes, seminars, and other interactive activities.





India to boost global medical device exports

India needed to move beyond an import substitution approach in the medical devices sector and develop an export-oriented industry serving global markets, Department of Pharmaceuticals Secretary Mr. Manoj Joshi said at the 'India Medical Device 2026' event organised by FICCI in New Delhi, on 7th August 2026.

Mr. Joshi said India's medical devices market was valued at around USD 16 billion, while the global market exceeded USD 600 billion, highlighting the significant opportunity for Indian manufacturers. He said the country needed to strengthen domestic component manufacturing, increase value addition, enable smoother cross-border movement of components and products, and integrate Indian companies into global value chains.

He also stressed the importance of stronger partnerships between startups and large industries to help innovations reach the market. While healthcare providers primarily focused on access to quality medical devices regardless of their origin, Mr. Joshi noted that domestic manufacturing was important for employment generation, stronger industrial capabilities and supply chain resilience, particularly during global disruptions.

Drugs Controller General of India Mr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi said the medical devices sector was undergoing a fundamental shift from an import-driven market towards a domestic manufacturing-led ecosystem. He highlighted the need to strengthen indigenous capabilities in high-end medical devices and in vitro diagnostics while ensuring faster, transparent, and predictable regulatory approvals.



Anemia Mukht Bharat gets new framework, digital tracking system

On 11th August 2026, The Government of India released the Anemia Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan Operational Guidelines at the 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare meeting on June 29, 2026, introducing a 7X7X7 strategy to accelerate anemia reduction. The framework expanded the earlier 6X6X6 approach and focused on testing, treatment, tracking, dietary diversification, and addressing nutritional and non-nutritional causes of anemia.

The seven beneficiary groups covered children aged 6–59 months, children aged 5–9 years, adolescents aged 10–19 years, pregnant women, lactating mothers, women aged 20–49 years and low-birth-weight babies aged 0–6 months. The seven interventions included prophylactic iron-folic acid supplementation, anemia testing, therapeutic management, deworming and delayed cord clamping, Jan Bhagidari communication, addressing non-nutritional causes, and promotion of locally available iron-rich foods.

The guidelines also outlined seven institutional mechanisms, including intra-ministerial coordination, a National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anemia, a national AMB unit, strengthened supply chains, inter-ministerial convergence, the Anemia Mukht Bharat portal and digital monitoring.

The initiative shifted from the T3 approach of Test, Treat and Talk to T4—Test, Treat, Talk and Track. Digital systems were used to track testing, treatment, referrals, and follow-up, while anemia was categorized as mild, moderate, or severe for appropriate management.



Ayushman Bharat launches in West Bengal; covers over 1850 hospitals

On 16th August 2026, West Bengal Chief Minister Mr. Suvendu Adhikari launched the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme in the state alongside the Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana, expanding access to cashless healthcare within West Bengal and across the country.

The two schemes together covered 1,240 private hospitals and 627 government medical facilities in the state. Mr. Adhikari said beneficiaries could access treatment at around 38,600 hospitals nationwide, while people who were not eligible under Ayushman Bharat would continue to receive coverage through the state scheme.

The integration was expected to cover around 80 lakh families under the Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana and expand treatment coverage to nearly 1,950 packages, compared with more than 1,700 procedures under the earlier state scheme. Health Minister Mr. Sharadwat Mukherjee had said beneficiaries would receive cashless coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh.

The Centre had allocated around Rs 1,000 crore for implementing Ayushman Bharat in West Bengal, with the Centre bearing 60 per cent and the state contributing the remaining 40 per cent. Mr. Adhikari also acknowledged concerns from some private hospitals over reimbursement rates and assured that the government would work with them to resolve the issues and ensure uninterrupted quality healthcare.

India's healthcare sector maintains growth momentum with improving hospital occupancy, diagnostics demand in Q1 FY27

On 19th August 2026, India's healthcare services sector recorded strong growth in Q1 FY27, with hospitals and diagnostics companies reporting higher revenues and profitability, according to Kotak Institutional Equities. The brokerage said the sector was expected to maintain its growth momentum, supported by improving occupancy at newly commissioned hospitals and sustained demand in diagnostics.

Hospitals under Kotak's coverage reported a 21 per cent year-on-year rise in revenue and a 22 per cent increase in EBITDA. Average revenue per occupied bed grew 5-14 per cent across hospitals, driven by higher patient volumes, improved realisations and contributions from newly added beds. All covered hospital companies posted double-digit sales growth, with KIMS recording the strongest growth at 35 per cent.

However, rapid capacity expansion continued to affect margins. Operational beds increased 15 per cent year-on-year, and capacity beds rose 16 per cent, while ramp-up costs at new and acquired facilities kept the aggregate hospital EBITDA margin at 23 per cent. Diagnostics companies also reported strong performance, with sales rising 18 per cent and EBITDA increasing 29 per cent. Growth was supported by higher test and patient volumes, improved realisations and sustained B2C demand. Dr. Lal PathLabs and Metropolis Healthcare reported sales growth of 19 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively.





Healthcare leaders highlight new regulatory concerns faced by India's MedTech industry

On 20th August 2026, the third edition of India Health 2026 took place at Bharat Mandapam, bringing together policymakers, manufacturers, and healthcare leaders to discuss the rapid expansion of the country's medtech sector. The event highlighted industry concerns regarding the proposed overhaul of India's drugs law, with manufacturers raising apprehensions that aligning medical-device regulations with those of medicines could increase compliance costs and procedural burdens for emerging companies.

Discussions at the exhibition also focused on domestic manufacturing, technology adoption, exports, and artificial intelligence integration in healthcare. Running alongside the main exhibition, the Global MedTech Conference provided a platform for stakeholders to deliberate on regulatory constraints and market opportunities. Reports released around the event estimated significant growth for the sector, projecting a multi-billion-dollar market opportunity by 2030 and continued expansion toward broader economic goals. Furthermore, the exhibition featured various technological innovations, including AI-enabled diagnostic tools, advanced imaging systems, and specialized medical equipment from numerous domestic and international brands.

NABH's digital adoption drives better hospital outcomes

Hospitals adopting the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers' (NABH) Digital Health Standards (DHS) reported improvements in operational efficiency, clinical decision-making, and digital maturity, according to a study by the Max Institute of Healthcare Management at the Indian School of Business (ISB) on 27th August 2026.

The findings were published in a white paper titled Post-Adoption Value of NABH Digital Health Standards: A Multi-Hospital Assessment in India, which was unveiled at ISB. The study assessed 20 DHS-certified hospitals across Silver, Gold, and Platinum certification levels, with a focus on small and medium-sized hospitals and facilities in non-metro locations.

The research drew on interviews with 80 senior stakeholders across hospital leadership, quality, IT, operations and clinical teams, along with a quantitative survey. It found that improving patient care and operational efficiency were the primary reasons for adopting DHS, while top hospital leadership drove 76.9 per cent of adoption decisions. Following certification, the average digital maturity score increased from 3.42 to 4.35 on a five-point scale. System integration improved from 3.31 to 4.35, while the use of digital records for clinical decision-making rose from 3.00 to 4.37.

IRDAI Chairperson Mr. Ajay Seth said digital health standards needed to support better access, affordability and quality of care rather than function only as compliance measures. NABH Chairperson Mr. Rizwan Koita said the study demonstrated measurable benefits for hospital processes, efficiency, quality and patient care.



Shri Amit Shah celebrates Raksha Bandhan with Type-1 diabetes patients

On 28th August 2026, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah celebrated Raksha Bandhan in Ahmedabad with girls from his parliamentary constituency who were suffering from Type-1 diabetes. He highlighted the challenges faced by children requiring lifelong insulin injections and the financial burden this placed on their families.

Shri Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government was providing free insulin for life to children with Type-1 diabetes. He described the initiative as a reflection of the government's commitment to the principles of service, compassion and security, and extended his wishes to the girls for good health and a bright future.

Under Shri Amit Shah's leadership and guidance, children aged 0–18 years with Type-1 juvenile diabetes in the Gandhinagar parliamentary constituency had been provided access to an integrated system covering screening, diagnosis, insulin or treatment, monitoring and follow-up. The system was established to ensure lifelong access to essential insulin for affected children.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Amit Shah said public service was the guiding principle of compassionate governance. He emphasized that securing the health of daughters was essential for the future of families and society. He added that providing free insulin to daughters on Raksha Bandhan symbolized the commitment to protecting their health and well-being.



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