

# WHO adopts resolution on digital health initiated by India

**New Delhi:** Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda on Tuesday said the resolution on digital health brought out by India was adopted by the 71st World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO).

"I'm happy to share that the landmark resolution on #DigitalHealth – initiated by India – was unanimously adopted by the 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva. India received widespread praise for its leadership on this forward looking agenda," Nadda said in a tweet.

The 71st World Health Assembly was held last week in Geneva and was attended by delegations from all WHO member states.

In his address at the Assembly, Nadda said: "Digital health technology have a huge potential for supporting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and improving accessibility,

quality and affordability of health services. This is a resolution which should be owned by all of us so as to pave the path for a forward looking global health agenda."

The resolution paves the path for WHO to establish a global strategy on digital health identifying priority areas including where WHO should focus its efforts and engages member states to optimize their health systems in sync with the global digital health agenda.

Introducing the resolution on digital health at the assembly on behalf of India and 20 cosponsors, Joint Secretary (International Health) Lav Agarwal last week said: "Digital health is important in the context of countries achieving health-related SDG targets as well WHO's implementation of 13th General Program of Work. Digital health agenda is multisectoral and cross cutting in nature.

2018. The project aims at achieving grade level proficiency, boosting morale and championing for higher aspirations. Many US-born Tamil children have been sent on internship projects to serve as coaches in these ABC programs.

At the convention TNF conferred the Lifetime achievement award posthumously on Dr Peumalswamy, one of the founding member of TNF.

Interesting parallel sessions on H1B visa issues, siddha medicine, and a separate youth convention on topics ranging from college planning to career choices, and sessions on continuing medical education too were organized. Cultural programs by renowned artists Nithyashree Mahadevan, Tamil Pattimandram fame Raja and Bharathi Bhaskar, Mersel light music performance, comedy play by stage friends, show on women empowerment directed by Sumitra Ramjee, Karna dance drama by Madurai R Muralidaran and troupe were the highlight.

Around 1200 people attended the convention from across the US. New Jersey Tamil Sangam was one of the supporting organizations.

## Tamil taking back to India with pride and purpose

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The Foundation has over 23 chapters across the US with over 1,000 life members who mobilize funds.

Much of the funds will be used for the TNF's ABC initiative, which focuses on educating the poorest of the poor. Of the 10 million children who go to government schools across 30,000 villages in Tamil Nadu, a third are below their grade level proficiencies, said Kavitha Ramasami, an attorney who jointly with Balaji Prakash Rao started Kanavagam, an orphanage in Karaikudi, that focuses on girl child's education, health and character building.

TNF has permission to serve inside the government schools during school hours, to give the extra help that these students may require. The ABC project was piloted in 2011 in the Sivaganga district. The acceptance by the parents, teachers and students made other districts to adopt it. Now the ABC project is successfully running in 10 districts of Tamil Nadu. Almost 27,000 students have benefitted by the ABC project as of May

## Modi on tour to boost India's Look East policy

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100,000 people of Indian origin and 7,000 NRIs working as professionals across different sectors. On the eve of his visit there, Modi said, "I am confident that my visit to Indonesia will create greater synergy between Asia's two largest democracies and further elevate our bilateral ties."

On May 31, on his way to Singapore from Indonesia he will briefly halt in Malaysia to congratulate the new Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. In Singapore he will be focusing on enhancing India-Singapore partnership in areas of fintech, skill development, urban planning and artificial intelligence.

## NOKO summit can happen on June 12: Trump

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the June 12 Singapore summit and meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who recently visited North Korea on two separate occasions, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said, Efe reported.

Last Thursday, Trump sent a letter to the North Korean leader calling off the meeting, citing Pyongyang's "hostility."

A day later, however, the US president said that the summit could still go on as planned.

On Monday, The Wall Street Journal reported that Washington had decided to hold off on implementing new sanctions against North Korea while talks to relaunch the summit were held. If it takes place, the Singapore summit will be the first meeting between a US president and a North Korean leader in the almost seven decades since the 1950-1953 Korean War.

## India follows UN, not US sanctions on Iran: Sushma

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agreement. "The external affairs minister conveyed that all parties to the agreement should engage constructively for peaceful resolution of the issues that have arisen with respect to the agreement," a statement from the ministry said after Swaraj met Zarif, who had been to Moscow, Zarif, who had been to Moscow,

Beijing and Brussels, arrived in India Sunday night. Zarif briefed Swaraj about the discussions that Iran "has undertaken with parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action following the US decision to withdraw from the agreement," said the ministry's press release.

"The two sides positively assessed the implementation of decisions taken during the visit of President Rouhani to India. These included bilateral cooperation in the areas of connectivity, energy, trade and promotion of people to people contacts", the release said.

## India, Pakistan armies talk peace after days of border violence

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improve the existing situation to ensure peace and avoidance of hardships to the civilians along the borders".

They agreed to "fully implement" the 2003 ceasefire agreement "in letter and spirit" and ensure the truce was not violated.

"It was also mutually agreed that in case of any issue, restraint will be exercised and the matter will be resolved through utilization of existing mechanisms of hotline contacts and border flag meetings at local commanders' level."

The Pakistan Army in an identical statement said a special hotline contact was established with the Indian DGMO "to ensure the ceasefire will not be violated by both sides".

The latest DGMO level talks came after repeated ceasefire violations on the borders in Jammu and Kashmir that caused many civilian casualties earlier this month. Similar talks were held between the two countries on April 27.

The External Affairs Ministry on May 23 said Pakistan had carried out more than 1,088 ceasefire violations along the LoC and International Border in the first five months of 2018. The border shooting has claimed 36 lives on the Indian side and left more than 120 injured.

Pakistan's foreign office on May 25 said during 2018, Indian committed over 1,050 ceasefire violations resulting in the killing of 28 innocent civilians, while injuring 117.

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