J.P. Nadda inaugurates ₹39-crore Advanced Radiotherapy Facility at AIIMS Rajkot; India now has 22 AIIMS (18 functional)

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News

On 2 Nov 2026 Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda inaugurated and dedicated to the nation the Advanced Radiotherapy (Radiation Oncology) Facility at AIIMS Rajkot, Gujarat, built for about ₹39 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). It has a High Energy Linear Accelerator (LINAC), a Wide Bore CT Simulator and a High Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy unit. It will serve about 1.54 crore people of the Saurashtra region, with 500–700 patients expected a year; eligible Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY beneficiaries are treated free. India has grown from one AIIMS to 22, of which 18 are functional.

Key facts

Inauguration	2 Nov 2026 – J.P. Nadda; AIIMS Rajkot (Gujarat)
Cost / scheme	About ₹39 crore – PMSSY
Equipment	LINAC (IMRT, VMAT, IGRT, SRS, SBRT); CT simulator; HDR brachytherapy
Reach	Saurashtra – about 1.54 crore people; 500–700 patients a year
Dept running	Radiation oncology department functional since 29 May 2026
AIIMS	1 → 22 (18 functional) – Union Health Ministry

Background

- PMSSY: a Union Health & Family Welfare Ministry scheme to correct regional imbalances in tertiary health care. Its two components are setting up new AIIMS and upgrading existing government medical colleges.
- AIIMS history: the first AIIMS was set up in New Delhi under the AIIMS Act, 1956; all AIIMS are 'Institutes of National Importance' under an Act of Parliament. AIIMS Rajkot – Gujarat's first AIIMS – was dedicated by the PM on 25 Feb 2024 along with AIIMS Bathinda, Raebareli, Kalyani and Mangalagiri.
- Science: a LINAC accelerates electrons to produce high-energy X-rays aimed at the tumour from outside (external beam). In brachytherapy the radioactive source is placed inside or next to the tumour (internal radiation) – useful for cervical and head-and-neck cancers.
- Geography: Rajkot lies in the Saurashtra (Kathiawar) peninsula of Gujarat; before this facility, patients there had to travel to Ahmedabad or Mumbai for such treatment.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's AIIMS is coming up at Thoppur, Madurai district; PM Modi laid the foundation stone on 27 Jan 2019 (750-bed hospital; Japanese loan). Five MBBS batches (2021–2025) first studied temporarily at Ramanathapuram and have now moved to the own campus; in Sept 2026 the Centre told the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court that the OPD will be fully functional from 1 Jan 2027 (work about 57% complete as of 31 Aug).

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