

Major Health Policy & Safety Updates

- **High-dose nimesulide banned nationwide:** The Government of India has prohibited manufacture, sale, and distribution of oral *nimesulide* formulations above 100 mg due to safety concerns; cough syrups may soon require prescriptions instead of OTC sales.
- **Strong political push against antimicrobial resistance:** India is taking a leadership role in AMR prevention, aligning with global health threat priorities.
- **Healthcare views for 2026:** Medical experts emphasize a paradigm shift from disease treatment to holistic well-being and preventive care.

Healthcare Benefits & Support

- **Medical cost relief for disabled military cadets:** New ECHS health cover changes relieve significant one-time fees, easing access to medical care for disabled personnel.
- **UP expands dialysis & cancer care:** Uttar Pradesh government commits to scale free dialysis units and accelerate cancer care rollout across districts.

Hospital & Treatment Advances

- **Robotic pediatric surgery at AIIMS:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar is preparing to launch robotic surgical systems for paediatric cases, enhancing surgical precision and training.
- **Enhanced hospital safety in Punjab:** Punjab deploys 200 security guards across government hospitals to protect healthcare workers and patients.
- **Free women's cancer screening in Chennai:** A new centre in Thousand Lights will offer mammograms, Pap smears, and ultrasounds free of charge to address women's cancer burden.

Other Notable Health Developments (Around Jan 1)

- **Hospital sector growth & advanced procedures:** Reports show India's hospital industry is projected to grow strongly (11–12 % annual growth), and Army Hospital R&R performed the first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent for glaucoma.
- **Local health improvements:** In Uttar Pradesh's *Badaun*, enhanced facilities, new buildings, and expanded services are being rolled out with additional Ayushman cards distributed.
- **TB-free India campaign progress:** Hathras district health committees reviewed and pushed forward tuberculosis elimination efforts.
- **FSSAI's stricter food safety norms kick in:** From Jan 1, 2026, food safety claims must be backed by India-specific scientific evidence, tightening food regulatory oversight.