

## Major Health Sector Developments

- **HPV vaccination drive intensified in Rajasthan** — The state health department has rolled out a focused **HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination campaign** via the U-WIN immunisation platform, with finger-marking and parental consent protocols to boost coverage among eligible girls.
- **Women’s cardiac care showing rising demand** — Data from civic hospitals in Mumbai point to a **20% increase in cardiac procedures among women over two years**, with younger patients increasingly seeking care; doctors stress awareness of atypical symptoms in women.
- **Odisha expands rare blood disorder treatment** — Specialized drugs for conditions like thalassemia and other rare hematological disorders have been launched to improve access and outcomes for affected patients.
- **Telangana launches “Health Mission-100”** — A **100-day healthcare initiative** starting March 2 targets improvements across maternal and child health, non-communicable disease screening, communicable disease control, infrastructure upgrades, and food safety awareness.

## Healthcare Policy & Public Health Trends

- **India updates seasonal flu shot for H3N2 strain** — Based on **WHO’s recommended vaccine composition for 2026-27**, flu shots in India will be updated to better match a more transmissible A(H3N2) variant now circulating globally; early vaccination recommended for high-risk groups.
- **Birth Anomalies Network of India (BIND) launched** — A new national collective (BIND) is being launched in New Delhi to boost coordinated screening, policy focus, and timely care for birth defects — India records a significant share of global birth defect-related newborn mortality.
- **Strengthening Ayushman Bharat implementation** — District health committees (e.g., in Uttar Pradesh) are directing the completion of **100%**

**Ayushman cards by mid-March**, to expand access to cashless healthcare under the national health protection scheme.

- **Assam's new maternal & child hospital begins operations** — An **832-bed Mother & Child Hospital** under Gauhati Medical College will start services March 2, significantly expanding specialised care capacity in the Northeast.

#### **Public Health & Sector Trends to Watch**

- **Health insurance quality talks planned** — With complaint volumes rising, the Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDAI) aims to foster insurer-hospital consultations in mid-March to smooth claims processes and improve service quality (reported late Feb).
- **Integration of AYUSH in preventive care** — AYUSH systems (traditional medicine) are being increasingly woven into primary healthcare to address lifestyle and non-communicable diseases, reflecting a prevention-focused shift in public health strategy.