

1. Tuberculosis deaths spike in Mizoram

- Mizoram has reported **145 deaths due to tuberculosis (TB)** in the 2025-26 period — the highest in 6 years, highlighting ongoing challenges in TB elimination despite national programs. Efforts to make India *TB-free* are being intensified.

2. NEET-PG counselling update

- The **Madhya Pradesh Directorate of Medical Education (DME)** announced the postponement of the *mop-up round* of NEET-PG medical counselling. A revised schedule is expected soon, affecting aspirants waiting for postgraduate seats.

3. Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar hospitalized

- **Ex-Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar** was admitted to **AIIMS Delhi** after experiencing two fainting episodes. He is scheduled for further diagnostic evaluation, including an MRI scan; authorities are monitoring his condition.

Additional Health Context

- **India's COVID-19 status:** As of early January, *India reported daily new COVID cases in the low hundreds*, with active cases gradually declining. The Union Health Ministry continues booster vaccination efforts, especially for Covaxin doses nearing expiry.
- **Siddha Day observed (Jan 6):** This day celebrates Siddha — one of India's ancient traditional medical systems — highlighting holistic health and integrative healthcare under AYUSH.
- **Back pain emerging as health concern:** Health experts in the **Delhi-NCR region** warn that chronic back pain is rising rapidly, driven by sedentary lifestyles, stress, and obesity, now seen as a significant public health issue.