

1. Air quality crisis affecting public health

- Air pollution across **major Indian cities** remained at “*unhealthy*” to “*very unhealthy*” levels on January 9, raising concerns for respiratory and cardiovascular health, especially among children, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases. Authorities and experts continue to warn that extended exposure may lead to increased hospital visits for asthma, COPD and other conditions.

2. Public health alert after foreign insect found in sealed mouthwash

In **Madhya Pradesh**, a patient discovered a **dead insect inside a sealed hospital pharmacy mouthwash bottle**, prompting an official *investigation* into quality control and safety practices in medical facilities and pharmacies. Public health experts say such events raise concerns about infection risk and regulatory oversight.

3. AI in healthcare — UP government push continues

- On **January 9**, the **Uttar Pradesh government announced major health sector initiatives**, including a **₹2000 crore program to expand AI use in healthcare** for diagnostics, disease surveillance, telemedicine and more. The focus includes leveraging AI tools for improved service delivery and proactive public health planning.

4. Disciplinary action against doctors in Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh administration** dismissed **17 doctors** over alleged irregularities and negligence, also freezing salary increases for others, as part of efforts to improve accountability and performance in public health services.