

Outbreaks & Infectious Disease Updates

- **Nipah virus alert in West Bengal:** Two confirmed Nipah cases (both nurses) have been treated at a Kolkata hospital, prompting extensive contact tracing and isolation measures. Public health teams are actively monitoring potential spread.
- **New West Bengal Nipah guidelines:** The state health department has issued detailed protocols for Nipah containment. These include risk-based contact quarantine (21 days for high risk), early antiviral treatment for confirmed cases, and training of healthcare workers to strengthen infection control.

Public Health Strategy & Policy Discussions

- **Antimicrobial resistance policy push:** Health experts are urging the Indian government to revise the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on antibiotics. The proposal aims to align taxation with WHO's antibiotic stewardship priorities — cheaper access to essential antibiotics while discouraging overuse of high-risk ones — to slow antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- **Strengthened disease surveillance:** Municipal health authorities in *Vadodara* have enhanced monitoring of waterborne and vectorborne diseases, mandating better hospital reporting to the health information system to allow rapid detection and response.

Chronic & Non-Communicable Health Trends

- **Heart disease increasingly affecting younger Indians:** New analyses highlight that cardiovascular conditions are rising among younger age groups in India, with lifestyle risks accelerating prevalence outside traditional older populations. This underscores the need for early lifestyle intervention and awareness.

Other Disease Progress

- **Malaria progress in Tamil Nadu:** The state reports a sustained drop in malaria, with 33 out of 38 districts currently free of indigenous transmission; ongoing cases are mainly travel-related. This is key as India pushes towards WHO's malaria elimination goals.

Context & Broad Health Landscape

While not all directly reported on Jan 14, these trends shape wider health discussions around this date:

- **Preventive healthcare reforms:** India is emphasizing preventive care in medical training and public health systems, focusing on lifestyle diseases, cancer prevention, and women's and child health — recognising the growing chronic disease burden.
- **Antibiotic misuse caution:** Medical leaders, including national figures, have repeatedly warned against indiscriminate antibiotic use to combat rising AMR, stressing prescription-based use only.