

Public Health Alerts & Disease Trends

- **Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) push:** Health experts are urging the government to revise GST rates on antibiotics to promote responsible use and curb the growing threat of AMR, ahead of the 2026-27 Union Budget.
- **Nipah virus concern:** Local health reports highlight heightened Nipah alert and potential severity — with warnings that the virus can progress rapidly and strict surveillance ongoing, especially around West Bengal districts.
- **Child mental health challenge:** Rising screen exposure among Indian children is being linked to increased mental fatigue and related health issues, prompting calls for awareness and balanced digital habits.
- **Height trends under study:** Analyses suggest a decline in average height among Indian children compared with peers in other Asian countries, attributed to nutrition and environmental factors.

Medical Research & Innovation

- **Microbiome research initiative:** Indian doctors stress the importance of studying the *India-specific gut microbiome* — leveraging genetic diversity and dietary habits to tailor treatments for gut disorders like IBD, obesity, and fatty liver.

Healthcare Infrastructure & Services

- **New hospitals planned in Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government approved two new superspecialty hospitals (125 beds each) in Yelahanka and Sanjaynagar to expand healthcare access and specialist services.
- **Hygiene probe in UP hospital:** Uttar Pradesh's Deputy CM ordered an investigation after viral footage showed rats inside a medical college ward, raising hygiene and patient safety concerns.

- **World Bank backs Bengal healthcare reform:** A major loan (~\$286 million) was sanctioned to support healthcare system improvements in West Bengal, focusing on access and quality (broad reforms).



Other Health & Well-Being Notes

- **Chronic disease & lifestyle:** Broader patterns (e.g., diabetes, obesity, hypertension) continue to receive attention as silent epidemics in India, reflecting growing needs for preventive strategies (referenced in related broader reporting).