

Ayushman Bharat: Claim Settlement & Coverage Review

The Union Health Ministry reviewed implementation issues under **Ayushman Bharat**, focusing on faster claim settlements, reduction in claim rejections, and improved hospital onboarding to ensure uninterrupted cashless care for beneficiaries.

Primary Healthcare Strengthening Drive

Officials reiterated the need to strengthen **Health & Wellness Centres**, aiming to reduce avoidable referrals to tertiary hospitals and improve early diagnosis and chronic disease management at the community level.

ICU & Emergency Capacity Expanded in Government Hospitals

Several government medical colleges and tertiary hospitals reported **expansion of ICU beds and emergency services** to manage the seasonal rise in cardio-respiratory and infectious disease admissions during winter.

NMC Reiterates Quality Norms for Medical Colleges

The **National Medical Commission** emphasized strict adherence to **faculty strength, infrastructure, and clinical exposure norms** while approving new MBBS and postgraduate seats, prioritising quality over numerical expansion.

AI Tools in Routine Clinical Practice

Hospitals across India reported wider use of **AI-assisted radiology, ECG interpretation, and pathology screening tools**, helping reduce reporting turnaround time and clinician workload.

Electronic Health Records & Interoperability

Public and private hospitals expanded adoption of **interoperable electronic health records (EHRs)**, supporting continuity of care, referral tracking, and integration with national digital health platforms.

Winter Air Pollution: Health Advisory

Public health experts warned that **winter air pollution and fog** are contributing to increased asthma, COPD, and ischemic heart disease cases. Doctors advised early consultation and preventive care for high-risk groups.

Tuberculosis Elimination Activities Intensified

India's TB programme intensified **active case finding, early diagnosis, and treatment-adherence monitoring**, aligning with national TB elimination targets.

ILI & SARI Surveillance Update

Ongoing surveillance of **influenza-like illness (ILI)** and **severe acute respiratory infections (SARI)** continued nationwide. No major outbreaks were reported, but heightened vigilance was advised during the winter season.