



Health & Outbreaks

- **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) signals in Madhya Pradesh** – Local health authorities are monitoring increased cases linked to contaminated water ingestion, with officials urging hygiene to prevent infections.
- **Mpox variant research in India** – Scientists identified an evolving *Clade Ib* Mpox strain in Kerala, with several cases linked to foreign travel and evidence of human-to-human spread, underscoring strengthening surveillance needs.
- **Chickenpox rising in Kerala district** – Ernakulam reported 228 cases by 18 Jan, mostly among children, though no severe complications yet.



Healthcare Workforce & Systems

- **Doctors in Kerala announce strike** – Government medical college doctors plan indefinite strike from 2 Feb over pay and allowances, affecting non-emergency services and teaching duties.
- **Government support for medical students** – Tamil Nadu Health Ministry distributed laptops to over 1,500 medical and allied health students to improve digital access in education.
- **Vice President on medical institutions** – VP CP Radhakrishnan highlighted the vital role of both private and public medical colleges in advancing national health goals.
- **Ragging action in Uttarakhand medical college** – Nine MBBS students at Doon Medical College faced disciplinary measures in a ragging incident — reflecting ongoing student safety focus.



Healthcare Achievements & Investments

- **India seen as a health and digital health investment leader** – Coverage highlighted India's growth in digital health and interoperable systems as strong global investment cases.



Other Relevant Medical & Policy Developments Around Mid-January 2026



Sector Expansion & Policy Shifts

- **Healthcare M&A crosses ₹10,000 crore in Q2 FY26** — Growing hospital and diagnostics investments reflect sector expansion and private capital interest in Indian healthcare infrastructure.
- **National health policy shifts focus to wellness** — The new policy emphasizes preventive care and long-term wellness over reactive “sick care,” aligning health priorities with lifestyle and early intervention.
- **Calls for higher health funding in Budget 2026** — Experts and AIIMS voices are urging larger budget allocation—especially for cancer care and prevention initiatives.



Medical Technology & Care

- **AIIMS Delhi marks 1,000+ robotic surgeries** — The apex institute reported over a thousand robotic procedures in 13 months, spanning complex surgeries and enhancing precision care.



Education & Training Landscape

- **Large continued growth in medical education capacity** — India's medical colleges and MBBS seats have more than doubled over the past decade, expanding opportunities for aspiring doctors.



Tourism & Health Economy

- **Medical tourism boom including India** — The country is increasingly recognized as a key destination for medical travellers, boosting the broader healthcare service economy.



What This Means for India's Health Scene

- ✓ **Public health vigilance:** With rising communicable cases (chickenpox, GBS signals, evolving mpox), surveillance and preventive measures remain crucial.
- ✓ **Workforce challenges:** Strikes and reforms highlight ongoing workforce pay and staffing concerns.
- ✓ **Policy momentum:** New health policy direction and investment expansion reflect a shift toward preventive health and infrastructure growth.