



Disease & Outbreak Updates

1) GBS (Guillain-Barré Syndrome) outbreak intensifies in Madhya Pradesh

Health authorities report a growing cluster of GBS cases in Neemuch district, with **multiple confirmed and suspected patients including children and two fatalities already recorded**. The rare autoimmune nerve disorder causes progressive muscle weakness and can be life-threatening without supportive care. Officials are conducting active screenings and covering treatment costs.



2) Ongoing diarrhoea cluster in Indore (Bhagirathpura)

Three new cases were reported on Jan 19, bringing hospitalizations to **nine severe cases with ICU admissions**. Water infrastructure upgrades are underway, and residents are urged to **boil and filter tap water before use**.



3) Chickenpox cases rising in Kerala's Ernakulam district

Health officials confirm **228 reported chickenpox cases** through Jan 18, mostly among children. While no severe complications have yet been reported, vaccination is recommended though not available free in government hospitals.



4) Mpox variant surveillance advances

Indian researchers completed **genetic analysis of a Clade Ib Mpox strain** linked to recent cases in Kerala, showing signs of evolution through human-to-human transmission, highlighting the need for ongoing viral surveillance.



Health System & Medical Education



5) NEET PG 2025 Round 3 counselling seats released

The Medical Counselling Committee published the seat matrix, showing **28,469 postgraduate medical seats available** in NEET PG 2025's third counselling round — a key milestone for medical trainees nationwide.

6) Tamil Nadu distributes laptops to health students

Under a state education initiative, **over 1,500 medical and allied health students** received laptops to support digital learning and broader access to technology in medical education.

7) Advanced scoliosis surgery in Madurai

Doctors at Government Rajaji Hospital successfully performed a complex scoliosis correction surgery requiring eight hours and extensive postoperative care. The procedure, free under health insurance schemes, underscores increasing access to advanced surgical interventions.

What This Means for Public Health in India

- ✓ **Outbreak vigilance remains high:** Multiple clusters from GBS to chickenpox and water-related diarrhoea highlight ongoing public health monitoring needs.
- ✓ **Surveillance and research are priorities:** Genetic tracking of evolving Mpox strains and expanded data reporting reflect strengthening epidemiological systems.
- ✓ **Medical training and infrastructure improvements continue:** With large numbers of PG medical seats and educational technology rollouts, India is scaling healthcare workforce preparedness.
- ✓ **Service and care access expanding:** Complex surgical care provided under insurance schemes demonstrates progress in public health delivery.