



## 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.

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## 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.