

## Health System & Policy

- **Doctors demand reforms after NEET PG 2025 issues** — Resident doctors have highlighted administrative lapses and are urging the National Board of Examinations (NBE) and the Health Ministry to improve fairness and transparency in postgraduate medical exam processes.
- **Probe into Ayushman Bharat fraud in Punjab** — Punjab Health Minister has taken strict actions and directed that emergency care cannot be denied by any hospital under the scheme following allegations of fraud.
- **Budget 2026 expectations for healthcare** — Experts highlight optimism for increased spending on healthcare, digital innovation, and domestic manufacturing in the upcoming Union Budget to strengthen the health ecosystem.
- **Pharma industry tax issue** — AstraZeneca Pharma India has been hit with an ₹11.88 crore tax adjustment for FY 2023 and plans to approach the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.
- **Shift to preventive “wellness” policy** — India’s healthcare policy is now focusing more on preventive care and overall wellness instead of just treating illness, marking a significant strategic shift.

## Public Health & Environment

- **Pollution linked to rising respiratory illnesses in Hyderabad** — Doctors report increased cases of allergies, sinusitis, bronchitis, and immune-related issues tied to winter air pollution and high PM2.5 levels.

## Community Health & Awareness

- **School health awareness camp in Kanpur** — A health awareness program was held at a DTS school under the “Aparajita” initiative promoting community wellbeing.
- **Heart health alert** — Coverage on heart rhythm and serious cardiac symptoms aims to improve public awareness about signs that may indicate significant heart disease.

- **Top fatal diseases awareness** — Health education piece highlights the seven leading diseases causing most deaths in India and preventive strategies.
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### **Broader Health Context**

- **Rare diseases affect millions in India** — Around **1 in 20 Indians** are estimated to be impacted by rare diseases, many of which are genetic and often manifest early in life; awareness and early diagnosis are essential for care.
  - **Calls for higher health & cancer funding ahead of Budget 2026** — Experts at AIIMS Delhi urge larger allocations in the upcoming Budget to expand cancer care and work toward elimination goals within five years.
  - **Ongoing structural pressures in medical education** — Expanding medical seats alone isn't sufficient; shortages of faculty and infrastructure must be addressed for effective training and quality healthcare delivery.
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### **Health & Disease Watch**

Although not specific to *20 Jan* events, ongoing concerns in India include:

- **Chikungunya rise & research efforts** — National investigators are accelerating antiviral development as cases grow.
- **Outbreak challenges from previous years** — Rare brain infections like amoebic meningoencephalitis and Japanese encephalitis showed significant increases in 2025, stressing surveillance needs.