

Key National Health Actions & Campaigns

-  **HPV Vaccination Drive Launched:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh, led by CM N. Chandrababu Naidu, has **started a free HPV vaccination campaign targeting 14-year-old girls** to prevent cervical cancer. The drive will run over the next three months through government health centres, with digital tracking and certificates issued to recipients.
- **Public Health Emphasis:** This launch aligns with the **nationwide initiative by PM Narendra Modi** starting today — offering HPV vaccines free at government facilities across India as a major preventive health push.

Healthcare Infrastructure Updates

-  **Free Cochlear Implant Surgeries in Punjab:** The Punjab government announced that **cochlear implant surgeries will now be available at no charge** in government medical colleges to improve access to advanced hearing treatments.
-  **Advanced Diagnostics in Himachal Pradesh:** Three brand-new **3 Tesla MRI machines inaugurated** at Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, boosting high-quality diagnostic capability locally.
-  **New Cancer Care Centre Coming Up:** A **modern cancer treatment facility** with multiple specialties is being developed in Hamirpur's government medical college — part of broader healthcare expansion in the state.
-  **Hospital Infrastructure Drive in Uttar Pradesh:** Authorities are pushing major upgrades in government hospitals — including ensuring functional ICU/MRI/CT services, better cleanliness, fire safety, and improved patient amenities.

Context & Ongoing Trends

- **Healthcare Conferences & Industry Engagement:** Large industry summits like the *GenNext Hospital Summit 2026* in Hyderabad are underway, focusing on **future-ready hospital ecosystems and technological transformation** in healthcare delivery.
- **Medical Expo in Progress:** The *India Med Expo 2026* — a major medical equipment, diagnostics, and hospital technology expo — is taking place in Coimbatore (27-28 Feb + 1 Mar) bringing together medical suppliers and professionals.
- **AI Diagnostics Innovation:** India's Technology Development Board has backed commercialisation of an **AI-driven pathology diagnostic platform** (Autoscope) aimed at scalable slide analysis — a boost for rural and resource-limited diagnostics.

Economic & Systemic Health Notes

- **Rising Medical Costs:** India's **medical inflation is forecast at around 11.5 % in 2026**, outpacing the global average and driven by chronic care costs and advanced treatments.