

1. Launch of Rs 383 crore national mission to fight zoonotic diseases

The government has announced a new initiative titled the “National One Health Mission” with a budget of Rs 383 crore, aimed at strengthening surveillance, research and response systems for zoonotic diseases (those transmitted from animals to humans).

Why it matters: With an estimated 75 % of emerging human diseases originating in animals, this cross-sectoral approach (human-animal-environment) is seen as a key step in preventing future pandemics.

Implication for India: It signals a shift from disease treatment to proactive prevention, especially relevant in India’s context of dense human-animal interaction.

2. Major screening drive in Andhra Pradesh: 39 lakh people screened for cancer

In the state of Andhra Pradesh, around 39 lakh individuals have been screened for cancer under the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) programme. The screening included breast cervical and oral cancers for women, and oral cancer detection for men.

Why it matters: This is a large-scale public health screening effort, which can lead to early diagnosis and better outcomes.

Tip for individuals: If you or someone you know is in Andhra Pradesh, check with your local primary health centre whether you’re due for cancer screening under the scheme.

3. Maharashtra expands medical-aid coverage for transplants

The government of Maharashtra has increased medical-aid coverage under its health schemes (ABPMJAY & MJPJAY) to up to ₹20 lakh for transplant procedures (heart, lung, liver, bone marrow).

Why it matters: Transplants are high-cost procedures; expanding coverage means more patients can access them without catastrophic out-of-pocket spending.

Note: Eligibility and empanelled hospitals matter — ensure one's hospital is empanelled under the scheme and documentation is in order.

4. New referral protocol for hospitals & medical colleges in Kerala

In Kerala, the Health Department has issued a revised comprehensive referral protocol for hospitals and medical colleges covering five specialties (internal medicine, general surgery, gynecology, paediatrics, orthopaedics). The aim: reduce unnecessary referrals and strengthen lower-level facilities.

Why it matters: It can ease burden on tertiary hospitals and make care more accessible locally.

Takeaway: Patients and caregivers should ask if the facility is designated for their needs, and when referral will happen.

5. India–Egypt cooperation in healthcare & pharmaceuticals

India and Egypt have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in healthcare — especially pharmaceuticals, joint investments and knowledge-exchange.

Why it matters: This may lead to increased production capacity, technology transfer and possibly lowered drug costs.

Outlook: Could influence availability of medicines and treatments in coming years.