

1. Vacant PG medical seats in India

Supreme Court of India is scheduled to hear a plea seeking a directive to the National Medical Commission (NMC) to develop a mechanism so that no postgraduate seats go vacant in pre-clinical and para-clinical branches across Indian medical colleges. The petition also requests data on how many such seats have remained unfilled in the past five years.

Why it matters:

- Vacancies in PG medical training weaken the pipeline of specialists in pre-clinical/para-clinical fields (e.g., anatomy, physiology, pathology) which underpin clinical care and research.
 - Filling these seats is vital to strengthen medical education infrastructure and healthcare delivery.
 - The move indicates judicial oversight of how medical training capacity is utilised in India.
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2. Punjab restructures health cadre to address doctor shortage

Punjab's health department has launched a major restructuring of its health workforce, including redistribution of sanctioned posts of general medical officers and specialists in underserved rural/border districts. The action comes amid large staffing disparities — e.g., one district having over 4,700 patients per doctor, while another had fewer than 500.

Key points:

- The reform seeks to rationalise surplus and obsolete posts and reallocate them to align with population-needs (including rural/border areas).
- Nursing staff distribution is also uneven and is part of the review.

- A PIL (public interest litigation) in the high court has brought attention to the critical manpower gaps.

Why it matters:

Better distribution of medical personnel is foundational for equitable healthcare access — especially in rural and remote zones. This move may improve service delivery and patient-outcomes in underserved regions.

3. New OPD for Yellow Fever & adult vaccines at SMS Hospital, Jaipur

SMS Medical College & Hospital in Jaipur has opened a dedicated OPD (outpatient department) for yellow fever and adult vaccination at its Dhanwantri OPD block (rooms 130-133). The service begins today, and is aimed particularly at international travellers to yellow-fever endemic regions in Africa/South America, as well as high-risk adults (immunocompromised, elderly, transplant recipients).

Highlights:

- The adult-vaccination OPD will provide personalised vaccine schedules, travel health advice, and certification for international travel.
- Vaccines offered include yellow fever, Tdap/Td, MMR, hepatitis A/B, influenza, pneumococcal, Hib, HPV.
- Operates during regular working hours; service on autofinance (i.e., paid) basis.

Why it matters:

The establishment of such dedicated OPDs reflects growing emphasis on preventive health and travel medicine — especially as global mobility resumes post-pandemic. It's a sign of expanding adult immunisation and travel-health infrastructure in India.

4. Health-Mela at IMS, BHU from Nov 17

Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU (in Varanasi) is holding a two-day health fair (Health Mela) from 17–18 Nov 2025, ahead of its 65th Annual Day (on 19 Nov). Programme includes public health outreach, research, training, etc.

Why it is notable:

Such events serve to bridge academia, community health, and public awareness — promoting preventive care, screening, and health literacy.

5. Financial planning: Why health insurance should be first move

An article argues that with healthcare costs rising, health insurance should be treated as the first step in personal finance—not a ‘later’ add-on. For instance, average cover amounts in India have increased from ~₹13 lakh to ~₹18 lakh; about 45% of people now opt for cover in the ₹15-25 lakh range.

Why it matters:

- Medical emergencies can wipe out years of savings.
- The evolving features of policies—preventive screenings, telemedicine, OPD cover—reflect shifting mindsets.
- Being proactive about health insurance aligns with overall health-security and financial security.