

## 1. Surge in health-insurance claims due to post-Diwali pollution

Asia Insurance Review reports that after Diwali, there's been a marked increase in health-insurance claims in India attributed to elevated pollution levels. In 2022, pollution-linked claims were about 6.4 % of total claims; by 2025 that figure hit around 9 %, showing a ~14 % increase.

**Why it matters:** This signals a tangible health-impact of air quality on the population, and rising costs for insurers and the health-system.

**Tip:** If you're in a high-pollution region (e.g., Delhi, NCR, some parts of Andhra), take extra care — masks (N95), avoiding outdoor exposure during high AQI hours, ensuring indoor air cleanliness help.

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## 2. Government hospitals report fuller staffing, says Minister

In an update from The Hans India, the minister for health stated that many public hospitals ("sarkari hospitals") are now "bustling" with doctors and medical staff, countering concerns of absenteeism.

**What to watch:** While staffing may have improved, it remains crucial to monitor whether the full spectrum of services (diagnostics, emergency care, etc) is effectively functioning.

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## 3. Menstrual-leave policy in a southern Indian state

In the state of Karnataka, up to ~400,000 female employees may now take **one day of paid leave** each month for menstruation under a new policy.

**Significance:** This is a progressive step in employee-welfare and gender-sensitive workplace policy in India.

**Consideration:** Implementation and uptake will matter — how many use it without stigma, how workplaces manage staffing etc.

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#### **4. Cardiovascular risks rising in cold and polluted conditions**

A piece from Bhopal (and regionally relevant) warns of increased health risks—especially for people with heart conditions—due to the combination of falling temperatures and worsening air-pollution.

**Practical advice:** If you have heart-disease, respiratory issues or are elderly, avoid sudden exposures to cold, monitor air-quality, don't over-exert outdoors in poor AQI.

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#### **5. AI-powered eye-screening app for diabetes detection**

AIIMS in collaboration with Wadhwani AI has developed a mobile app (named “MadhuNETrAI”) that uses AI to detect diabetic retinopathy (an eye-disease) from retinal images, and some trials show >95% accuracy.

**Why this is a big deal:** India has a huge burden of diabetes and related eye complications; screening is often limited. This tool helps extend screening into underserved areas.

**Heads-up:** It still relies on retinal-imaging hardware (fundus cameras) which cost ~₹3 lakh; rollout logistics will define impact.

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#### **6. Huge infrastructure boost for pharma & med-device manufacturing in Uttar Pradesh**

The state of Uttar Pradesh is set to build a 5,000-acre pharma-park near Lalitpur and a 350-acre medical-device hub in Noida to boost indigenous manufacturing of drugs and devices.

**Implications:** Could lower import-dependence, generate jobs, improve access/cost of devices.

**Questions:** Execution, environmental/regulatory oversight, and ensuring local benefit will matter.

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## 7. Massive TB screening drive in Punjab

In Punjab, an intensified campaign aims to screen ~60 lakh (6 million) individuals (~20% of state-population) by 25 Dec 2025, focusing on vulnerable groups (children, malnourished, smokers etc) to accelerate TB elimination.

**Relevance:** Despite progress, the region remains challenged in the fight against Tuberculosis. Early detection and treatment adherence are key.

**For you / your area:** If you live in Punjab or have contacts there, awareness of screening camps, symptom-signs (persistent cough, weight-loss, night-sweats) is useful.

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## 8. Night-squads to improve services at government hospitals

In some centres, night squads are being formed to ensure district/tabular government hospitals maintain services outside regular hours (especially in areas with low bed-occupancy and high referrals).

**Why this matters:** Ensuring 24/7 hospital capacity is vital for emergencies and rural health access.

**Consideration:** Staff-motivation, monitoring and resource allocation will determine success.