

1. Toxic Cough Syrups Linked to Child Deaths

India has declared three cough syrups — *Coldrif*, *Respifresh TR*, and *ReLife* — as toxic following investigations into multiple child deaths in Madhya Pradesh. Laboratory tests found dangerously high levels of diethylene glycol (DEG), a toxic chemical used as an industrial solvent. *Coldrif* contained about 48.6% DEG, far above the safe limit of 0.1%. The other two syrups, manufactured in Gujarat, also tested positive for DEG contamination.

Authorities have ordered immediate recall of the products and arrested the owner of Sresan Pharmaceutical, the company that made *Coldrif*. The national drug regulator has also flagged major lapses in testing and quality control across several pharmaceutical firms.

2. AIIMS Performs Robot-Assisted Kidney Transplants

AIIMS New Delhi has successfully performed five robot-aided kidney transplants since early September 2025. The surgeries used the Da Vinci Xi robotic platform, which allows smaller incisions and greater surgical precision. The technique enhances recovery time and minimizes complications.

These operations mark a milestone for the adoption of advanced surgical robotics within India's public healthcare system.

3. High Rates of Anxiety and Depression Found Among Tribals

A study conducted in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, revealed that three out of every ten tribal residents experience symptoms of anxiety or depression. To address this gap, *Village Mental Health Clinics* have been established, staffed with a doctor, counsellor, social worker, and community volunteer.

The treatment gap — the proportion of people needing care but not receiving it — has fallen from 92% to 78%, showing gradual improvement in mental health outreach among remote tribal populations.

4. IIT Bhilai Develops Dual-Trigger 4D Smart Polymer

Researchers at IIT Bhilai have developed a 4D-printed smart polymer that reacts to both temperature and pH changes. The material can fold, expand, or contract when exposed to heat or acidity variations.

This innovation could be applied in drug delivery systems, adaptive prosthetics, bio-robots, and minimally invasive surgical devices. Scientists say it represents a step forward in the development of responsive biomedical materials.

5. RTI Reveals Discrepancy in Doctor Registration Data

A recent Right to Information (RTI) query exposed a large mismatch between the number of doctors registered with the Delhi Medical Council (over 72,000) and the number reported by the Union Health Ministry in Parliament (just over 31,000).

The discrepancy has raised concerns over data accuracy and transparency in tracking India's medical workforce.

6. Hospitals Barred from Withholding Bodies Over Unpaid Bills

The West Bengal Clinical Establishment Regulatory Commission has directed hospitals to release a deceased patient's body within five hours of death, even if bills remain unpaid or insurance settlements are pending.

The move aims to prevent emotional distress to families and uphold ethical medical conduct.

7. Decomposed Body Found in Medical College Water Tank

A shocking incident occurred at Maharshi Devaraha Baba Medical College in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, where a decomposed body was discovered in the campus water tank. The body is believed to have been there for nearly ten days.

Students and staff reportedly used the contaminated water before detecting a foul smell, sparking outrage and allegations of severe institutional negligence.

8. Malaria Cases Rising in Delhi

Delhi has recorded a sharp increase in malaria and chikungunya cases this year, with 431 malaria and 75 chikungunya infections reported between January and October 2025.

Health officials attribute the spike to weakened vector-control efforts and delayed fogging activities, compounded by municipal staff protests. Residents are urged to maintain hygiene and prevent mosquito breeding in their surroundings.