



1. Toxic Cough Syrups Declared by Indian Authorities

India officially declared three cough syrups – *Coldrif*, *Respifresh TR*, and *ReLife* – as toxic after lab tests found dangerous levels of diethylene glycol, a chemical known to cause kidney failure and death.

- At least 17 children under the age of five have died.
 - The contamination was traced to the syrup *Coldrif*, which contained nearly 50% diethylene glycol, far exceeding safe limits.
 - The manufacturing plant has been shut, and the company's owner was arrested.
 - National regulatory bodies are intensifying inspections of pharmaceutical manufacturers across the country.
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2. Robotic Kidney Transplants at AIIMS

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, has performed five robotic-assisted kidney transplants since early September 2025.

- The procedures used minimally invasive robotic techniques, resulting in smaller incisions and faster recovery.
 - This marks a technological advancement in organ transplant surgery in India.
 - Surgeons report greater precision and reduced complications compared to conventional methods.
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3. IIT Bhilai Develops 4D Smart Polymer for Medical Use

Scientists at IIT Bhilai have created a 4D-printed “dual-trigger” polymer that responds to both pH and temperature changes.

- The polymer can change shape under certain biological conditions and then revert back once the conditions normalize.
 - Potential applications include targeted drug delivery, flexible implants, and medical devices that adapt to the body.
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4. West Bengal Digitizes Health Recruitment with TCS

The West Bengal government has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to conduct online recruitment exams for over 6,500 posts in the health department.

- Positions include doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and medical technologists.
 - The move is aimed at ensuring a “clean and transparent” hiring process, with the exams to be completed by December 2025.
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5. Karnataka Brings 108 Ambulance Service Under State Control

The Karnataka government has taken over operations of the 108 emergency ambulance service, previously run by private contractors.

- A total of 3,631 employees (EMTs, drivers, support staff) will now work under the Health and Family Welfare Department.
 - A new Emergency Medical Services Directorate will oversee coordination, training, and command operations.
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6. Paediatricians Demand Fair Trial After Cough Syrup Deaths

The Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) has requested authorities to drop charges against a doctor in Madhya Pradesh implicated in the recent child deaths.

- The IAP argues that the deaths were due to drug contamination, not medical negligence.
 - The organization warns that criminalizing doctors without clear evidence could discourage medical professionals from performing their duties confidently.
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7. Karnataka Introduces Menstrual Leave Policy

In a progressive step, Karnataka has introduced a paid menstrual leave policy for women employees in both government and private sectors.

- Women will be entitled to 12 days of leave per year specifically for menstrual health.
 - The policy is aimed at improving workplace inclusivity and recognizing reproductive health as a legitimate need.
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8. Mental Health AI Gets Linguistic Upgrade

Indian researchers are working on cross-lingual mental health ontologies to help AI systems better understand mental health expressions in regional languages.

- This is expected to improve digital mental health tools, particularly in rural and multilingual settings.

- **Parallel studies are also evaluating open-source Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems for compatibility with India's national data standards.**