

1. Expanded Raids at Cough Syrup Manufacturer Sites

Investigations intensified with searches conducted at seven locations belonging to Sresan Pharma, the company tied to the deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh. Authorities found extremely high levels of diethylene glycol—a toxic substance—in implicated cough syrups, renewing scrutiny of drug regulatory enforcement in India.

2. WHO Raises Alarm Over Export of Contaminated Syrups

The World Health Organization warned that contaminated syrups might be leaving India via informal or unregulated export routes. The concern arises amid the ongoing probe into toxic cough syrups found within India. The drug regulator confirmed that three syrups—Coldrif, Respifresh TR, and ReLife—contained dangerous levels of the chemical.

3. Rajasthan Issues Alert Over Two Gujarat-Made Cough Syrups

Rajasthan's health department flagged two cough syrups manufactured in Gujarat as failing safety tests. They reportedly contained dangerously high levels of diethylene glycol. The state ordered collection of samples, stricter monitoring, and directives to pharmacists physicians to avoid prescribing those products.

4. Three-Day Polio Drive Launched in Madhya Pradesh

The Chief Minister initiated a statewide pulse polio campaign lasting three days, aiming to vaccinate over 3.9 million children aged 0–5 across 18 districts. The drive underscores ongoing efforts to sustain polio elimination in India.

5. Revised CGHS Treatment Rates Come Into Effect

Beginning 13 October, new treatment package rates under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) were implemented. The updated structure introduces differential pricing based on hospital accreditation, city tier, and ward category. Changes affect nearly 2,000 procedures, including adjustments for cancer therapy and investigations.

6. Indian Research Influences New WHO TB Guidelines

A landmark clinical trial led by Indian researchers (the “RATIONS trial”) prompted the WHO to revise its tuberculosis guidelines. The new guidelines formally integrate food assistance for household contacts in food-insecure settings, in addition to nutritional counselling and supplementation for TB patients. This change marks a shift toward approaches that address underlying social determinants of disease.

7. AI-Driven Stroke Screening Launched in Punjab

Punjab state launched a program using artificial intelligence to screen suspected stroke patients. Over 700 individuals have already been assessed. The system links district hospitals to neurologists in a central hub, enabling faster decisions on advanced interventions like mechanical thrombectomy, potentially improving outcomes in stroke care.

8. AIIMS Bhubaneswar to Push Travel Health Clinics Across India

AIIMS Bhubaneswar advocated for establishing Travel Health Clinics nationwide. In a national conclave on travel medicine, experts discussed a hub-and-spoke model, capacity building, training programs, and integrating travel health services (vaccination, infection prevention, emergency travel care) into public health infrastructure.