



Healthcare systems & policy

- The Karnataka government has approved an action plan called “Mission Zero Preventable Maternal Deaths” with a budget of ₹139 crore, targeting major causes like hemorrhage, hypertensive disorders, sepsis, abortions, thrombosis, and embolism. Efforts include more obstetric ICUs, upgraded maternal-child health beds, digital childbirth monitoring, and partnerships with private hospitals to decentralize care.
 - Kerala has unveiled a “Vision 2031” health policy aiming for universal health coverage across the state by 2031. The plan emphasizes decentralizing specialty treatments, enhancing emergency services, upgrading medical colleges, and strengthening public health programs.
 - The Union Cabinet of India approved a major expansion in medical education infrastructure: adding 10,023 new MBBS and postgraduate seats in government medical institutions, with a budget outlay of ₹15,034 crore.
 - Himachal Pradesh is beginning robotic surgery services at the Government Medical College in Nerchowk, along with funding for a new MRI machine, cath lab, and smart diagnostic labs to modernize its health infrastructure.
-



Medical research, diagnostics & technology

- **India's West Bengal health department is developing an AI-based protocol and app to help rapidly identify likely breast cancer patients. Data collected by ASHA workers will feed into the model, enabling earlier screening and referral.**
 - **A new report highlights that China leads global research in AI applications for medical devices, with over 81,000 publications in recent years, especially in imaging, diagnostics, sensors, and oncology.**
 - **The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for their discovery of regulatory T cells—key immune cells that maintain immune tolerance and prevent the body from attacking itself. Their work has deep implications for autoimmune disease therapies, transplant medicine, and cancer immunology.**
-



Global health & public safety

- **The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that one in six laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections globally in 2023 were resistant to commonly used antibiotics. Between 2018 and 2023, antibiotic resistance increased in over 40 % of monitored pathogen-antibiotic pairs, posing a serious global health threat.**
- **An investigation of protein powders and shakes found that over two-thirds of tested products had unsafe lead levels—some exceeding daily limits by factors of 4 to 10 or more. The report cautions that frequent use of such supplements could pose heavy metal exposure risks.**
- **Asia-wide, influenza cases are surging earlier than usual, prompting worries that flu could become year-round in some regions. Experts**

attribute this shift to climate change, viral mutation, and increased indoor crowding. Maintaining high vaccination rates remains critical.

Health & safety alerts

- India has declared three cough syrups (Coldrif, Respifresh TR, and ReLife) toxic after an investigation linked them to child deaths (due to acute kidney failure). One syrup, Coldrif, was found to contain diethylene glycol at ~48.6% (versus permissible 0.1%). The manufacturing firms have been ordered to halt production, and authorities have begun criminal proceedings.
- In Gurgaon, as pollution levels rise and temperatures drop, hospitals are preparing to set up dedicated OPDs for respiratory patients (for asthma, COPD, pneumonia, influenza). Local health centers are being required to report daily respiratory case counts.