

1. Drug plant upgrades mandated after cough syrup deaths

The Indian government has declined requests from pharmaceutical companies to extend a December 2024 deadline requiring all drug manufacturing facilities to conform to WHO (World Health Organization) quality standards. This comes after a tragedy in which at least 24 children died after consuming a contaminated cough syrup made by Sresan Pharmaceutical. The company's license has been revoked and its founder arrested, and stricter oversight and testing rules are being enforced.

2. Survey reveals systemic gaps in medical education & mental health stress

A national survey by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) shows serious problems in medical colleges: over half report irregular teaching, many lack adequate skills labs, stipend payments are delayed, and 40 % report toxic work environments. Mental health is a major concern — many students and faculty say they don't feel ready for independent practice.

3. WHO flags contaminated Indian cough syrups

The WHO has issued alerts about three cough syrup brands made in India — *Coldrif*, *Respifresh TR*, and *ReLife*. They were found to have dangerously high levels of diethylene glycol (a toxic industrial chemical). The syrups have been declared toxic and banned for sale; investigations are ongoing.

4. States act: Telangana doctors create mental health helpdesk

In Telangana, junior doctors have launched a peer-support and mental health helpdesk (called "ED T-JUDA Connect") for medical students, residents, and early-career doctors. This responds to rising concerns about stress, burnout, and student suicides in the medical community.

5. Telangana reports lower fever/dengue cases, but Hyderabad vulnerable

The state saw a ~45 % drop in seasonal illnesses like dengue, typhoid, chikungunya and malaria compared to last year, likely due to better preventive work. But urban areas like Hyderabad and parts around it saw slight increases, attributed to waterlogging and sanitation issues during monsoon.

6. Safdarjung Hospital expands burns services ahead of Diwali

Authorities at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi are beefing up burn-injury services in anticipation of increased firework accidents during Diwali. A new burns OPD has been consolidated, and emergency and rehabilitation infrastructure has been enhanced.

7. India reaffirms commitment to healthy ageing and elderly care

At the WHO regional meeting in Colombo, India reiterated its plans to strengthen primary health care and support ageing populations. The government reported that its National Programme for Healthcare of the Elderly operates in over 90 % of districts, and has expanded hospital coverage (Ayushman Bharat) for those 70+ regardless of income.