

1. Cough Syrup Contamination Triggers Major Crackdown

The World Health Organization issued a medical product alert regarding three Indian-made cough syrups found contaminated with diethylene glycol, a toxic compound responsible for multiple child deaths globally. The Government of India has intensified inspections and refused to extend the December 2025 deadline for pharmaceutical manufacturers to upgrade facilities to WHO-GMP standards. Several licenses have been revoked, and contaminated batches ordered for recall. Health authorities and the US Embassy in India have warned the public against the use of affected brands.

2. Over 11,000 New Postgraduate Medical Seats Approved

The central government has sanctioned the addition of more than 11,000 postgraduate medical seats across India. This includes approximately 250 new seats in Gujarat alone, covering specialties such as internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics. The expansion aims to strengthen the specialist doctor pool and reduce regional disparities in healthcare education. NEET-PG 2025 counselling for these new seats has officially commenced.

3. Andhra Pradesh Launches First PG Course in Palliative Care

The Andhra Pradesh Health Department has approved the state's first postgraduate degree program in palliative care at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Visakhapatnam. The course will have four seats and will train doctors in pain management, end-of-life care, and holistic patient support for chronic and terminal conditions.

4. Growing Threat of Antimicrobial Resistance in India

Recent WHO and surveillance data highlight India's significant contribution to the global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) crisis. Studies show rising resistance in bloodstream, urinary, and gastrointestinal infections. Despite widespread

antibiotic prescriptions, only a small fraction of infections are being effectively treated, emphasizing the need for antibiotic stewardship, infection control, and development of new antimicrobial agents.

5. Disease Outbreaks and Local Health Alerts

- **Scrub Typhus:** Yavatmal district in Maharashtra reported 58 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in two months. The disease, spread by chigger mites, mimics dengue and malaria in symptoms.
 - **Melioidosis Case:** A 46-year-old man from Palnadu district, Andhra Pradesh, has been diagnosed with melioidosis—a rare bacterial infection often misdiagnosed in India.
 - **Unlicensed Medical Practice Tragedy:** In Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, a 1.5-year-old boy died after being administered an overdose by an unqualified practitioner. Authorities have initiated a probe and sealed the facility.
 - **Metabolic Syndrome & Cancer Risk:** An ICMR study revealed that women with metabolic syndrome are at significantly higher risk of developing ovarian and endometrial cancers.
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6. Health Policy and System Updates

Community Health Officers (CHOs) in Andhra Pradesh have demanded the release of pending payments for clinic rent and utilities, stating that many primary health centres are struggling to function effectively. Meanwhile, in West Bengal, experts predict a decline in the number of patients traveling to southern states for medical care as local infrastructure improves. In Varanasi, the health department has set up emergency medical systems in anticipation of festival crowds, focusing on respiratory and trauma preparedness.

7. WHO–India Agreement on Traditional Medicine Summit

The World Health Organization and the Government of India have signed an agreement to host the second Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in New Delhi from December 17–19, 2025. The summit will focus on evidence-based integration of traditional systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani with modern medicine.

8. Public Health & Lifestyle Trends

Non-communicable diseases now account for over 60% of deaths in India, with heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and COPD being the major contributors. Doctors warn that Delhi's worsening air pollution is affecting not only the lungs but also the brain and heart, increasing risks of cognitive decline and cardiovascular disease.

Academic researchers are also exploring artificial intelligence tools for healthcare informatics, including mental health monitoring, cross-lingual medical datasets, and personalized health tracking solutions.