

1. Punjab Launches Intensive Care Programme for High-Risk Pregnancies

The Punjab government has introduced a new maternal health initiative aimed at reducing maternal deaths by adopting high-risk pregnant women for special monitoring and intensive follow-up care.

- Each district's Civil Surgeon will select five high-risk third-trimester cases for priority tracking.
 - The programme focuses on strengthening ASHA, ANM, and CHO networks and improving ambulance and referral systems.
 - High-mortality districts such as Bathinda, Mansa, and Moga will receive additional resources.
Goal: To bring down the state's maternal mortality ratio below 72 per 100,000 live births by 2025–26.
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2. Centre Orders Drug Manufacturers to Upgrade Plants After Cough Syrup Deaths

The Indian government has enforced a strict deadline for small and mid-sized pharmaceutical manufacturers to upgrade their production facilities to global quality standards.

- The move follows child deaths linked to contaminated cough syrups containing diethylene glycol.
 - Companies failing to comply with safety norms will face licence cancellation.
Significance: The policy underscores India's commitment to improving drug safety and restoring confidence in its pharmaceutical exports.
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3. India Reaches Record 1,37,600 MBBS Seats Nationwide

India's medical education sector has achieved a historic milestone, with total MBBS seats crossing 1,37,600.

- The expansion aligns with the government's plan to add 75,000 new seats over five years.
 - Focus remains on increasing medical colleges in rural and underserved regions.
Impact: This surge aims to reduce doctor shortages and strengthen the healthcare workforce across India.
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4. Over 250 MBBS Doctors Apply for 22 PMC Health Centre Jobs

The Pune Municipal Corporation received over 250 applications from MBBS doctors for just 22 available posts in its urban health centres.

- Positions offer salaries of around ₹25,000 per month plus performance bonuses.
 - The strong response challenges the perception of a shortage of doctors in primary care roles.
Insight: While interest is high, concerns remain regarding remuneration, workload, and job stability in municipal health positions.
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5. WHO Highlights India's Role in Strengthening NTD Medicine Supply Chains

The World Health Organization commended India for its leadership in improving logistics and supply-chain systems for medicines used against neglected tropical diseases.

- India's digital tracking systems and government partnerships were cited as global examples.

Relevance: Efficient supply chains are vital for timely access to treatments for diseases such as filariasis, kala-azar, and leprosy.