

1. Antimicrobial Resistance Is Growing

- Doctors in Bengaluru report a steep increase in antibiotic-resistant infections.
- According to the report, 60–70% of patients in some settings are showing signs of resistance to common antibiotics like penicillin, quinolones, and amoxicillin.
- This is pushing clinicians to use stronger, higher-generation antibiotics, especially in ICUs and for vulnerable patients (like neonates, elderly, and long-stay patients).
- Doctors are calling for stricter regulation on over-the-counter antibiotic sales and more judicious antibiotic prescribing.

2. Major Hospital Upgrade Planned in Hubballi-Dharwad

- The Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) proposes a significant overhaul of Chitaguppi Hospital.
- Planned upgrades include advanced surgical, urology, ENT equipment — like a laparoscopic HD/4K system, a ventilator, anesthesia workstation, and more.
- The hospital has about 100 beds, and currently handles ~10,000 outpatients and 150 surgeries per month; the upgrade is expected to improve capacity and care quality.
- The funding proposal (over ₹1 crore) is to be presented at the next HDMC general body meeting.

3. Severe Air Pollution in Delhi Raising Health Alarm

- Delhi's air quality has worsened dramatically, reaching “hazardous” levels with an AQI of 559.
- Doctors report a surge in respiratory illnesses: more people (even those without prior asthma) are using inhalers, nasal sprays, and cold medicines.
- The worsening pollution is being called a “public health emergency” by health professionals, as children, pregnant women, and healthy young adults are being affected.

4. Drug Safety Investigation Deepens After Cough Syrup Deaths

- Indian regulators are investigating whether safety lapses in chemical supply contributed to the contamination of Coldrif cough syrup that led to child fatalities.
- The suspicion is that propylene glycol (a solvent used in the syrup) was contaminated when supplied in unsealed containers.
- This investigation adds to earlier scrutiny after multiple child deaths linked to cough syrups containing toxic diethylene glycol (DEG).

5. New Low-Cost Malaria Vaccine Deal

- Gavi (the global vaccine alliance) and UNICEF have struck a deal with Serum Institute of India to cut the price of a malaria vaccine (R21) by 25%.
- The reduced cost is expected to make the vaccine more accessible for children in low- and middle-income countries.

6. Health Tourism Trend: NRIs Returning to India for Treatment

- Many NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) are choosing to return to India for medical treatment, citing lower costs and faster access to quality care.
- They are increasingly preferring NABH-accredited hospitals and need to check health insurance and hospital accreditation before treatment.