



Health & Policy / Public-Health News

GEMS 2025 — A major summit shaping India's emergency-medical services landscape

- The 5th Global Summit on Emergency Medical Services (GEMS 2025) is being held on 1–2 December 2025, bringing together EMS experts, paramedics, industry and policy-makers to discuss the future of emergency response services in India.
- The summit agenda includes sessions on EMS infrastructure in high-risk industries, use of technology (apps, GPS, data), industrial safety, training of EMS personnel, and how EMS can evolve with Industry 5.0 and integrate with disaster/climate-risk response.

Focus on stronger hospital & diagnostic infrastructure — funding boost for Uttar Pradesh hospitals

- In parts of Uttar Pradesh, the state government approved approximately ₹9.8 crore to equip 14 hospitals with modern medical devices, aiming to reduce load on district hospitals and improve patient-care services.
- The upgrades are expected to improve diagnostic and treatment capabilities, which may help in timely care of patients and reduce referrals to far-away tertiary centres.

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to start integrative-medicine medical school: blending traditional + modern healthcare

- An upcoming medical school at IISc, Bengaluru — part of a new initiative in integrative medicine — will combine traditional medicine frameworks (e.g. AYUSH/traditional Indian medicine) with modern biomedical & scientific training. The school and associated hospital are expected to start operations by mid-2026, with a dual MD-PhD programme beginning in 2027.
- Advocates say this could help address lifestyle and metabolic disorders by leveraging evidence-based integrative approaches — potentially increasing accessibility and holistic care.



Health Trends & Disease-Control Updates

TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan shows results — significant drop in Tuberculosis (TB) incidence and mortality

- According to the latest reports, India's TB incidence has dropped by ~21% between 2015 and 2024 — from 237 per lakh population to 187 per lakh.
- Treatment coverage rose to over 92% in 2024 (from 53% in 2015), with ~26.18 lakh patients diagnosed — out of an estimated ~27 lakh cases. This has drastically reduced "missing cases."
- The treatment success rate under TB Mukt Bharat has improved to ~90%, higher than the global average of 88%. Deaths due to TB also fell significantly: mortality rate decreased from 28 per lakh (2015) to 21 per lakh (2024).
- This progress reflects success of expanded diagnostics (AI-enabled X-rays, molecular testing), better case-finding, nutrition & social support programs, and wide community outreach.

Rising demand for vaccinations and preventive care as winter sets in

- Reports note increased demand for pneumonia and influenza vaccines in cities (e.g. Kolkata) as colder weather leads to surge in respiratory illnesses — especially affecting elderly and people with chronic respiratory conditions.
- Medical experts advise timely vaccination (flu, pneumonia, etc.) especially for vulnerable groups to prevent serious illness and reduce burden on hospitals.

⌚ What this means (for general public / patients / policy watchers)

- The strong decline in TB incidence — along with improved detection/treatment — suggests India's disease-control efforts are bearing fruit. For individuals: awareness about symptoms + early testing remains crucial.
- The emergence of EMS-focused initiatives and summits indicates increasing attention to emergency care and rapid response — this could lead to better trauma & disaster-care infrastructure in coming years.
- Integrative-medicine efforts (traditional + modern) may offer more holistic treatment options for chronic/lifestyle diseases — but outcome will depend on scientific rigour and regulation.
- As winter and pollution raise risk of respiratory illnesses, timely vaccination and preventive care (especially for older adults, those with chronic illness) becomes more important.