

1. Traditional medicine takes spotlight

The Ministry of Ayush, together with the World Health Organization (WHO), hosted an Ambassadors' Reception in New Delhi ahead of the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, scheduled for December 17-19.

Why it matters: India is positioning itself as a global pioneer in evidence-based traditional medicine, which may influence research priorities, funding and international collaborations.

Tip/Watch-point: Watch for how this summit may translate into standardisations, global partnerships or regulatory changes for traditional medicine in India.

2. Major weight-loss drug launch in India

Novo Nordisk has partnered with Emcure Pharmaceuticals to launch a version of the 2.4 mg semaglutide injection in India under the brand name Poviztra.

Why it matters: This move reflects the growing focus on obesity and metabolic disorders in India. The launch follows earlier moves by other global players and could reshape weight-management therapy markets in India.

Implications: Pricing, access and regulatory approval will be key challenges. It also raises questions around insurance coverage, long-term safety in Indian populations and the infrastructure needed for such therapies.

3. Big naturopathy hospital & college planned in Andhra Pradesh

The Ayush ministry has announced a large investment (~₹750 crore) to establish an apex research institute for Yoga & Naturopathy in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, including a 450-bed hospital and academic courses starting 2026-27.

Why it matters: This is a strong signal of growing institutionalisation of “Ayush” systems (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy etc) in India.

Note: Such projects often face land-acquisition, staffing, accreditation and execution delays—worth monitoring.

4. Fire at ICU in government hospital in Rajasthan raises safety questions

At SMS Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur, a fire in the ICU destroyed equipment and infrastructure; the hospital lacks insurance cover and has sanctioned ₹1.5 crore for redevelopment.

Key points:

- The fire left 24 ICU beds non-functional, affecting critical trauma care.
- Highlights weaknesses in infrastructure, fire-safety oversight and insurance policies in public health facilities.

Takeaway: Infrastructure resilience (especially for critical care) is a pressing concern in India's public health system.

5. Eye-test campaign for drivers in Rajasthan

The Rajasthan Health Department launched a free eye-test campaign for commercial vehicle drivers; in the first 5 days over 5,000 drivers were tested and ~800 received spectacles.

Why this matters: Preventive health efforts like this link health to road-safety and public health policy. Targeting older drivers (45+) could reduce accident burden.

Suggestion: Similar initiatives could be scaled in other states to address driver fitness and associated public-health risks.

6. Thousands of doctors jobless as PG counselling delayed

Due to the indefinite delay in the NEET PG 2025 counselling (all-India quota), many medical graduates remain unemployed, which is straining hospital staffing especially in state medical colleges.

Concerns:

- Resident doctors form the backbone of many teaching hospitals.
 - Delays can impact both graduates and the functioning of hospitals.
What to watch: Whether the counselling process is cleared soon and how this affects postgraduate medical education and service delivery.
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7. Ongoing issue: Registration crisis for resident doctors in Delhi

The Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of AIIMS in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS-Delhi) flagged the shutdown of the Delhi Medical Council (DMC), which has prevented many resident doctors from completing mandatory registration, thus delaying salary and appointment letters.

Impact: Staffing in tertiary hospitals may get affected, and service delivery could suffer.

Administrative risk: Highlights governance/regulatory bottlenecks in public health workforce management.