

1. Surge in dengue cases in Kolkata

Kolkata is experiencing a sharp rise in dengue infections: the weekly tally in the city's municipal area rose from 1,106 to 1,245 in one week, blamed on sporadic late October rains.

Why it matters: Dengue outbreaks can rapidly overwhelm local healthcare facilities, especially if late in the season.

What to watch/what to do:

- People should be alert for dengue symptoms (fever, joint pain, rash) and seek care early.
 - Vector-control efforts (mosquito elimination) are likely to be ramped up locally.
 - If you are in or travelling to affected areas, use mosquito repellents, nets, remove standing water.
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2. Leprosy screening drive in Maharashtra

The government in Maharashtra is forming 65,832 teams to begin a widespread screening for leprosy from 17 November, covering over 8.66 crore people (rural full coverage, and about 30% of urban population) via ASHA workers + volunteers.

Why it matters: Although leprosy is often thought of as a 'past' disease, active detection is key to interrupting transmission and early treatment.

What to watch/what to do:

- Communities should cooperate with screening teams and report suspect skin/nervous symptoms.
- Continued awareness and stigma-reduction remain important.

3. Four doctors removed from medical registers amid terror-investigation

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has struck off four doctors' names from the Indian Medical Register and National Medical Register, following FIRs under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act linked to the recent car blast near Red Fort in Delhi.

Why it matters: Ensures that individuals under serious criminal investigation cannot practise medicine and uphold professional standards. Also highlights links between security issues and professional domains (medical).

What to watch/what to do:

- Medical institutions and professional regulators may review registration/monitoring processes.
- Public and patients should remain aware of credential legitimacy of practitioners.

4. Alarmingly high rates of diabetes and hypertension found in Ahmedabad screening

During free health checks by the Ahmedabad Medical Association, of ~2,221 citizens screened: 29 % had high blood sugar, and 35 % had high blood pressure.

Why it matters: Silent chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes are major risk factors for heart disease, stroke and kidney failure — and many people are unaware of them.

What to watch/what to do:

- Encourage regular health checks, especially for adults over 30.

- Lifestyle modifications (diet, exercise, weight) matter as much as medical treatment.
 - Health systems may need to prepare for increasing burden of chronic disease management.
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5. Medical device & pharma innovation in India

- The Indian medical-devices industry is positioning itself as a global player: leveraging AI, IoT & ML in diagnostics and devices, boosting exports and innovation.
- The pharmaceutical sector is increasingly embracing AI to enhance manufacturing, quality control, global supply-chain competitiveness.

Why it matters: These developments indicate a shift toward high-tech, higher-value healthcare manufacturing in India — which has implications for jobs, exports, health-care access and cost.

What to watch/what to do:

- Keep an eye on regulatory changes (for example – quality-standards, approvals) and how local start-ups / MSMEs perform.
 - Innovations may translate into better diagnostics/treatments domestically — but also require infrastructure, training, and affordability strategies.
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6. Air-quality concerns in Indore and Ahmedabad

- In Indore, AQI remained in the “moderate” category for five straight days (121 recorded) raising health concerns especially for vulnerable groups (children, elderly, respiratory/heart patients).
- In Ahmedabad, unusually cold November is coinciding with a spike in AQI, prompting advisories to use masks, shift workouts indoors.

- Why it matters: Air pollution contributes to cardiovascular & respiratory disease burden, and when paired with other risk factors (like hypertension, diabetes) it compounds health risk.
What to watch/what to do:
 - Those in affected cities should limit outdoor activity during peak pollution hours, use masks (especially if sensitive).
 - Authorities may issue further alerts, restrictions (e.g., construction, dust control) to reduce particulate matter.
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7. Pharma quality standards push in Punjab

In Punjab, the Health Minister asked pharmaceutical manufacturing units to strictly adhere to quality standards, especially following a tragic incident in Madhya Pradesh involving child deaths from contaminated cough-syrup.

Why it matters: Drug safety and manufacturing quality are vital for trust in healthcare and for patient safety. Medicine-related tragedies can undermine public confidence and lead to regulation crack-downs.

What to watch/what to do:

- Regulatory enforcement (inspections, testing, reporting) likely to intensify.
 - Public and health professionals should stay alert to drug-recalls, adverse-event alerts, and report suspect medicines.
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8. Recognition for health-research excellence

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh won national awards at the 2nd Health Research Excellence Summit 2025 by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & Department of Health Research (DHR) for institutional excellence and innovation.

Why it matters: Recognition of research strengthens the ecosystem, attracts talent/funding, and can accelerate translation of research into better clinical care.

What to watch/what to do:

- Follow new projects launched, see how research outcomes feed into improved patient care or health-policy.
- Academic/clinical practitioners may look for collaboration or implementation opportunities.