

1. Push for citizen-centric digital health systems

India is hosting the Regional Open Digital Health Summit 2025 (19–20 November), bringing policymakers, technologists, public health leaders, and experts from WHO's South-East Asia Region together. The theme emphasizes interoperability, inclusivity, and patient-centric design in digital health infrastructure.

2. New CRISPR gene therapy launched for sickle cell disease

India has launched BIRSA 101, the country's first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for sickle cell disease. The therapy is intended to offer a more definitive, long-term solution rather than only symptomatic management.

3. Revised National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR 2.0)

The Union Health Minister rolled out NAP-AMR 2.0 (2025–29) to renew India's efforts to tackle antibiotic resistance through policy, surveillance, stewardship, and innovation.

4. High burden of TB in South-East Asia — WHO raises alarm

A WHO report notes that South-East Asia region contributes more than one in three of the world's new TB cases annually. The region, including India, is off track in meeting End TB targets.

In India specifically, the 2025 Global TB Report shows only ~21 % reduction in new cases between 2015 and 2024 (versus the 50 % target) and ~28 % reduction in deaths (versus 75 %) — indicating serious shortfalls.

5. State-level & institutional health news

- **Medical seat allocation reforms:** Andhra Pradesh plans changes to medical college seat allocation procedures.
- **Karnataka regulation of beauty & clinical spas:** Spas and salons offering “clinical” aesthetic/medical procedures (e.g. Botox, lasers, fillers) must now register under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act.

- **Free reconstructive surgery camp:** Akums, in collaboration with Rotary and international NGOs, held a free plastic surgery camp in a Ramakrishna Mission hospital for underserved patients.
- **Major HLA testing camp for thalassemia in Kolkata:** Narayana Health (Bangalore) is organizing one of the largest HLA matching camps (for bone marrow transplant compatibility) in Eastern India for thalassemia patients.

6. Health burden and risk factors

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) reports that 56.4 % of India's chronic disease burden is linked to unhealthy diets (processed foods, poor nutrition, shifting lifestyles).
- The pharmaceutical sector is under pressure: following past tragedies linked to contaminated cough syrups, the government is pushing drugmakers to upgrade manufacturing plants to WHO standards.

7. Recognition & incentives for research

- **Tata Transformation Prize 2025:** Three Indian scientists were awarded for breakthrough innovations in healthcare, sustainability and food security. Among them, Dr. Ambarish Ghosh (IISc) received the prize in the healthcare category.
- **Academic research in health informatics & AI:** Recent works include a project on cross-lingual mental health ontologies for Indian languages (to bridge cultural/linguistic gaps in mental health diagnosis) and exploration of AI agents in nuclear medicine and cancer care in India.