

## Biotechnology & Health:

### Indian Healthcare & Biotechnology

**Telangana's Innovation Hub:** Telangana's Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy, announced that the state is transforming into a hub for innovation in the manufacturing sector. Speaking at the BioDesign Innovation Summit 2025, he highlighted that Telangana has become a center for life sciences and medical technology, with a medical device park established to support research and manufacturing. The government plans to provide medical data for research while ensuring data privacy, and it aims to become a trillion-dollar economy by 2034.

**Healthcare Education:** In a major move, the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India has prohibited online and distance learning for healthcare education, effective from the current academic session. This decision, in line with the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021, aims to ensure the quality of healthcare education that requires hands-on clinical training.

### Global Biotechnology & Research

**Genetic Breakthroughs:** Researchers have made significant strides in understanding the genetic basis of various biological processes and diseases. A study published in Nature identified a gene, SLC45A4, that reshapes pain perception through polyamine signaling, potentially opening new avenues for targeted pain therapies.

**AI in Drug Discovery:** There is a growing trend of partnerships between pharmaceutical companies and AI startups to accelerate drug

discovery. One notable deal involves a startup that will use its AI/robotics platform for drug R&D, with a potential value of nearly \$6 billion.

**Innovative Drug Delivery:** Researchers at Stanford have developed a novel drug formulation method that uses a polymer coating to encase protein drugs. These "candy-coated" injections could potentially replace lengthy intravenous (IV) infusions, making it easier to administer complex biologic medicines.

### Other Health News

**Shingles Vaccine Trial:** Early results from a Phase 2 trial of Dynavax's experimental shingles vaccine showed it can match the immune response of the market-leading Shingrix vaccine, but with a better safety profile and fewer side effects.

**COVID-19 in India:** The latest data from the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's dashboard shows the COVID-19 situation remains stable, with a low number of active cases.

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- A) To increase student enrollment in traditional colleges.  
B) To comply with a new government regulation on digital education.  
C) To ensure the quality of healthcare education that requires hands-on clinical training.  
D) To reduce the cost of healthcare courses.

**Answer:** C) To ensure the quality of healthcare education that requires hands-on clinical training.

The text explains that the UGC's decision "aims to ensure the quality of healthcare education that requires hands-on clinical training."

**3. A study published in Nature identified which gene that is linked to reshaping pain perception?**

- A) PAX6  
B) SLC45A4  
C) MYO6  
D) HBB

**Answer:** B) SLC45A4

The news article mentions a study in Nature that "identified a gene, SLC45A4, that reshapes pain perception through polyamine signaling."

**4. What is the innovative drug delivery method developed by Stanford researchers?**

- A) A new type of patch for transdermal delivery.  
B) An ingestible micro-robot for targeted drug release.  
C) "Candy-coated" injections using a polymer coating to encase protein drugs.  
D) A spray-on vaccine that can be absorbed through the skin.

**Answer:** C) "Candy-coated" injections using a polymer coating to encase protein drugs.

The information highlights that Stanford researchers "developed a novel drug formulation method that uses a polymer coating

## MCQS

**1. What is the name of the summit where Telangana's Chief Minister spoke about the state becoming a hub for life sciences?**

- A) BioTech Innovation Forum  
B) Life Sciences Global Meet  
C) BioDesign Innovation Summit 2025  
D) Telangana Medical & Health Conference

**Answer:** C) BioDesign Innovation Summit 2025

The news states, "Speaking at the BioDesign Innovation Summit 2025, he highlighted that Telangana has become a center for life sciences and medical technology..."

**2. What is the primary reason given for the University Grants Commission's (UGC) decision to prohibit online and distance learning for healthcare education?**



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to encase protein drugs. These 'candy-coated' injections could potentially replace lengthy intravenous (IV) infusions..."

**5. What are the early results of the Phase 2 trial for Dynavax's experimental shingles vaccine?**

- A) It showed no immune response.
- B) It matched the immune response of the leading vaccine with a better safety profile.
- C) It had a stronger immune response but also more side effects.
- D) It was less effective than the leading vaccine.

**Answer:** B) It matched the immune response of the leading vaccine with a better safety profile. The news states, "Early results from a Phase 2 trial of Dynavax's experimental shingles vaccine showed it can match the immune response of the market-leading Shingrix vaccine, but with a better safety profile and fewer side effects."

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