

5. Annexures

5.1 Major Health Incidents and System Failures in Kerala (2023–present)

Sl. No.	Year & Month	Case title	Incident details
1	Jan 2026	Death of patient at Vilappilsala Family Health Centre sparks negligence allegations	A man died after reportedly being denied timely and adequate medical attention at the Vilappilsala Family Health Centre in Thiruvananthapuram district. The incident triggered allegations of medical negligence, delayed referral, and inadequate emergency response at the primary care level.
2	Dec 2025	Probe ordered into alleged medical negligence after cotton cloth left inside post-caesarean (Wayanad hospital)	A probe was ordered after a woman who underwent a cesarean section at a hospital in Wayanad reported severe post-operative complications and later discovered that a cotton surgical cloth had been left inside her abdomen. The incident raised serious concerns regarding surgical safety protocols, operating theatre checklists, post-operative monitoring, and accountability in obstetric care.
3	Nov 2025	Post-delivery Acinetobacter infection death at SAT Hospital (TVM)	A young mother died from Acinetobacter infection days after delivery at SAT Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. The infection was traced to the hospital environment, raising serious concerns over infection control, postnatal monitoring, and patient safety in public maternity services.
4	Nov 2025	Heart patient made to lie on floor for 5 days before death (Govt medical college)	A heart-attack patient died after spending five days lying on the floor of a government medical college ward due to lack of beds. Treatment delays, absence of pain relief, and postponed angioplasty exposed severe breakdowns in emergency cardiac care.
5	Sep 2025	Emergency fund release after suppliers halt medicines and implants (₹150+ crore dues)	The state was forced to release emergency funds after suppliers halted delivery of essential medicines and implants due to unpaid dues exceeding ₹150 crore. Government hospitals faced shortages of stents and surgical consumables, threatening life-saving procedures.
6	Sep 2025	Insured patients forced to buy implants despite cashless entitlement	Authorities admitted that publicly insured patients were compelled to purchase implants themselves due to supply failures. This violated cashless care guarantees and exposed systemic collapse in procurement, reimbursement, and hospital accountability.
7	Jul 2025	Toilet block collapse inside Kottayam Medical College kills woman; rescue delay	A woman died when a toilet block collapsed inside Government Medical College, Kottayam. Rescue was delayed by over two hours. The building was known to be unsafe, revealing neglect of hospital infrastructure audits and risk mitigation.
8	Jul 2025	Cardiac device supply threat and cath-lab shutdown risk (unpaid bills)	Suppliers threatened to stop providing cardiac devices to government hospitals after unpaid dues crossed ₹150 crore. Several cath labs faced potential shutdown, exposing fragile financing and poor contract management.
9	Jul 2025	State hospital budget cut and procurement underfunding shock	Infrastructure and treatment system upgrade budget slashed from ₹401.24 crore to ₹254.35 crore (₹146.89 crore cut). Health Dept budget reduced; blood bank funding halved; cancer centre budgets cut; medicine procurement budget far below requirement; KMSCL dues reported at ₹693.76 crore, with deliveries cut.
10	Jul 2025	System-wide health crisis audit flags drug shortages, stalled schemes, staffing gaps	Audit reported: (1) Drug shortages with KMSCL owing ~₹695cr and deliveries halved; (2) Aardram mission upgrades limited (170/846 PHCs); key schemes crippled by fund shortage; (3) severe manpower crisis; (4) quality failures (eg, caesareans under

			torchlight; 6+ month imaging waits); (5) ambulance crashes and deaths linked to training/safety gaps.
11	Jul 2025	Government hospital inpatient and surgery volumes show steep decline	Data showed government hospital inpatients fell from 14.18 lakh (2014–15) to 7.56 lakh (2023–24) (45% drop). Major surgeries decreased from 1,01,953 (2015–16) to 89,775 (2023–24). Decline linked to infrastructure failures, long waits, equipment gaps, and diversion to private sector.
12	Jun 2025	Urologist whistleblows: OT cancellations due to missing instruments (TVM MCH)	A senior urologist revealed surgeries at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College were delayed/cancelled because essential instruments were unavailable. Patients were often forced to procure equipment themselves, indicating procurement system collapse.
13	Jun 2025	Thiruvananthapuram MCH infrastructure crisis and long imaging waits	Severe shortages of surgical equipment, instruments, and diagnostic devices reported. Dr. Harris Chirakkal highlighted shortages forcing cancellations; patients faced 6+ month waits for imaging (MRI/CT) with equipment frequently defunct, causing delays and progression of illness.
14	Jun 2025	Nipah fatality triggers 400+ contact surveillance (Northern Kerala)	A teenage girl died of Nipah virus, triggering surveillance of 400+ contacts. Recurring outbreaks highlighted weaknesses in zoonotic surveillance, ecological risk management, and early detection.
15	May 2025	Kozhikode Medical College casualty block fire: evacuation chaos and deaths	A fire in Kozhikode Medical College casualty block caused evacuation chaos and contributed to deaths of critically ill patients. Electrical safety lapses and limited emergency preparedness were highlighted.
16	Apr 2025	Ambulance diversion causes fatal delay; oxygen arrives too late	A woman died after waiting over an hour for an ambulance while one was diverted for non-emergency use. Oxygen support arrived too late, exposing gaps in emergency transport governance.
17	Feb 2025 – Ongoing	ASHA workers’ indefinite strike for pay revision and social security	ASHAs have been on strike since Feb 10, 2025, demanding ₹21,000 monthly honorarium, timely payments, and retirement benefits. Sit-ins, hunger strikes and marches continued due to chronic under-payment and “volunteer” classification.
18	Jan–Aug 2025	Rabies deaths surge despite vaccination in some cases	23 rabies deaths recorded in first seven months; large dog-bite burden reported (Aug 2024–Jul 2025), with seasonal peaks. Notably five vaccinated individuals still died, raising concerns about timing and completeness of post-exposure prophylaxis and system responsiveness.
19	Dec 2024	NCC training camp mass food poisoning (Thrikkakara KMM College)	During a 10-day NCC camp, dozens of cadets fell ill after dinner on Dec 24; ~60 were hospitalised with suspected food poisoning. Camp was suspended for two days; samples collected; inquiry committee formed.
20	Dec 2024	Two ambulance patients die in NH-66 construction traffic gridlock (Kakkanchery)	Two critically ill patients died after ambulances were stuck 30–45 minutes in a traffic jam at an under-construction NH-66 bottleneck near Kakkanchery. Families blamed poor traffic management; deaths added to wider safety concerns around the construction zone.
21	Oct 2024	Alappuzha Medical College prenatal screening failure; newborn deformities case	Four doctors were booked after severe fetal abnormalities went undetected despite multiple scans; parents alleged failure to disclose findings. Investigation ordered; highlighted gaps in prenatal screening quality, counselling and informed consent.
22	Mid-2024	Simultaneous outbreaks overwhelm public health coordination	Kerala faced overlapping outbreaks of dengue, leptospirosis, cholera, hepatitis and rare brain infections. The scale exposed lack of integrated outbreak preparedness and coordination.
23	Jul 2024	Wayanad landslides: mass casualties and relief-camp health strain (initial reports)	Cloudburst-like rains triggered multiple landslides across Wayanad, killing at least 150 and leaving many missing. Thousands shifted to camps with limited medical and mental-

			health support; disaster response and public health capacity were stretched.
24	Jul 2024 (30 Jul)	Wayanad mega-landslides: Kerala's deadliest modern disaster (254+ deaths)	Catastrophic monsoon rains triggered simultaneous landslides around 05:45 IST, burying villages. Official toll exceeded 254, hundreds injured, many missing; rescue hindered by destroyed roads/bridges and ongoing rain. Massive fatalities and displacement created long-duration trauma, camp-health and outbreak-prevention demands.
25	2024 (Monsoon/post-flood)	Leptospirosis fatality spike after floods	Over 120 confirmed deaths reported from leptospirosis following floods. Delayed preventive campaigns and inadequate sanitation measures amplified fatality rates.
26	2024	Ambulance staff salary delays trigger service disruption/strike	Emergency ambulance services were disrupted statewide after prolonged non-payment of salaries, exposing financial mismanagement in outsourced emergency care.
27	2023–2024	Recurrent cholera/typhoid clusters and water-safety breakdowns	Cholera, hepatitis A and typhoid re-emerged in multiple districts after decades. Contaminated water, poor sanitation oversight and delayed public warnings reflected preventive public health failures.
28	2023–2024	Hepatitis A resurgence: 6,000+ cases and ~60 deaths	Hepatitis A cases rose to 6,000+ in 2024 with around 60 deaths, reversing earlier gains. Outbreaks linked to poor chlorination and sewage contamination in supply lines; cholera/typhoid clusters highlighted neglect of water-safety surveillance and timely warnings.
29	Nov 2023	10-year-old appendicitis mismanaged across facilities; dies of peritonitis (Anatt R.)	Child with appendicitis symptoms was dismissed due to unavailable surgeon/misdiagnosis at Chalakudy Taluk Hospital; later imaging failed to detect abscess at a medical college. Abscess rupture led to peritonitis and death; parents filed complaints against multiple facilities for clinical/diagnostic and referral failures.
30	May 2023	House surgeon Vandana Das stabbed to death at taluk hospital (workplace safety failure)	Junior doctor Vandana Das (25) was fatally stabbed by an intoxicated patient who grabbed scissors during treatment under police escort. Triggered statewide strikes and demands for security, screening and stronger legal protection for healthcare workers.
31	May 2023	Teenager discharged without diagnosis; collapses and dies during transport (Meenakshi, 17)	A 17-year-old admitted with unexplained red marks and symptoms was discharged without a clear diagnosis/plan. She collapsed during transport home and died; family alleged negligence; police registered an unnatural death case and post-mortem ordered.
32	Mar 2023	Brahmapuram landfill fire causes toxic smoke emergency in Kochi	Fire at the Brahmapuram waste dump burned 10–11 days, blanketing Kochi in toxic smoke and forcing school closures/health advisories. Exposed failures in segregation, landfill engineering and fire-risk planning; residents reported breathing and eye irritation.
33	18 Mar 2023	Sexual assault of semi-conscious patient in Kozhikode MCH ICU	A 32-year-old post-thyroid surgery patient, semi-conscious in ICU, was sexually assaulted by an attendant (arrested, later dismissed). Allegations included inadequate supervision and attempts to pressure withdrawal; inquiry processes and access to reports became contested.
34	2023	Guide wire left inside patient; government acknowledges surgical error (TVM GH)	Surgical error at Thiruvananthapuram General Hospital left a guide wire inside a woman's chest. Health Minister publicly acknowledged error and pledged action after expert review; spotlighted clinical quality and safety lapses in a major public hospital.