

1. [Prices of 103 drug formulations to dip after NPPA cap](#) – Times of India

As many as 103 drug formulation packs, including those used for treating HIV/AIDS, bacterial infections, tuberculosis, high blood pressure, epilepsy, hepatitis C and diabetes, will become cheaper with price regulator NPPA fixing their ceiling prices.

The new prices will be effective from Friday, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said in a notification on its website.

2. [Fixed dose combination ban is in public interest: centre tells Delhi high court](#) – Mint

The government move to ban fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs was a legislative action taken in public interest, the centre on Thursday told the Delhi high court, which has stayed the ban on a plea by pharmaceutical companies.

Additional solicitor general (ASG) Sanjay Jain also told the court that the government need not necessarily consult the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) or any other such committee to decide imposition of a ban.

3. [Shame that so many yrs after independence, no big innovation in India: Goyal](#) – Business Standard

Power Minister Piyush Goyal today rued that it is a "shame" that even more than 60 years after Independence, the country has not come up with significant innovation even as 25 union ministries entered into an ambitious pact to carry out research in collaboration with IITs and IISc at an event here.

He was speaking at an event where an MoU under Modi government's IMPRINT initiative was signed by 25 Ministries in 10 fields ranging from healthcare, defence, nano technology, communications, manufacturing environment etc.

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4. [Innovation, but at a reasonable cost](#) – Financial Express

Times change, and so do business models. This is especially true for licensing of standard-essential patents (SEPs). What was an excellent business practice in the 1990s is not a viable business strategy today. The cross-licensing rates of those days cannot be used as a benchmark today. If old rates are used, then it would jeopardise Digital India and Make-in-India initiatives.

Spending on R&D is required for innovation. However, that does not mean the public should pay for research that is unproductive. Reasonable profits multiplied by volumes is the hallmark of operations of the high-tech industry.

5. [Glaxo to Stop Seeking Drug Patents in Low-Income Countries](#) – Wall Street Journal

GlaxoSmithKline PLC said it would stop seeking patents for its drugs in low-income countries, a move the drugmaker said could help the world's poorest people access copycat versions of its medicines at affordable prices.

The U.K.-based company said it would take this approach in low-income and least-developed countries, a group totaling around 85 nations. In so-called lower-middle-income countries, a group of 51 nations that includes Vietnam, Cameroon and Sri Lanka, it said it would file patents but aim to grant licenses to generic manufacturers to supply low-cost versions of its drugs in those markets in return for a small royalty.

Glaxo has a "handful" of patents in India but doesn't rely heavily on intellectual-property rights, Mr. Witty said. Instead, he said, Glaxo provided drugs at "Indian prices" and competed with the generic drugmakers. As India is a member of the Group of 20 industrial and developing nations, Glaxo will continue to seek patents there.

6. [Are India-US trade relations again on a downward spiral?](#) – Mint

US President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet on Thursday on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. They will for sure exchange pleasantries and even the latter's trademark bear hug but there is no doubt that the two nations are now increasingly engaged in what even government officials in New Delhi have started to acknowledge is a "trade war".

On the contentious issue of compulsory licensing (CL), the commerce ministry recently issued a statement refuting claims by the lobby group US-India Business Council (USIBC) that the Indian government has assured it will not issue any more compulsory license.

7. [Tata Trusts signs MOUs with Maharashtra government to work together on community development](#) – Economic Times

The Government of Maharashtra and Tata Trusts signed multiple Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) to work together to improve community developmental indicators for the state. Areas shortlisted include healthcare, nutrition & fortification, governance, education, juvenile justice amongst others.

As per the MOU a Strategic Healthcare Advisory Unit (SHAU) will be setup to implement technology backed interventions that improve health and nutrition outcomes, which may also include developing hospital information systems (HIS) and a Medical Supply Corporation Tata Trusts will also work with the state government to design a micronutrient deficiency prevention program and control strategy with a special emphasis on food fortification.

Also appeared in [DNA](#)

8. [British Medical Journal calls for radical revamp of MCI](#) – The Hindu
The British Medical Journal (BMJ) in its latest issue has called for a 'radical prescription' to reform the Medical Council of India (MCI) in order to eliminate corruption and lack of ethics in healthcare.

Referring to several observations in the parliamentary standing committee report submitted in the Rajya Sabha in March, the BMJ says in its editorial to be released on Thursday that the parliamentary panel lays bare the MCI's failure to oversee quality and integrity in health services in the country.
9. [New FSSAI rules on nutraceuticals may leave companies like Sun Pharma, GSK ailing](#) – Economic Times
Drug companies, still reeling from a recent health ministry ban on some of India's most popular antibiotics and cough syrups, may be facing another stiff challenge with a regulatory notice threatening the Rs 20,000-crore nutraceuticals industry, the leading lights of which include Sun Pharma, Abbott Nutrition and GlaxoSmithKline.
10. [India-EU FTA logjam finds no Brussels solution](#) – Times of India
The deadlock over India-EU free trade agreement continued even after the summit meeting in Brussels where the two sides failed to announce resumption of negotiations for what is known as the EU-India Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).

The EU welcomed India's readiness to establish a mechanism to facilitate investments of all EU member states in India.

"The leaders committed to further strengthen the current EU-India dialogues in a wide array of sectors including pharmaceuticals, trade and industry issues, agriculture, fisheries, food and feed safety," the statement said.
11. [India, EU summit agrees on new agenda for strategic partnership](#) – Business Standard
India and the European Union (EU) have endorsed the 'EU-India Agenda for Action 2020' as a common road map for the strategic partnership in the next five years, the European Commission (EC) said on Thursday.

With an eye on addressing the import ban by the EU against more than 700 generic drugs clinically tested by Hyderabad-based GVK Biosciences, the agenda has also promised regular meetings of the EU-India Joint Working Group on pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical devices.
12. [Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Japan's Eisai ink licensing pact for anticancer agent](#) – Economic Times
Drug major Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) has entered into a licensing pact with Japan's Eisai Co. Ltd for the development and commercialisation of latter's investigational anticancer agent E7777 for an undisclosed sum.