

1. [Changes proposed in norms to speed up approvals for biosimilars](#) –

Economic Times

The draft of 'Guidelines on Similar Biologics 2016' has drawn mixed reactions from the industry bodies. Changes to the guidelines are proposed in view of cutting the scope for ambiguity and speeding up approvals in India.

Ranjana Smetacek, director general of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, quoted:

"The 2012 Biosimilar guidelines were largely aligned with global requirements, whereas the proposed revised guidelines suggest dilution of some previous requirements and might potentially compromise patient safety,"

On the other hand, local biosimilar companies have taken an optimistic view of the proposals, which includes a key provision that cuts the approval timeline by more than half.

2. [Indian pricing authority to address overcharging by pharma companies](#) – Manufacturing Chemists

The National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA) of India is to consider a number of measures to address the overcharging of drugs by pharmaceutical companies. NPPA also monitors prices of decontrolled drugs to keep them at reasonable levels.

However, **pharma industry lobbyists Organisation of Pharma Producers of India (OPPI) and the Indian Pharma Alliance (IPA) challenged the NPPA decision and filed a petition against the NPPA price cap in the courts.**

3. [NPPA caps prices of 70 new drugs](#) – Business Standard

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped the prices of 70 new drugs. This is part of the new drug pricing control order notified on March 14, which effectively brings 200 more drug formulations under regulation. Whenever there is a new NLEM, the government has to issue a new price control order and NPPA needs to set their ceiling prices subsequently.

4. [India, Bangladesh to deepen cooperation in health sector](#) – India Today

Union Health Minister J P Nadda met his Bangladeshi counterpart H E Mohammed Nasim and both the nations now are set to "usher in" an era of much closer cooperation in the health sector. The two countries discussed a range of issues in this regard.

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4. [India, Bangladesh to deepen cooperation in health sector](#) – India Today
5. [High level Indian delegation visits US FDA to resolve issues faced by pharma exporters](#) – Pharmabiz
6. [Karnataka pharma companies get relief from Karnataka High Court for Centre's ban on 344 FDCs](#) – Pharmabiz
7. ['The goal is to continue to build an internationally competitive and collaborative sector'](#) – Financial Express

5. [High level Indian delegation visits US FDA to resolve issues faced by pharma exporters](#) – Pharmabiz
Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr. G N Singh, Sudhanshu Pandey, joint secretary in the Union ministry of commerce and industry and director general of Pharmexcil Dr. P V Appaji were the 3-member delegation that visited US FDA under Brand India Campaign which took up several issues being faced by the Indian pharma exporters to US including quality of Indian generic drugs with top US FDA officials. Issues related to quality, US FDA and supply chain management was discussed in broad.

6. [Karnataka pharma companies get relief from Karnataka High Court for Centre's ban on 344 FDCs](#) – Pharmabiz
Karnataka-based pharma companies like Embiotic Laboratories, Juggat Pharma and Anglo French have been granted interim relief by Karnataka High Court for the ban imposed by the Centre on sale of some of their fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs.

According to V Hari Krishnan, president, Bangalore District Druggists and Chemists Association and the Karnataka Chemists and Druggists Association, a circular from drugs control department has already circulated instructions to all pharma manufacturers and pharmacy trade outlets.

7. ['The goal is to continue to build an internationally competitive and collaborative sector'](#) – Financial Express
Sharon McKendry, Head, Scottish Development International shares details about the advantages offered to Indian lifesciences players investing in Scotland, SDI's measures to make the business environment more conducive. The goal for Scotland Lifesciences industry is to continue to build an internationally competitive and collaborative sector that continues to be at the cutting edge of developing new and innovative technologies to solve some of our global healthcare challenges.