

1. [Govt asks for seven days to fix 'loose ends' in transplant rules](#) – **The Times of India**

Patients can heave a sigh of relief as transplant surgeries in the city will carry on normally—for now. The health ministry, after its first meeting with the protesting doctors on Saturday, assured them that chief minister Devendra Fadnavis' intervention will be sought in addressing the "loose ends" in the implementation of the organ transplant Act.

The urologists and nephrologists have jointly demanded that they be absolved of the responsibility of verifying documents and establishing the authenticity of a donor-recipient relationship. Public health minister Dr Deepak Sawant has asked for a week to find a solution as transplants are governed by the central Transplantation of Human Organ Act (THO), 1994.

1. [Govt asks for seven days to fix 'loose ends' in transplant rules](#) – The Times of India
2. [Government to bear healthcare expenses of BPL families](#) – The Economic Times
3. [India's pharma dependence on China gets a cut, via duties](#) – The Indian Express
4. [Doctor on call: Using text messages to improve public health in India](#) – Hindustan Times
5. [MPs push for Right to Health, write to Health Minister J PNadda](#) – The Indian Express
6. [Sun Pharma: hopes pinned on FDA clearance for Halol plant](#) – Mint
7. [Merck's Indian unit MSD may sell primary care drugs to focus on core brands](#) – The Economic Times
8. [Expanding markets, launching new products for growth: Wockhardt](#) – The Economic Times
9. [Pfizer plans to bring more global drugs to India](#) – The Hindu
10. [Kerala Ayush dept plans to hold experimental study on Ayurveda physicians' claim of curing cancer](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. [Government to bear healthcare expenses of BPL families](#) – **The Economic Times**

Noting that costly healthcare facilities were wiping away the finances of the poor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced that government will bear healthcare expenses of up to Rs 1 lakh annually of BPL families.

Announcing this from the ramparts of the Red Fort during his Independence Day speech, Modi said the entire economy of a poor household gets hit when somebody falls ill and this scheme will ensure that such families are not deprived of healthcare benefits.

Similar news:

- [Government to bear healthcare expenses of BPL families](#) – The New Indian Express
- [Govt to bear healthcare expenses of BPL families](#) – Indiatoday.in

3. [India's pharma dependence on China gets a cut, via duties](#) – **The Indian Express**

India's increasing dependence on imports from China for many key raw materials (mostly intermediates and some active pharma ingredients) that go into the making of a number of essential drugs has been cited as an area of concern for policymakers. In view of this, and to further encourage domestic production of bulk drugs, the government in January 2016 notified the withdrawal of exemption in customs duties given earlier to certain categories of drugs and bulk drugs. This step is expected to help the country reduce its dependence on China for imports of certain essential Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), officials involved in the exercise said.

4. [Doctor on call: Using text messages to improve public health in India](#) – Hindustan Times

Instant connectivity has seeped into our lives at every level, whether it's tuning in to global news, managing money, booking cabs or simply catching Pokemon on the go. Despite its diversity of use and India's mind-boggling subscriber base of more than one billion, the ubiquitous mobile phone remains an underused health prevention and management tool.

App-stores are flooded with health- and fitness-monitoring apps, yet the use of simple texts to reach out to masses using mobiles without data connectivity needs to be harnessed to deliver behaviour-changing health messages to people with limited access to healthcare, electricity and sanitation.

5. [MPs push for Right to Health, write to Health Minister J PNadda](#) – The Indian Express

As many as 20 MPs, mostly from Bihar, have written to Health Minister J P Nadda, backing the idea of universal access to health services as a Fundamental Right.

These MPs, including Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Ram Kripal Yadav, have written separate letters to Nadda endorsing a campaign being run for a Right to Health legislation, on the lines of the Right to Education Act. The campaign has been calling for an increase in government expenditure on health services, besides universal and affordable access to healthcare for all.

6. [Sun Pharma: hopes pinned on FDA clearance for Halol plant](#) – Mint

The going continues to be tough for Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. Earlier last week, its US unit Taro Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd reported lower-than expected sales, declining sequentially by 11.6% to \$234 million. Competition and its effect on drug prices are affecting sales growth. Sun Pharma's own sales growth in the US market rose 19% sequentially to \$375 million.

Till its Halol facility gets a green signal, Sun Pharma's approval pipeline will continue to look dull. Sure, its research programme is making strides, which has the potential to earn it benefits in the longer run. But nothing can beat a resolution at Halol for the sheer lift it can give both to Sun Pharma's performance and investor sentiment.

7. [Merck's Indian unit MSD may sell primary care drugs to focus on core brands](#) – The Economic Times

MSD, the Indian unit of US pharmaceutical giant Merck, has put on the block a range of products as part of a rationalisation drive that will see sharper focus on select core brands. A sizeable part of the divestiture is from the primary care segment with a few Indian drug makers showing interest. Valuation is, however, posing obvious challenges, said an industry source aware of the development.

ET's questions to MSD India were not responded by press time. MSD is looking to exit legacy drugs in its diversified portfolio such as injectable steroidal hormones Decadurabolin and Sustanon. "The products are old but have maintained a good recall among doctors," the source said.

8. [Expanding markets, launching new products for growth: Wockhardt](#) – The Economic Times

Pharma major Wockhardt Ltd has said it is increasing investments in R&D, looking at expanding markets and launching new products to accelerate growth.

"We have always believed that R&D is the key to the future. Naturally, we continue to increase our industry-leading investment in R&D as a percentage of total sales every year," Wockhardt Chairman and group CEO Habil Khorakiwala said at the company's annual general meeting (AGM).

9. [Pfizer plans to bring more global drugs to India](#) – The Hindu

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer plans to introduce more drugs from its global portfolio in India, including injectables from the stable of Hospira which it had acquired last year.

Although the company sells most of its top 20 global products in India, it is looking to bring in a couple of drugs, the patents of which have expired, to the domestic market.

Similar news:

- [Pfizer plans to bring more global drugs to India](#) – The Economic Times
- [Pfizer Plans to Bring More Global Drugs to India](#) – Bloombergquint.com

10. [Kerala Ayush dept plans to hold experimental study on Ayurveda physicians' claim of curing cancer](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Considering the case reports of cured or life-extended patients of cancer diseases submitted by a group of Ayurveda doctors in Kerala, the Ayush department in the state plans to hold an experimental study on the claims of the Ayurveda physicians that the age old treatment system can cure different types of cancer diseases.

The department of Ayush has called a combined meeting of allopathy and Ayush doctors engaged in cancer treatment on the 18th of this month in the state capital, in which the associations of Ayurveda doctors are also invited. A group of Ayurveda physicians, who holds treatments for cancer diseases and representing various districts in Kerala have formulated a common protocol for treating the fatal disease and submitted it to the government last month.