1. Don't bring a drug under price control because it's widely sold: Shailesh Ayyangar – Business Standard

Shailesh Ayyangar, managing director of Sanofi India and president, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), tells Veena Mani that India needs to have set criteria to define "essentiality" of medicines, for bringing these under the price control regime.

Prima facie, we need a well-defined financial system that will give different strata of society access to medical services. There are lacunae in health care financing. Ministries of finance and health must work in tandem to provide insurance for outpatients. The government also needs to allocate resources, develop infrastructure and ensure affordable medical services. When it comes to treating and addressing NCDs, India fares poorly among even emerging economies.

2. Sitharaman convenes meeting of industry bodies on IPR tomorrow – Business Standard

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has convened a meeting tomorrow of about 28 industry associations to deliberate on issues related to the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy. The meeting will discuss issues like creating awareness of the policy in the country, an official said.

The associations which would participate include CII, Ficci, PHDCCI, International Trademark Association, Laghu Udyog Bharati, Film and Television Producers Guild of India and Indian Motion Pictures' Producers Association.

3. Doctors, drug companies mum on side-effects, patients suffer – The Times of India

Companies feel communicating safety information to patients is akin to advertising, and hence would be in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act. But drugs controller general GN Singh told TOI, "It is the companies' responsibility to communicate the side-effects to ensure patient safety."

While Indian pharma companies have adopted several global practices voluntarily, why have they chosen to ignore an important aspect of patient safety? More importantly, why hasn't the law been tightened? "Package inserts by 5-10% companies are practically useless as they are microscopic, and hence cannot be read. The language used is also technical, which may not be

comprehensible to patients. In any case, these are meant only for use by medical practitioners as they clearly state," an industry expert said.

4. ***Opinion column*: Quality medical devices an urgent need in Indian healthcare - Business Today**
Medical technologies have revolutionised healthcare globally, and are especially relevant in a country like India which is struggling to provide healthcare to its 1.4 billion people. Today, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, cancers and pulmonary problems contribute to over 60 per cent of the overall disease burden in the country, adding to the impact of communicable diseases like TB and leprosy. In the absence of a robust response, experts predict that over 60 million Indians will succumb to NCDs by 2020.

   Fortunately, India has one of the largest markets for medical devices in Asia and is poised for rapid growth. Creating the right environment to foster the growth of the industry is essential to bridging the huge gap between demand and supply of life-saving medical technologies. An unpredictable policy and legislative environment has stalled progress till now.

5. **Inability to regulate drug prices: Parliamentary committee blames pharma dept's 'lackadaisical attitude' – The Indian Express**
'Gross negligence', 'lackadaisical attitude', 'vested interests', these are some of the terms used by a Parliamentary Committee for the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) on the latter's inability to regulate the prices of patented medicines even after nine years of deliberation on the same.

   The scathing indictment of the DoP, which functions under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in the report submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on 'Government Assurances' on August 11 comes at a time when the NDA government has been taking credit for bringing more generic medicines under price control.

6. **Sub-standard medicines: Health ministry study on quality looks odd – The Financial Express**
Not surprisingly, given its earlier studies, the latest study by the health ministry has found—according to a news report in The Economic Times—that just around 3.5% of the medicines produced in the country are sub-standard; indeed, this number is lower than that in the past.

   While that is good news, if correct, it flies in the face of most other studies that suggest anywhere between a third and a fourth of drugs fall in this category. Indeed, if the health ministry study is correct, it doesn't quite sit right with the penal action being taken by the US FDA against a number of Indian producers—more so, since the FDA action is being taken for medicines being produced in FDA-approved facilities which are generally acknowledged to be superior to the facilities used for producing drugs locally.

7. **President stresses on need for research in homeopathy – Business Standard**
Stressing the need for research in homeopathy, PresidentPranab Mukherjee today said alternative medicine proved to very effective in certain cases. Speaking at a programme to mark 150 years of homeopathy by Dr Prasanta Banerji homeopathic research foundation here, he said basic research and scientific analysis were necessary, so that homeopathy could be taken to an advanced stage. The popularity of homeopathy is increasing day by day and it is now considered as the most accepted form of alternative medicine, he said, adding it is also being recognised in India.

8. **Lupin gets CDSCO nod for indigestion treatment tablets – The Economic Times**
Drug firm Lupin has received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for Acotiamide 100 mg tablets used for treatment of indigestion. It said the company will shortly start promoting the product in India. "Acotiamide is a first-in-class novel drug to be introduced into the Indian pharmaceutical market which could benefit millions of patients suffering from dyspepsia or indigestion, amongst the most common stomach complaints encountered in clinical practice," Lupin said in a BSE filing.

Also reported by:

- Lupin gets nod for a new indigestion drug – Mint
- Lupin receives CDSCO approval for indigestion drug acotiamide – Business Standard

9. **Pfizer to buy Medivation in $14-billion deal – The Hindu**

Pfizer Inc said on Monday it would buy U.S. cancer drug company Medivation Inc in a deal valued at about $14 billion, adding blockbuster prostate cancer drug Xtandi to its portfolio. Medivation shares were up 20 per cent at $80.56 in pre-market trade, just shy of the offer price of $81.50 per share in cash.

The offer is at a substantial premium to Sanofi SA's initial offer to buy Medivation for $52.50 per share in April that pushed the San Francisco-based company to put itself up for sale. The deal comes four months after Pfizer and Ireland-based Allergan Plc scrapped their $160 billion merger. Pfizer has since bought Anacor Pharmaceuticals Inc in a $5.2 billion deal to add an eczema gel to its portfolio.

Also reported by:

- Pfizer said close to $14-billion deal to acquire Medivation – Business Standard
- Pfizer boosts cancer drug roster with $14 billion Medivation deal – Reuters.in

10. **NPPA revises ceiling prices of 22 scheduled drugs and retail price of 13 formulations – Pharmabiz.com**

Drug pricing regulator NPPA has revised ceiling prices of 22 formulations of Schedule-I under Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2016 and Retail Prices of 13 formulations under DPCO, 2013 in related notification dated August 17. Name of the scheduled formulations are atropine injection, ibuprofen tablet -200mg, ibuprofen-400mg, neostigmine injection, carbamazepine oral liquid, diazepam suppository, phenobarbitone injection, nitrofurantoin tablet, rifampicin, primaquine tablet, imatinib mesylate tablet, procarbazine capsule, tamoxifen tablet, misoprostol tablet, salbutamol table, ritonavir tablet, primaquine tablet, cyclosporine oral liquid and efavirenz tablet.