

1. **[Impact from GST to be negative on pharma if rate exceeds 12%: Industry](#) – The Times of India**

Domestic pharmaceutical industry expects to gain from operational efficiency as a result of GST regime, but the impact will be negative if the overall rate is over 12%, while healthcare should be at 0% rate, with input credit refunds available. Hence patients cannot expect substantial savings on their medical bills, once 'one nation one tax' is implemented across the country.

There is uncertainty whether the healthcare sector as well as life-saving drugs and medical devices will continue to be exempt from taxes and levies, once the GST is rolled out.

Similar reports:

- [Positive for consumer durables, pharma, auto firms; mixed bag for FMCG](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [A mixed prognosis for pharma sector](#) – Business Standard

2. **[Natco Pharma surges 7% on drug approval](#) – The Economic Times**

In a regulatory filing to BSE, the company said approval has been received for the abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) containing a Paragraph IV certification filed with the USFDA for generic versions of Tamiflu oral capsules, 30 mg, 45 mg and 75 mg. Tamiflu oral capsules had US sales of approximately \$403 million for 12 months ending December 2015, according to IMS Health.

Also appeared in-

- [Natco Pharma gets final approval for Tamiflu capsules in the US](#) – Business Standard
- [Natco Pharma gets USFDA final nod for generic Tamiflu; scrip gains](#) – The Hindu Business Line

3. **[Directorate General of Foreign Trade unveils norms for human bio samples trade](#) – The Economic Times**

Import and export of human biological samples by domestic diagnostic labs or clinical research centres should be permitted by customs authorities without prior approvals, subject to certain conditions, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said.

Laying down the policy condition for import/export of human biological samples for commercial purposes, the DGFT said that "the central government hereby inserts import policy...and export policy for human biological samples for commercial purposes".

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4. [Neonatal deaths double in a decade, infants also at risk](#) – The Times of India
5. [Daily drug regimen for TB patients in 5 states, including Maharashtra, from Sept](#) – The Indian Express
6. [Task force on health policy to facilitate training of doctors, students](#) – The New Indian Express
7. [AP Govt planning to set up 2 big pharma clusters in Vizag and Nellore](#) – Pharmabiz.com

4. [Neonatal deaths double in a decade, infants also at risk](#) – The Times of India

Advances in medical technology and health infrastructure in Delhi seem to have done little to save children from dying. The latest birth and death registration data shows that the number of neonatal deaths -children dying within 29 days -has nearly doubled in the last 10 years from 3,183 in 2005 to 5,908 in 2015.

The number of infant deaths (children who die before turning a year old) in the capital has also gone up from 4,182 to 8,695 over the last decade. This data was released in the annual report prepared by the directorate of economics and statistics of Delhi government on registration of births and deaths in 2015.

The data shows infant deaths were caused by hypoxia, birth asphyxia and other respiratory conditions (20.34%) followed by septicaemia (11.36%). Slow fetal growth, fetal mal nutrition and immaturity were the third-most common cause of infant deaths (7.26%).

5. [Daily drug regimen for TB patients in 5 states, including Maharashtra, from Sept](#) – The Indian Express

For the first time, a fixed dose combination of drugs will be given daily to tuberculosis (TB) patients across five states, including Maharashtra, from September. Children who find it difficult to swallow will also be given dispersible tablets to treat TB. The state health authorities are now waiting to start the daily drug regimen and Maharashtra, along with Bihar, Kerala, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, will roll out the project in the first phase.

TB remains a global epidemic. Over two billion people harbour the latent infection and over 9 million suffer from it, out of which five lakh are multi drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients. India accounts for 23 per cent of global TB cases and deaths. An estimated 2.2 million people suffer from TB in India, out of which over 70,000 suffer from MDR-TB.

6. [Task force on health policy to facilitate training of doctors, students](#) – The New Indian Express

A task force on Karnataka Public Health Policy has begun work on plugging the vacancies in hospitals, by facilitating training for resident doctors and students in rural areas. The Karnataka Knowledge Commission had constituted the 16-member task force comprising doctors, academics, representatives of government agencies and industry experts to come out with a comprehensive report on the policy and recommend steps for positioning health ombudsmen for enhancing transparency, redressal of complaints and accessibility of health services in the state.

Various sub-committees were formed and each looked at strengthening of primary health centres, human resources, medical technology, training, electronic medical records, health ombudsmen and procedural costs, quality systems and access to affordable medicines.

7. [AP Govt planning to set up 2 big pharma clusters in Vizag and Nellore](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Andhra Pradesh government is contemplating to set up two big pharma clusters, one in Visakhapatnam (Vizag) and the second one in Nellore district of the state. Both the new clusters are expected to spread over 2,000 and 3,500 acres respectively.

Already, the state of Andhra Pradesh has well developed and most advanced Jawarharlal Nehru Pharma City (JNPC) built over 2,200 acres at Parawada in Vizag. With the state government adding another cluster in the same region it would give a double boost to the new investors as most of the ancillary units required will be in the same vicinity. With this, Vizag will have two pharma clusters, one at Parawada and the other is being finalized in the nearby vicinity to the existing one.