

**1. OPINION PIECE: [GST: The right prescription](#) –****The Hindu Business Line**

The passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill to enable a Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime sets the economy on the path of significantly reduced layers and complexity in the indirect tax system; this will improve the growth prospects and productivity of the economy.

Globally, India's pharmaceutical industry is the third largest by volume and 14th largest by value. To realise its full potential and protect the crucial investments made, the GST — perhaps the most crucial part of what economists call the fiscal policy framework — must get pro-active, and provide an environment of certainty and predictability. To achieve that implementation holds the key.

**2. [GST to benefit pharma industry, but pricing remains a concern](#) – Mint**

GST is expected to be a win-win situation for drug makers as it will not only simplify tax structure but also create a level-playing field for pharmaceutical companies.

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The goods and services tax (GST), India's biggest indirect tax reform, is expected to be beneficial for Indian drug makers in the medium to long run as it aims to simplify tax structure and bring operational efficiency. However, concerns about drug prices, exemptions and compliance remain.

**3. [Pharma foot-soldiers in the line of fire](#) – The Hindu Business Line**

The death of a medical representative has triggered a discussion on promotional practices, targets and, perhaps, the need for counselling the reps.

An internal study by the Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Association of India (FMRAI) over 13 years recorded over 200 premature deaths, including suicides, heart attacks and cerebral stroke. And the worrisome part is that the deaths are largely in the 20-30 years age group and occur in the last week of the month.

**4. [Patent registration: Indore city lags far behind](#) – The Times of India**

"Most of the applications received by department for patent registration come from youngsters of tier-II cities of the country, such as Pune, Nagpur etc, while cities of Madhya Pradesh are far behind in the race," said a top official from the department of industrial policy and promotion on sidelines of an industry event on Friday. Patent is one of forms of intellectual property rights that also include copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs and trade secrets /confidential information. Over 70 per cent of patent applications received by patent department come from foreigners or foreign entities while the rest 30 per cent from Indian individuals and medium enterprises.

**5. OPINION COLUMN: [Shaping Standard Essential Patents policy](#) – The Financial Express**

Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) have become a rather essential and standard debate for courts and anti-trust regulators across continents including India. Needless to say that, interactions between intellectual property rights (IPRs), especially those concerning SEPs, and competition law have led to a large number of judicial decisions around the world.

Realising its importance, the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) published a discussion paper titled "Standard Essential Patents and their availability on FRAND terms" to sensitise stakeholders on the need and importance of SEPs and inviting suggestions to develop a suitable policy framework to define the obligations of SEP holders and their licensees.

**6. [Inventors to get their due with IPR policy](#) – The New Indian Express**

The Central government approved its first Intellectual Property Rights Policy (IPR) earlier this year and the legal fraternity in Chennai has welcomed it with open arms.

Speaking at a conference hosted by the Associated Chamber of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) and the Andhra Chamber of Commerce, retired judge K N Basha pointed out that there are various products that could have a massive impact on the society but are unavailable because they are entangled in the complicated procedures.

**7. [Drug firms worried over govt plan to add MRP to bar codes](#) – Business Standard**

The Department of Pharmaceuticals is toying with the idea of adding the maximum retail price (MRP) of a product to the bar codes, it is learnt. This is being seen as a move by the government to ensure that MRPs are adhered to. Although the proposal is at a nascent stage, the pharma sector is already worried, an official said. While the move could benefit the consumer by ensuring that no retailer sells any product above the MRP, pharma players say the government would find it tough to implement it in India.

**8. [Latest innovations on display at PharmaLytica](#) - Business Standard**

Latest technologies in analytical lab equipment and quality control are on display at the third edition of PharmaLytica, which began in Hyderabad on Friday. Over 150 exhibitors from niche segments of pharmaceutical industry like analytical lab equipment, contract research and contract manufacturing are participating in the two-day event being held at Hitex. Being

organised by UBM India, organisers of CPhI and P-MEC India, the leading global pharma trade show and conference, PharmaLytica will help the pharmaceutical community remain up to date with latest trends and innovations pertaining to the analytical, biotechnology, laboratory, pharma machinery and outsourcing services sector.

*Also appeared in-*

- [Pharma trade show opens](#) – The Hindu

#### 9. [National health mission workers continue agitation](#) – The Times of India

Over 2,600 National Health Mission (NHM) employees of Uttarakhand, who went on strike on Friday, continued their agitation across the state, crippling health facilities in the hills of state. Sanjay Chouhan, chairman of the NHM employees association said, "We will not call off our agitation and are going on indefinite strike from Saturday." The workers are demanding regularisation of jobs in the health department where they have been serving for over a decade. Health department's 18 different schemes are at receiving end due to 400 doctors on strike along with 465 staff nurses, 145 pharmacist, 375 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and 230 data entry officers who play significant role in developing reports.

*Previous report on the same subject-*

- [National health mission workers' strike cripples services in hilly districts](#) – The Times of India

#### 10. [India launches MAA-- a programme to promote breastfeeding](#) – Hindustan Times

Government on Friday launched National Breastfeeding Promotion Programme— MAA (mothers' absolute affection) to ensure adequate awareness is generated among masses, especially mothers, on the benefits of breastfeeding. Despite breastfeeding being one of the most important interventions for child survival, a dismal 64.9% child is exclusively breastfed for the first six months in India. "Around 20% newborn deaths and 13% under-five deaths can be prevented by early initiation of breastfeeding," said CK Mishra, secretary (health), government of India.

#### 11. [National E-health Mission](#) – Business World

Almost a year after the Modi government came to power at the centre, the ministry of health and family welfare unveiled a concept note announcing its plans for a National eHealth Authority (NeHA) under the marquee 'Digital India' campaign. The promotional and regulatory body, it said, would guide and support India's journey in e-health and leverage the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) intervention to put the country's ailing health sector in order.

The government's proposal also clearly spelt out the proposed functions and governance mechanism of the e-health body, which drew from global experience and earlier recommendations of advisory bodies including the National Knowledge Commission.

#### 12. [Poor get bitter medicine](#) – The New Indian Express

Though the government pushes hard to popularise generic drugs, Indian pharma companies are not manufacturing medicines according to international standards. This is while the government is mulling making it mandatory for doctors to mention the generic names of branded medicines in prescriptions.

Meanwhile, the government maintains that its policy to promote generic drugs will include only those manufacturers who comply with the World Health Organisation guidelines. "We have announced the setting up of 3,000 generic stores across the capital. The next step is to make at least one Jan Aushadhi store compulsory in all top private hospitals of the country," says Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Ananth Kumar.

#### 13. [Regulation on AYUSH system of Good Clinical Practice Guidelines](#) – Business Standard

The Government published Good Clinical Practice Guidelines for Clinical Trials in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Medicine (GCP-ASU)" in the year 2013. These guidelines encompass the

design, conduct, termination, audit, analysis, reporting and documentation of the systematic studies involving human subjects for determining the safety and efficacy of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs. This document aims to ensure that the studies are scientifically and ethically sound and the clinical properties of the ASU medicines under investigation are properly documented. The guidelines seek to establish two cardinal principles of protection of the rights of human subjects and generation of authentic clinical trial data of ASU medicines.

- 14. [State looks at telemedicine to combat lack of doctors, staff in PHCs](#) - Daily News and Analysis**  
Officials admitted that basic public sector health-care infrastructure, like primary health centres (PHCs), is inadequately staffed and underutilised, prompting the need for such electronic interventions and cloud-based health-care solutions. To overcome lacunae, such as lack of adequate doctors and staff in public health institutions, and ensure that medical care is made available promptly to people in far-flung areas, the state government is planning to enable electronic diagnosis and treatment through telemedicine. The state public health department is establishing ePHCs through corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds at locations across Maharashtra for last-mile connectivity.
- 15. [New catalysis find sheds light on how to make safer drugs](#) - Daily News and Analysis**  
A team of researchers' work in catalysis could aid drug development. Many molecules have a chemical structure that is "chiral" - they come in two forms, each with an arrangement of atoms that are mirror images of each other. These "right-handed" and "left-handed" arrangements, called enantiomers, are problematic for industries that make pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals.
- 16. [Dr Reddy's gets nod to import 15 active ingredients into EU](#) – Business Standard**  
Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Dr Reddy's Laboratories received approval from the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to import drugs for the European Union market. In an order dated August 5, CDSCO gave its nod, which will allow Dr Reddy's to import 15 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) into the European Union. These drugs are used to treat hypertension, pneumonia, bacterial infection, cardiovascular diseases, and migraine, among others. The order will enable the company to import these substances for a period of three years, ending June 2019. At present, Dr Reddy's has 10 units for manufacturing of APIs.
- 17. [Wockhardt gets import alert from US FDA](#) – Business Standard**  
The US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has issued an import alert on Wockhardt's Ankleshwar plant for alleged violation of good manufacturing practices. This is the drug maker's third plant to receive an import alert from the US drug regulator. The move is a setback to the company's plans to revive its US business. The share of the firm's US business in the total sales dropped to 22 per cent in FY16 from 24 per cent a year ago because of import restrictions. The Ankleshwar plant contributes 10-15 percent of the US sales (Rs 964 crore in FY16).
- 18. [BARC team develops cancer drugs with herbs, spices](#) – The Times of India**  
A green revolution is underway at one of the world's longest laboratories located deep inside BARC's Anushakti Nagar complex near Chembur. Scientists at the 700-metre modular laboratory in BARC are using Indian herbs and spices to develop anti-cancer and other drugs that will be affordable and have fewer side-effects. Rampatri— better known as 'false nutmeg' and widely used in Goan and Mangalorean cuisine—is a case in point. Scientists from BARC's bioscience group have developed a chemotherapeutic drug that has, in studies on mice, shown potency against lung cancer and neuroblastoma (a rare pediatric cancer in which cancer cells grow in the nerve cells of the adrenal glands, neck, chest, and spinal cord).
- 19. [NPPA to recover Rs. 4,566.55 cr from Pharma cos for overcharging until June](#) – Pharmabiz.com**  
National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has to recover a total of Rs.4, 566.55 crores, including interest, from various pharma companies for overcharging of thousands of drug formulations as of June this year. As per NPPA, amount which is still under litigation including cases referred to collector and contested by the companies in the courts of law is Rs.3,720.37

crore. As much as 82 per cent of the total amount is under litigation. Besides this, amount pending relating to the overcharging cases under process is Rs.772.31 crore.

**20. [MSCC import immunotherapy drug from US with DCGI approval to treat paediatric leukaemia patient](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre (MSCC), Narayana Health City directly imported a US FDA approved immunotherapy drug, to treat a paediatric patient aged 8 years old suffering from relapse of leukaemia. Subsequently the medical teams opted for allogenic matched sibling donor bone marrow transplant (BMT) to successfully resolve the disease.

**21. [Indian doctor seeks patent for nutraceutical formulation for thalassemia](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

Rajasthan-based pharmaceuticals consultant Dr Sanjay Agrawal has developed a unique nutraceutical formulation for management of thalassemia disease. Patent for this unique formulation has been applied by the inventor recently. Thalassemia is a disorder of abnormal formation of hemoglobin and thereby destructing red blood cells. Several approaches have been used for treating patients with thalassemia such as blood transfusions, splenectomy, iron chelation therapy, modulation of foetal haemoglobin and other agents focusing on specific aspects of clinical presentation. However, the exact management of the disease is still controversial. A major issue which is not entirely explored is the effect of blood transfusion in the management of patients with thalassemia.

**22. [Pharma Technology Exop to take off in Ahmadabad on Aug 21, with a pavilion for overseas exhibitors](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

An international exhibition cum seminar, 'PharmaTech Expo 2016' focusing on pharmaceutical machinery, packaging, laboratory equipments and pharma ingredients, will open on August 21 at Gujarat University Exhibition Centre in Ahmadabad under the aegis of PharmaTechnologyIndex.com, a Gujarat based exhibitor group dedicated to pharma industry. The event will be on till August 23 and will be inaugurated by a central minister in the presence of ministers of Gujarat government, the organising group informed. PharmaTech Expo 2016, the third edition in the series, is supported by NSIC, Pharmexcil and FDA Gujarat.