

1. **[No card machines, no cash: Medicine sales decline 20% - Hindustan Times](#)**

Demonetisation has claimed its latest victim – your neighbourhood medicine shops. Medicine sales have fallen by around 17% in the last one month, thanks to the unending cash woes. Painkillers, antibiotics and medicines for cough and flu, mainly those that are purchased for daily use, have seen the highest decline in sales.

According to data by the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), which represents over 750,000 chemists across India, the sale of medicines has fallen by around 17% in the last one week.

2. **[Multi drug-resistant fungus sets alarm bells ringing – Daily News and Analysis](#)**

Since a global alert on pathogenic fungus *Candida auris* in 2009, Indian scientists have been actively engaged in research on the strains of this fungi. A recent report of the study indicates that the strains found in Indian hospitals are multi-drug resistant.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), New Delhi, and Department of Medical Mycology, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, Delhi University, conducted a full genome sequencing on six strains of *Candida auris*, and have published their findings in the latest issue of the UK journal Elsevier. “A full genome sequencing analysis of *Candida Auris* isolates from four Indian hospitals – three in Delhi and one in Kochi – revealed a clonal transmission, that is the same strains were circulating in Indian hospitals. All *C. auris* isolates analysed originated from cases of fungaemia (fatal fungal infection, a form of sepsis) and were resistant to fluconazole (a broad-spectrum antifungal medication),” said Dr Anuradha Choudhary, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Medical Mycology, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute.

3. **[E-pharmacy 1mg Technologies buys MediAngels – Mint](#)**

Online pharmacy 1mg Technologies Pvt. Ltd has acquired Mumbai-based MediAngels (Angels Health Pvt. Ltd) for an undisclosed amount in cash and stocks to enter specialty doctor consultations, corporate health services and insurance partnerships. “Our consumers can now access a deep network of over 450 super specialists across India and the world, and we also get an entry into the corporate health space through this platform,” 1mg’s co-founder Prashant Tandon

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4. [Punjab Government opens 2000 free medicine and 660 free diagnostic centers across state – The Financial Express](#)
5. [Cipla’s path-breaking succession formula – The Hindu Business Line](#)
6. [68th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress in Vizag from Dec 16 – Business Standard](#)
7. [Investments worth \\$3 billion ripe for exits in Indian healthcare sector: Investec – Mint](#)
8. [DCGI to discontinue prior joint inspection for issuance of Form 29 licenses to vaccine & r-DNA products – Pharmabiz.com](#)

said in a statement on Wednesday. Founded in 2011 by Arbinder Singhal and Debraj Shome, MediAngels is a platform for patients to seek online consultations for specialized medical cases in cardiology, cancer, neurosurgery, orthopedics and pediatrics, among other areas, from its network of doctors covering 93 specialties.

4. [Punjab Government opens 2000 free medicine and 660 free diagnostic centers across state](#) – **The Financial Express**

A major step towards providing social security to citizens, the Punjab Government has set up 2000 free medicine centers to provide free-of-cost medicines prescribed by government doctors. Out of these, 660 centers also provide free medical testing facility to all the patients. The health sector is pre-requisite for driving growth and economic prosperity in a state. The government of Punjab appears to be conducive towards a revolutionary change in the health sector of the state. Opening of 2000 free medicines centers and 660 diagnostic centers validate state government's commitment towards healthcare. "In a bid to provide equitable access to good quality healthcare to all, Punjab government has taken many path-breaking initiatives. State government invested Rs. 8,655 crore on healthcare between 2007-2016. With these centers, we shall ensure that not only the drugs of high quality are provided, all the tests are conducted in a hassle-free manner," said Deputy Chief Minister, Sukhbir Singh Badal. Each diagnostic centre is equipped with the computer and internet facility. All testing centre are fully equipped with laboratory equipment, refrigerator and furniture for carrying out testing and storage of the medicines.

5. [Cipla's path-breaking succession formula](#) – **The Hindu Business Line**

In 2001, Cipla made news announcing that it would sell a three-drug combination for \$350 per patient per year compared to the MNC's price of nearly \$12,000. Cipla's promoter Yusuf K Hamied was called both a pirate and a messiah. But what was indisputable was that Hamied had changed the face of the Indian pharmaceutical industry by providing access to low-cost drugs, and at the same time, probably saved lives of millions of AIDS victims.

Now, Hamied has applied the same long-term vision to his family structure. In Oct 2014, he wrote to market regulator SEBI seeking an informal guidance specifically on legal implications of the various family members and family-controlled entities seeking to vote together as a single person. (The promoter group held 37.47 per cent in Cipla as on March 31, 2016).

6. [68th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress in Vizag from Dec 16](#) – **Business Standard**

The 68th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress (IPC) will be held at the Andhra University here from December 16 to 18. "Andhra Pradesh Human Resources Development Minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao will inaugurate the Congress, which is organised by the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association (IPCA)," Chairman of the organising Committee Rao Vadlamani told reporters here. He said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will visit the Congress on December 17. The Chief Minister will interact with CEOs of various pharma companies to attract investments in the state, he added.

7. [Investments worth \\$3 billion ripe for exits in Indian healthcare sector: Investec](#) – **Mint**

The government's move to withdraw high-value currency notes is expected to hit mergers and acquisitions (M&A), particularly in consumer and retail sectors, over the next six to 12 months, according to investment bankers and analysts. The sectors have already reported a steep fall in such transactions. Private equity (PE) and M&A deal value dropped to \$608 million in 2016 from \$4 billion in 2014 and \$2 billion in 2015. "In the short term, there is a 30%-50% drop in revenue in the affected months (November and December), especially in discretionary spending as well as seasonal categories. This has impacted not only cash sales but also digital transactions because of

the short-term uncertainty and resulting sentiments,” said Samir Bahl, chief executive officer (investment banking), Anand Rathi Advisors Pvt. Ltd.

8. [DCGI to discontinue prior joint inspection for issuance of Form 29 licenses to vaccine & r-DNA products – Pharmabiz.com](#)

In yet another measure to facilitate ease of doing business in pharmaceuticals, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has decided to discontinue the practice of prior joint inspection for issuance of Form 29 licenses to vaccine & r-DNA products as this will go a long way in promoting research & development of new drugs. An office memorandum issued by the DCGI office said that in order to promote research & development (R&D) of new drugs, it has been decided to discontinue the practice of prior joint inspection for issuance of Form 29 licenses to vaccines & r-DNA products.