

1. [Proposal to bring all 18 therapeutic drugs under essential medicines list](#) – The Hindu

With a view to bring medicine within the reach of the poor, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, has recommended the inclusion of all 18 therapeutic drugs in the National List of Essential Medicines of India (NLEMI).

While the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had taken up the revision of NLEMI, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, a constituent of the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, had suggested that medicine, drugs and pharmaceutical formulations in all 18 therapeutic areas be included in NLEMI.

2. [Pharmaceuticals to be exclusive Ministry soon](#) – The Hindu

The Department of Pharmaceuticals, which is presently a constituent of the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, will soon become an exclusive Ministry. Union Minister Ananth Kumar said his Ministry was in touch with the Prime Minister's Office to convert the Department of Pharmaceuticals, which also includes medical devices, into a separate Ministry. He hoped that a new Ministry of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices will become a reality by the time the 68th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress is held.

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3. [Website on drug research to be launched soon](#) – The Hindu

Soon, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, will launch a website on research in drug discovery by different research and development (R&D) organisations in the country.

Speaking at the 67th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress 2015 here on Sunday, V.K. Subbaraj, Secretary to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, New Delhi, said the website would offer information on the status of the ongoing research on drug discovery by various institutions in the public and private sector across India.

Besides, an annual book on the status of research, which serves as a guiding tool to scientists and students across the world, will also be brought out. The Department of Pharmaceuticals would also hold an annual seminar to share information on the progress in various research activities on drug discoveries, he said.

4. [Drug price benefits have to be shared with healthcare system says Novartis CEO](#) - Hindu Business Line

Drug companies have taken too great a share of the benefits of new drug treatments but are moving to different models involving sharing more with health systems and insurers, the head of Swiss-based Novartis was quoted saying on Sunday.

We need to transition into a system in which pharmaceutical manufacturers share the benefits of new drugs with the healthcare system, CEO Joe Jimenez told the NZZ am Sonntag. At the moment, we still keep too much of that benefit for ourselves.☒

5. [Overseas M&A deals at 5-year high in pharma, healthcare](#) – Mint

Overseas mergers and acquisitions (M&As) led deal activity in the pharmaceuticals and healthcare sector in 2015, their value hitting a five-year high.

Outbound deals in the sector were worth \$1.5 billion in 2015 as against \$251 million in 2014, according to data from VCCEdge.

Generic pharmaceuticals make up 80% of prescriptions dispensed in the US but account for just 27% of total drug spending. The US generics market is estimated at \$35 billion annually, more than double the size of the Indian pharmaceutical market (\$14 billion, or about Rs.92,000 crore).

6. [Cure the doctor](#) – Indian Express

Earlier this month, The Lancet published a paper calling for a radical transformation of the architecture of India's healthcare delivery system if it is to achieve the government's vision of assuring health for all. The paper documented India's progress on major health indicators in the past decade, but also its many deficiencies. The most disturbing indicator of these deficiencies is the observation that the cost of healthcare is driving millions of Indians into poverty. Let us pause to consider the implication of this statement.

In a country where the primary goal of economic development is to help raise people out of poverty, healthcare is driving millions into poverty. Whereas, in other countries, investment in healthcare is recognised as a route to promote growth by enhancing their citizens' capabilities to be productive, healthcare in India is now one of the leading causes of poverty. We are, in simple terms, out of step with the rest of the world, not only the developed countries whose ranks we aspire to join, but also with other countries like ours.

7. [Tata Motors only Indian firm on top-50 global R&D list](#) – Economic Times

Tata Motors has entered the top-50 league of the world's biggest companies in terms of their R&D investments, topped by German automaker Volkswagen.

While the top-five companies globally have retained their respective positions, Google has moved up to sixth place (from 9th), while Pfizer has moved to 10th (from 15th). Roche, Johnson and Johnson and Toyota are ranked 7th, 8th and 9th, respectively.

8. [**Pharmacists urged to raise awareness on irrational use of medicines**](#) – The Hindu
Recognising pharmacists as experts in medicine, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda has appealed to them to help check irrational use of medicines by the public.

Speaking after launching the vision document 'Pharmacists for a Healthy India' at the 67th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress 2015 here on Sunday, Mr. Nadda said pharmacists, who are often the first persons to come in contact with the public, particularly in rural areas, should create awareness against irrational use of medicine.

9. [**Mapping post-marketing surveillance of pharmaceuticals in India**](#) – Financial Express
Ensuring safe and quality medicines requires continuous monitoring by regulators and manufacturers alike. While due care needs to be taken at the stage of product development and manufacturing, strong mechanisms are required even after the product has entered distribution networks. These include detection and assessment of adverse effects or any other drug-related problem that can be monitored through a pharmacovigilance programme in order to ensure patient safety with regard to the use of medicines.
10. [**U.S. FDA warns India's Sun Pharma for violating manufacturing standards**](#) – Reuters
India's largest drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd said it had received a warning letter from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for violating manufacturing standards at its Halol plant in western India.

Also appeared in [Economic Times](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [DNA](#)

11. [**CDSCO to review guidelines on biosimilars to meet healthcare needs**](#) – Pharmabiz
To improve access to biosimilars for meeting medical needs of the country, guidelines on biosimilars are expected to be released for stakeholder review shortly. The guidelines which were first released in 2012 in consultation with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and industry are in the process of revision currently.

The guidelines- Guidelines on Similar Biologics, released by the department of biotechnology in 2012 for the first time in June 2012, provided requirements for preclinical evaluation of those recombinant products that are claimed to be similar to the already approved biopharmaceutical products, referred as 'similar biologics'. These guidelines prescribe the quality, preclinical studies and clinical trial requirements of similar biologics in India.

This comes close on the heels of China FDA releasing its biosimilars guidelines last year which were finalised in March this year.

12. [**IPA president stresses on role of pharmacists in preventing counterfeiting of drugs**](#) – Pharmabiz
Alarmed by the rising concern over spurious medicines posing serious threat to health of the consumers, the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) president Rao V S V Vadlamudi has underlined the crucial role of supply chain comprising drug wholesalers and pharmacists in reducing and stopping of counterfeiting of drugs.

In a bid to enable drug wholesalers and pharmacists to identify counterfeit drugs and stop them from reaching consumers, IPA- Community Pharmacy Division (IPA-CPD) has conducted training sessions for them in Goa, Ulhasnagar & Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra and Annamalai in Tamil Nadu, Rao said.

13. [India has strong IPR laws: Boeing](#) – Business Standard
India has very strong laws on intellectual property rights (IPR) and Boeing does not see a threat of violation of these rights in the country, the US aviation major's India counsel said on Saturday.
Addressing a session on boosting the innovation climate in India, Prasad said Boeing has clocked \$10 billion worth of sales in India and looks at the country with optimism.

On the occasion, Pravin Anand, managing partner for Anand and Anand, a leading full service intellectual property firm, said India needs to do more to protect the creative class which was much smaller in number compared to the business and the user class.

"When creators see their work being copied without being adequately compensated, they lose the passion to innovate," Anand said.

Pratibha Singh, senior advocate and member of the national IPR think tank constituted by the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) under the commerce and industry ministry in 2014 to draft the national IPR policy, said that IPR jurisprudence in India was evolving in a very balanced manner.

"Patent litigation in India will boom in the next 20 years," she said.
14. [Lawmakers ask US watchdog to probe FDA's Asia oversight](#) – Business Standard
As China and India take larger roles in making the drugs found in American medicine cabinets, US lawmakers asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) ability to oversee plants in other countries.
15. [New medicine for Hepatitis C treatment launched](#) - – Economic Times
Two new drugs were launched for fighting Hepatitis C at an affordable price as experts from across the globe gathered here to discuss progress in finding treatment to the dreaded Hepatitis B and C liver diseases.

Dr Sarin informed that although both Hepatitis B and C are susceptible to control with access to right treatment, "more needs to be done to ensure increase in public awareness regarding them".
During the conference, two new drugs were launched for treatment of Hepatitis C disease at affordable price.
16. [Harvard University's Public Health School opening Mumbai centre](#) – Hindu Business Line
The Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health is to open its new centre in Mumbai, the first in South Asia, this Sunday, in a bid to help broaden and coordinate the School's nearly 60 years of collaboration to improve health in India and around the world.

The centre is to open at the Piramal Tower Annexe, in a space that has been provided by Swati Piramal and Ajay Piramal, two Harvard alumni. Swati Piramal, Vice Chairperson of Piramal Enterprises, graduated from Harvard's School of Public Health in 1992. Ajay Piramal, is a graduate of Harvard Business School and is the Chairman of the Piramal Group.
17. [30 years of India's fight against AIDS](#) – The Hindu
This year marks 30 years of India's fight against AIDS; and it is the first time we are witnessing the strongest evidence-based World Health Organisation (WHO) HIV guidelines to provide antiretroviral therapy (ART) to all those testing positive for HIV, regardless of the CD4 count.