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1. **How Indian Pharma Gets Away With Selling Substandard Drugs – Quint**

India has had a long tryst with substandard drugs. These drugs are less effective, cause the disease to last longer, and most dangerously, can cause antibacterial resistance. According to an *Indian Express* report earlier in December, Mozambique had raised concerns about quality of medicines that were exported from India. Shortly before that, the drug regulator in Vietnam had blacklisted 39 Indian pharmaceutical companies for exporting poor quality drugs. A report by IndiaSpend earlier this year revealed that one in seven Indian drugs are found to be substandard. The implications of this – in a country where over 50 percent of the total health expenditure is an "out-of-pocket cost burden on the people" – are dangerous and more often than not, fatal. When pushed into a corner, the Indian pharma industry seems to have four key strategies to fall back on.

2. **TrademarKing launches India's first Automated Trademark monitoring platform for manufacturers and service providers – Business Standard**

TrademarKing.in, India's leading trademark search engine has announced the launch of India's first automated trademark monitoring platform. Established business owners, manufacturers and new startups can register to this service for cost-free until 31st January 2017 to monitor their brand names. The trademark monitoring service is first of its kind in India business owners can leverage maximum benefit to protect their brands through this platform. The aim of this free launch by trademarKing.in is to create awareness about the importance of trademarks. One of the initiatives by Make in India policy is to protect Intellectual Property Rights, this monitoring platform by trademarKing.in will be an unprecedented move to safeguard the trademark rights of business proprietors.

3. **Violations force government to train pharma workers – Hindustan Times**

Since the reputation of India that is known as the pharmacy to the world is at stake, the government has begun sending health ministry staff to drug manufacturing hubs to train workers in good manufacturing practice. The training sessions will continue for five years. Last month, the US drug regulator found seven violations of manufacturing standards at Sun Pharmaceutical Industries

Ltd's formulations plant in Mohali, Punjab. Also, the US Food and Drug Administration had issued a warning to Wockhardt for violating current good manufacturing practice norms. "We need to put stringent regulation practices in place in accordance with foreign norms. Hence, we are planning workshops and hand-holding sessions at various locations," GN Singh, drug controller general of India, told HT. "As most units are in Himachal Pradesh's Baddi, we have begun holding sessions from there."

4. **Pharmaceutical sector hiring set for double-digit growth – The Times of India**

As some industries brace for slow hiring in the coming months, the Indian pharmaceutical sector's recruitment numbers are poised to continue growing in double digits next year as health awareness improves and lifespans increase. Drugmakers Novartis and Biocon and hospital chains Apollo Hospitals and Fortis Healthcare say the sector will see a surge in hiring across positions in areas such as diagnostics and administration, compounded by a growth in lifestyle and other non-communicable diseases. Industry experts said with the increasing growth potential of the pharma sector, about 10% increase in jobs can be expected in the next year. According to placement company TeamLease Services, the planned goods and services tax regime will result in double-digit job creation in pharma, with a prevailing job growth rate of 14%. "With the positive outlook of the sector, there will be an increase in frontline sales and middle-management positions in medical and marketing functions in the industry," said Sanjay Srivastava, director of HR at Boehringer Ingelheim India.

5. **AYUSH ministry working for development of Ayurveda: Naik – Press Trust of India**

AYUSH Ministry is making concerted efforts for systematic development of Ayurveda and other traditional medicines, Union Minister Shripad Yesso Naik said here today. There has been a resurgence of interest in the traditional healthcare system world over in the last two decades, Naik who is the union minister for Ayush said. "One of the reasons for it is that Ayurveda advocates preventive healthcare method of treatment ... Ayurveda is not a system of medicine but a science of life and longevity," he said while laying the foundation stone of a new building of Central Ayurveda Research Institute for Drug Development (CARIDD) at Salt Lake here. The eight-storey building would come up at a cost of Rs 58 crore.

6. **82% of urban middle-income Indians don't have health insurance: BigDecisions Survey – The Economic Times**

A recent survey by BigDecisions, a personal finance advisory platform, shows that 82.2% of urban middle-income Indians do not have health insurance. Of the 17.8% who have health cover, it is adequate to meet less than 67% of their expenses related to potential medical contingencies. That means over 33% of urban India is underinsured. Underinsurance level for families of 4 or more is at a staggering average of 49%. Inadequate coverage means a greater out of pocket expense. An evaluation of 9 lakh claims over five years shows a strong dip in claims received versus actual treatment cost. The gap increased when costs exceeded Rs 3 lakh per treatment. For instance, in 2015, for a treatment cost below Rs 3 lakh, 85% of claims were received; whereas, for a Rs 10 lakh treatment only 30% claims were received.

7. **Sun Pharma requests USFDA to withdraw 28 product approvals given to Ranbaxy – The Hindu Business Line**

Drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has "voluntarily requested" the United States Food and Drug Administration to withdraw approvals given to 28 Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs). "These older drug products belong to erstwhile Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd and are not being marketed in the US since 2008," the Mumbai-based company said of its action effected through one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries. The company did not, however, give details on the product approvals being withdrawn. Sun continues to be in the process of resolving issues raised by

the US regulator on its manufacturing facilities, including import bans on four plants that came in from Ranbaxy.

8. **Glenmark to enhance R&D activity and focus on specialty products for growth – Business Standard**

As part of its growth strategy for future, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals will focus on differentiated, specialty and innovative products especially in the three core therapeutic areas of oncology, dermatology and respiratory. As per the strategic blueprint to make the transition into an innovation?led global pharmaceutical organisation, the company is targeting 30 percent of total revenues from specialty and innovation segments over the next decade.

"Since 2000, it has been the primary objective of Glenmark to facilitate the company's evolution from a generics organisation to a fully integrated, globally commercialised pharmaceutical company with innovative products. Over the last 16 years, we have created significant shareholder value and this has been possible because of our continuous investments in R&D. As we prepare for the next wave of growth, we have built strong capabilities that uniquely positions us to differentiate our product offerings primarily in our core therapy areas and will invest across the value chain from generics to new molecular entities in our effort to build a truly global pharmaceutical organisation," stated Glenn Saldanha, chairman & managing director, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals.

9. **Health Ministry undertakes massive Biomedical Equipment Management and Maintenance Program – Medicaldialogues.in**

Taking serious note of the observations made by the Prime Minister on equipment in various hospitals that are either unused or there is no maintenance resulting in wastage of resources, Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, directed the officials of the Ministry to address this and devise appropriate mechanisms to ensure that medical equipment already purchased are properly maintained beyond their guarantee period. On the instructions of the Health Minister, a massive exercise to map the inventory of all bio-medical equipment was undertaken,including their functionality status. The mapping was successfully completed in 29 States resulting in 7,56,750 numbers of equipment in 29,115 health facilities costing approximately Rs 4564 Crores being identified. It was also noted that equipment in range of 13% to 34% was found to be dysfunctional across states. Cost of dysfunctional equipment is Rs. 1015.74 Cr.

10. **Revision of biosimilar guidelines by CDSCO in line with global norms to boost biosimilars access; Experts – Pharmabiz.com**

With Indian market benefiting from quick product regulatory approvals in biosimilars, the recent revision in guidelines by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has made it more aligned with global regulations. Besides this, regulatory landscape for biosimilars has been evolving with the global pioneer European Medicines Agency (EMA) also setting the trend, say experts. Biosimilars are copy versions of already approved originator biologics that are marketed after patent expiry for the originator product. As the safety and efficacy of the innovator product is already established, copy versions are allowed to be developed and evaluated using an abbreviated pathway established on biosimilarity principles.