

1. [Cipla, Pfizer, Sun take hit on NLEM price cut](#) – Economic Times

The revision of the National List of Essential Medicines will have an impact on companies like Cipla, Pfizer and Sun pharma according to analysis done by All Indian Origin Chemists & Distributors Ltd (AIOCD Ltd) a research firm.

Cipla will lose Rs 84 crore because of the price cuts followed by Pfizer which will see an erosion of Rs 56 crore and Sun Pharma that will have an impact of Rs 42 crore, AIOCD said.

Among the therapy areas, the new NLEM list will fall mostly on anti infectives, which will have a total value loss of Rs 170 crore, followed by cardiac drugs (Rs 130 cr).

2. [New drug price caps to help save up to 20%](#) - Times of India

The revision in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) by the government last week is expected to translate into savings of 10-20% for patients at the therapy level on widely used antibiotics, anti-infectives, cardiac and respiratory medicines. The overall coverage

of new medicines being added to the NLEM will be nearly Rs 8,000 crore in the organized pharma retail market, valued at Rs 95,000 crore (moving annual total), say initial estimates shared exclusively with TOI by market research firm AIOCD.

3. [Kiran Mazumdar Shaw: Life science developments to look out for in 2016](#) – Business Standard

These are exciting times for the life sciences sector as it builds on its understanding of the disease at the cellular and genetic level to usher in new and differentiated therapies into the market. Furthermore, biomedical advances are likely to transform global health with early diagnosis and therapeutic intervention for chronic and killer diseases like autoimmune diseases and cancer.

4. [Will India make it – 2016? Can health techcelerate?](#) – Financial Express

Science discovers, technology develops and public health delivers. This has been the mantra of health care transformation in the 20th century, alongside social and economic development which promoted health through improved living conditions. As India now sets out on an

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4. [Will India make it – 2016? Can health techcelerate?](#) – Financial Express
5. [Centre to recruit 1,000 patent agents](#) – Hindu Business Line
6. [\\$100-b turnover is Centres biotech target](#) – Hindu Business Line
7. [New drugs in 2015](#) – Business Today
8. [Health for All: Accelerating Universal Health Coverage in India](#) – Business Today
9. [DRL reintroduces generic version of Nexium](#) – The Hindu
10. [Conference on 'Affordability, availability, accessibility of medicines and IPR' to be held in Bengaluru on Jan 5](#) – Pharmabiz
11. [Industry urges govt to allow practices of small gifts, CMEs & free samples to doctors in revised UCPMP](#) – Pharmabiz
12. [India, Germany to begin research in national priority areas in health research & biomedical sciences soon](#) – Pharmabiz

ambitious path of accelerated economic development, can it use technology to improve India's lagging health indicators which will be a drag on the economic growth engine? The Prime Minister's call for innovative technologies to provide breakthrough solutions is most relevant for the health sector, where many Indians face accessibility and affordability barriers to appropriate health care and public health is in a precarious state of neglect in many parts of the country.

5. [Centre to recruit 1,000 patent agents](#) – Hindu Business Line

To give a push to its Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy and quicken the patent-approval process, the government plans to recruit 1,000 patent agents. While current data is not available, India had 137 patent examiners in 2010. With this additional workforce, the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks is expected to speed up the processes of patent approvals.

"We will add this workforce in the next six months," said Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, which falls under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. A patent examiner, as the name suggests, looks for uniqueness of an idea or process for which a patent has been applied. Industry sources said this recruitment will be done across the country in cities like Kolkata, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, and Chennai.

6. [\\$100-b turnover is Centres biotech target](#) – Hindu Business Line

Ahead of the 103rd Indian Science Congress in Mysuru next week, the Modi government on Wednesday unveiled the National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2015-2020, aimed at achieving \$100 billion in turnover by 2025, a more than ten-fold rise from the current \$7 billion.

Unveiling the strategy here on Wednesday, Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan said the target was "not imaginary" as the Centre was confident that biotech had the potential to be the next boom sector.

7. [New drugs in 2015](#) – Business Today

Year 2015 should be regarded as a good year for patients worldwide as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given approvals for 45 New Molecular Entity (NMEs) and New Therapeutic Biological Products (NTBP)s, the most in the past 4-5 years.

In 2014, there were 41 drugs, compared to 27 in 2013 and 39 in 2012.

A look at some of the innovations happened in 2015 gives us an idea on emerging trends and new treatments. While it may take a few more years for these drugs to reach India, it also offers next-generation treatment options to Indian patients in the coming years.

8. [Health for All: Accelerating Universal Health Coverage in India](#) – Business Today

A critical component of the United Nations' 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is health for all. However, despite a decade-long work under the National Rural Health Mission, a vast majority of Indians remains out of the health care-for-all umbrella. The more recent National Urban Health Mission of 2013 and the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana have only just begun. The WHO representative to India, Dr. Henk Bekedam, suggests ways to marry national and state priorities to bring quality health care to every Indian citizen.

9. [DRL reintroduces generic version of Nexium](#) – The Hindu

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories on Wednesday said it has reintroduced Esomeprazole Magnesium Delayed-Release capsules in the U.S. market after changing the capsule's colour. The drug, indicated for treatment of acid reflux, is a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Astrazeneca's Nexium. "The re-launch is due to a change in the capsule colour," according to a statement from Dr.Reddy's. The company had launched the generic version of Nexium in September, following USFDA approval. It, however, was restrained in November by a US court from selling the product after Astrazeneca objected to the use of the colour Purple for the

generic product. The temporary restraining order was passed pending further hearing or trial, Dr.Reddy's had said.

10. [Conference on 'Affordability, availability, accessibility of medicines and IPR' to be held in Bengaluru on Jan 5](#) – Pharmabiz

The Centre for Intellectual Property Rights Research and Advocacy and MHRD Chair on Intellectual Property Rights of National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru is organizing a one-day national conference on "Affordability, Availability, Accessibility of Medicines and IPR' on January 5, 2016 at International Training Centre, NLSIU, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru, in association with National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

Representatives from the government of India, government of Karnataka, pharmaceutical industry, academicians from pharma institutions, lawyers, law teachers, NGOs representing the cause of patients, and other stakeholders will be participating in the conference.

11. [Industry urges govt to allow practices of small gifts, CMEs & free samples to doctors in revised UCPMP](#) – Pharmabiz

Even as the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) is in the final stage of preparations to make the Uniform Code of Pharmaceuticals Marketing Practices (UCPMP) compulsory for pharma companies, the pharmaceutical industry in the country has asked the government to allow the companies to continue with some of its long standing practices like small gifts and free supply of physician samples to the doctor fraternity.

The industry has urged the government that certain long standing industry initiatives like providing small gifts of utility (less than Rs.1,000 of product value) to medical practitioners, CMEs on new drug and novel innovations for three years that better existing therapies, free supply of physician samples that also function as starter doses for poor patients should be allowed to continue.

Besides, the industry has also urged the government that the MCI guidelines, the CBDT circular of 1st August 2012 and the UCPMP should be suitably aligned to ensure these provisions are recognised and accepted.

12. [India, Germany to begin research in national priority areas in health research & biomedical sciences soon](#) – Pharmabiz

In order to facilitate bilateral cooperation between the scientific communities of India and Germany by way of joint research projects, India and Germany will soon research in the national priority areas in health research and biomedical sciences.

The focus of this programme will be national priority areas in health research and biomedical sciences such as maternal & child health and paediatric diseases, with a special focus on adolescent health; effects of climate change on health; and research for a healthier life -- strategies for prevention, health promotion and nutrition.