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1. **Green ChemisTree Foundation to organize Conference-cum-expo on "Green Chemistry & Engineering" from Feb 20-21 in Vizag – Pharmabiz.com**

The Green ChemisTree Foundation is all set to organize a two-day Conference-cum-expo on "Green Chemistry & Engineering" in Vishakhapatnam from February 20-21. The main aim of this conference is to enable greater business value for environmental conscious firms that are involved in the pharma supply chain.

The two day conference is organized by Green ChemisTree Foundation in collaboration with ACS Green Chemistry Institute's Pharmaceutical Roundtable (GCIPR) and Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Initiative (PSCI), with support from Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB), Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (BDMA) and Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI). "As Andhra Pradesh is emerging as the next pharmaceutical hub after Hyderabad in Telangana, the member companies which are involved in the pharma supply chain can utilize this opportunity and get acquitted with various aspects of green chemistry and environment protection," informed Ravi Uday Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmexcil, who is supporting this programme for the benefit of the pharmaceutical companies.

2. **Domestic drug makers ask US to remove India from IP watch list – Business Standard**

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) wants the US government to remove India from the list of countries with ineffective intellectual property rights frameworks. The IPA, which represents top domestic drug makers, has made a submission to the US Trade Representative Office (USTR), citing government initiatives and zero instances of compulsory licencing and patent revocation in the last two years as reasons for removing India from the list. In 2016 the USTR included in the priority watch list for "lack of sufficient measurable improvements to its intellectual property rights framework." The same year the US enacted the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act. The act allows the US government to devise an action plan and benchmarks for countries included in the

list. Benchmarks can include changes in norms which the countries have to make in order to facilitate US trade. The law also provides for sanctions and tariff barriers on countries for serious and continued non-compliance.

Similar reports –

- Indian pharma asks US to exclude India from list of IPR offenders – Business Today
- Remove India from patent violator list: Indian pharma body to US – Moneycontrol.com

3. **Govt to amend norms to empower NPPA to fix prices of 350 drugs – Hindustan Times**
The government on Saturday said it will soon amend norms to empower National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to regulate about 350 medicines and ensure they are sold at affordable rates. At present, NPPA is not able to regulate 350 medicines, which are under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), in the absence of market data. Therefore, the authority needs to be empowered by amending the Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO) for accessing the data. "It (amendments) will be done soon. Whatever required to empower NPPA will be done. It will be an independent authority vested with all powers," Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Ananth Kumar said on the sidelines of an international event 'India Pharma 2017' here. The price regulator will ensure that all medicines are regulated and are available at affordable rates to the public, he said. Last year in August, the Minister had said that the DPCO will be amended in 15 days to enable NPPA regulate about 350 medicines. But the amendments have not yet been done. Kumar said that much progress has been made to ensure medicines are available at affordable rates to people.

4. **Pharma and Med Tech Zone to be set up soon at Bengaluru: Ananth Kumar – The Economic Times**
In a move to boost domestic manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and medical devices in India under the Make in India mission, the government will work to set up a Pharma and Med Tech zone in Bengaluru soon, announced Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Ananth Kumar while inaugurating the second edition of the India Pharma & India Medical Device International Conference on Saturday. Deliberations are still underway at the highest levels in the government to make the Department of Pharmaceuticals an independent ministry, he explained. India's pharma sector, which has achieved a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of over 15%, would be worth $55 billion by 2020 from the present $32 billion, said the minister. India accounts for around 20% of the world's generic medicine supply chain, exporting to over 250 countries globally, and the country's pharma industry provides over 60% of global vaccines, he added. The sector has received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) close to $14 billion and has generated employment for over 2.5 million people across India this fiscal, the minister said.

5. **Drug pricing powers: Need for demarcation of roles between regulator & govt, says FICCI president – The Indian Express**
Expressing concern over unpredictability in drug pricing control regime, FICCI president Pankaj R Patel, also the chairman and managing director of Zydus Cadila, said that there is a need for a clear demarcation of roles between the pricing regulator and the central government. "There is a need to consider by the government the widening of scope of power to reduce (prices). I think there is a need to be clearly understood differentiation between a regulator and the government. Regulator is not a government. Government is a government. And, I think that clear definition and clear demarcation has to happen and that is what we need to ensure so that going forward, we have smooth working environment," Patel said while addressing the 'India Pharma 2017' exhibition in Bengaluru on Saturday.

6. **Pharma majors plan $2-billion investments to tap new business – Business Standard**
Indian pharma companies' annual spending on research and development (R&D) might cross $2 billion by 2017-18. Companies such as Sun Pharma, Lupin and Dr Reddy's have increased their spending to develop generic versions of complex drugs that are going off-patent in the world's

largest drug market, the US. India's drug makers spent $1.4 billion in the previous financial on R&D and are expected to spend about $1.7 billion in the current financial, according to industry estimates. The rising R&D spend is seen as Indian companies' attempt to protect themselves from the price erosion that plain generic drugs are facing in the US due to increasing competition and regulatory pressure. Complex generic drugs take longer time and cost more to develop, but provide protection from competition and price erosion.

"Unlike most approved generic drugs, complex generics are difficult to analyse and, therefore, difficult to reproduce in comparison to plain generics which leads to less competition," said a company spokesperson at Mumbai-based Glenmark, which entered complex products' market early on by launching dermatology and oral contraceptive products in the US. According to analysts' estimates, the company was expected to spend $160 million on R&D in FY 18, up from $116 million in FY16.

7. **Chronic non-communicable diseases ailing Indians – The Times of India**
   Practo's Healthcare map of India, found that concerns over chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is the major reason for urban India to visit doctors; (book appointments). Rapid urbanization and a fast-paced socio-economic development is contributing to the rising incidence of cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructed pulmonary disease and asthma), diabetes, hypertension etc. Additionally, poor dietary habits, physical inactivity, smoking and stress are some of the major contributors to the development and progression of preventable chronic diseases.

8. **Here's why India is struggling and failing to control tuberculosis – Hindustan Times**
   "You have TB," my general practitioner said. These three words changed my life," writes Deepti Chavan in The BMJ, who was treated by private practitioners in Mumbai. A year into the treatment, she was told she had multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) and needed surgery. Charan was 16 when she first started coughing. It was in the middle of school exams. After months of incessant coughing, a chest x-ray confirmed TB. It took six years of medicines, 400 injections, and two major surgeries to cure her. Chavan's treatment would have been more effective and less traumatic for her if her doctors had got a drug-susceptibility test done instead of simply changing prescription medicines, if they had listened when she said she had side effects, and if they had informed her about the options available in the public sector, where everyone diagnosed with TB is treated free under India's directly-observed treatment short-course (DOTS). That's a lot of "ifs" for a disease that is curable and treated free in the public sector.

9. **E-pharmacies: Doctors fear rise in self-medication and abuse unless online drug sales are checked – Scroll.in**
   The Drugs Controller General of India is considering tracking online sale of medicines to ensure patient safety. In December 2015, the drug regulator had issued a circular stating that sale of drugs over the internet is in contravention of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, a legislation which governs the sale of drugs in India. The Act says that all medicines have to be dispensed under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. However, after declaring e-pharmacies illegal, the regulator also instituted a sub-committee to examine online sales of medicines. In January this year, the sub-committee under the chairmanship of Dr Harshdeep Kamble, commissioner of Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration, submitted its report recommending the creation of a central portal to monitor movement of medicines sold online. Online pharmacies have been increasingly popular in India because they offer discounts and the convenience of getting a doorstep delivery of medicines. But doctors are worried about the absence of a pharmacist in dispensing medicines.

10. **Nutraceuticals market in India to double by 2020 – The Times of India**
    Riding high on around 20% annual growth in past six year, the nutraceuticals market in India is expected to double to Rs 26,764 crore by 2020. Drug Marketing and Manufacturing Association (DMMA) estimates that the nutraceutical industry is likely to grow by 16% compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) over the next five years. "With demand for nutrition supplements growing amid rise in lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, obesity and cardio vascular problems, there is a huge growth potential for nutraceuticals, a market largely dominated by multinationals and pharma giants," said Amit Thakkar, president, DMMA. The association, formed nine months ago in Gujarat, comprises around 100 nutraceutical manufacturers and marketers, who mainly represent micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Already a hub of pharmaceutical industry, Gujarat accounts for 20% of the nutraceutical market in India.

11. **Dr Reddy's launches generic drugs in France; expands operations in Europe – The Economic Times**
    Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd has announced the expansion of its commercial operations in Europe with the introduction of its portfolio of generics in France. According to a recently issued statement, the products will be made available in the hospital market in March this year in the area of oncology and anti-infectives, including antimycotics. The company recently launched select products of its hospital portfolio in Italy and Spain, and is looking to further strengthen its presence in those two countries with the launch of anti-HIV products this year. With a diversified portfolio of injectables and complex generics, Dr Reddy's currently has two Research and Development centres, one manufacturing, and a packaging and storage facility in Europe.

12. **Jharkhand DDCA supports DCGI move to control marketing of drugs as food supplements – Pharmabiz.com**
    Fully supporting the initiative of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to form a joint committee, comprising experts from Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), to scientifically classify neutraceutical and drug products, Joint Director (Drugs) at the Directorate of Drugs Control Administration (DDCA) in Jharkhand, Dr. Sujit Kumar wanted the central government to take stringent measures to stop the sale and marketing of drugs as food supplements. It is high time the central government intervened in the matter and restricted such unethical practices of pharmaceutical manufacturers and marketers in the interest of the nation and its people. Restriction is needed not only for protecting the health of the people, but also for restraining the pharmaceutical companies from escaping the price control, he said.