

1. [We will offer India new drugs at reasonable price: Andrew Witty, global CEO, GlaxoSmithKline](#) –

The Economic Times
GlaxoSmithKline is committed to offering all its new drugs in India at affordable prices, said Andrew Witty, the global CEO of the \$33-billion British pharmaceuticals and vaccines maker. In an interview with ET's Vikas Dandekar, Witty talks about GSK's India plans, the local IP laws and the debate on high pricing of drugs. PM Modi has supported IP protection. I think it is important that just by having protection, a company does not get the right to charge a price that it wants. At GSK, we have a tiered pricing approach.

2. [Centre focuses on ailing healthcare](#) – The Hindu

Concerned about spiralling prices of medicines to treat diseases such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular conditions, the Centre's Department of Pharmaceuticals plans to offer 439 life-saving medicines, including cancer and cardiovascular drugs, as well as 250 medical devices like stents and implants at 40-50% discounted prices.

The drugs and devices will be made available through the Jan Aushadhi stores opened across the country. Branded generics dominate the pharmaceuticals sector, constituting nearly 70 to 80 per cent of the market. India is the largest provider of generic drugs globally with the Indian generics accounting for 20 per cent of global exports in terms of volume.

Now aiming to pass the benefit to its people, the government is bringing in schemes to bring down prices of essential medicines without using direct price regulation. The government has floated tenders in a bid to get the new plan rolling.

3. ['Trans-Pacific pact may impact exports'](#) – The Hindu

The TPP agreement (which India is not a part of) was reached in October last year and the member countries have two years to ratify the pact.

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The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), or the mega-regional free trade pact led by the U.S. and including 11 other Asia-Pacific countries, is likely to indirectly impact India's exports in several industrial sectors such as textiles, plastics, leather, clothing, cotton and yarn, besides the country's regime on investment, labour standards, intellectual property rights (IPR), government procurement and State-owned enterprises (SOE), according to Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

She said some of the TPP standards were higher than that of the WTO norms, including on IPR and possible ever-greening of patents, which could hurt India's pharma sector. The operations and the production methods of India's public sector units (or SOEs) could also be constrained due to the TPP, she said.

4. [India-EU FTA talks' revival likely to be delayed](#) – Mint

Demands for India to show more flexibility in the import of European automobiles, wine, cheese and legal services have delayed the prospects of a quick revival of talks on a free trade agreement (FTA) between the European Union (EU) and India. The deal's fate will now be decided after "talks about talks" between senior officials on both sides, dates for which are yet to be finalized.

Progress on the FTA has been slow. India cancelled a meeting with EU's chief trade negotiator in August last year in protest against an import ban on 700 of its generic drugs clinically tested by GVK Biosciences for alleged manipulation of clinical trials. Later, during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, in the Turkish city of Antalya in November on the margins of the G-20 meet, both sides agreed to hold a stocktaking meeting between the chief negotiators in January—before formal talks are resumed. However, in the chief trade negotiators' meeting last month, though both sides expressed interest in sealing a balanced trade deal, EU sought another meeting with the Indian commerce secretary before it takes a call on resuming the stalled trade negotiations.

5. [Sun Pharma launches Imatinib Mesylate, incentives to US leukemia patients](#) – The Economic Times

Drug maker Sun Pharmaceuticals today launched Imatinib Mesylate, the generic copy of anti-cancer drug Gleevec, in the US market. Being a first-to-file product, the company will enjoy 180 days of marketing exclusivity by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Unlike Gleevec, Imatinib Mesylate is only approved to treat chronic myeloid leukemia. The drug's Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) did not seek approval for the method of treatment of patients with gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST)—a rare type of malignant tumor often found in the wall of the stomach. "As a result, FDA has not approved Sun Pharma's Imatinib Mesylate Tablet products for GIST indication," stated the company.

6. [Sun hopes cut-price generic Gleevec will win third of U.S. market](#) – Reuters

India's Sun Pharma ([SUN.NS](#)) launched a generic version of Novartis's ([NOVN.VX](#)) leukaemia drug Gleevec on Monday in the United States and hopes to poach a third of sales in six months by pricing the copycat some 30 percent cheaper, its Sun's North American chief executive said.

Gleevec, or imatinib mesylate, costs up to about \$90,000 annually in the United States, implying Sun's price could be roughly \$60,000. Gleevec posted \$4.7 billion in global revenue in 2015, and Swiss-based Novartis has said the U.S. patent expiry puts around \$2.5 billion in annual sales at risk.

7. [U.S. appeals court ruling may clear barrier to generic OxyContin](#) – Reuters

A federal appeals court ruled Monday that four patents related to Purdue Pharma's painkiller OxyContin are invalid, potentially bringing Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and others a step closer to introducing generic versions of the drug.

Privately owned, Connecticut-based Purdue had sued Teva, Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Epic Pharma and a U.S. arm of Mylan NV after they sought approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to make generic OxyContin.

Monday's ruling by the Federal U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld earlier orders from a lower court judge in favor of the generic drugmakers.

8. [Online drug stores taking a holistic approach](#) – The Hindu

With the government still working on laws and regulations to monitor and streamline this multi-crore sector, online pharmacies are growing exponentially due to availability of cheaper medicines and services right at your door step, say trade watchers.

Large players in the industry include Netmeds.com, BigChemist.com, Inayo.in, Ziggy.com, and Pluss.com among many others.

Amit Munjal, co-founder and CEO of Doctor Insta (a video-medicine company), said: "Today it is not just about buying medicines online. It has to be a complete package. We want to offer our customers a holistic package."

9. [A slow-release pill](#) – The Hindu

The AAP govt. has rolled out its ambitious free medicines scheme, but doctors at govt. hospitals say it will take a few weeks before all drugs are available

Delhi Government hospitals on Monday admitted that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's announcement to provide free medicines to all coming in for treatment from February 1 "will take a while to be 100 percent successful."

No shortage of medicines and consumables mentioned in the Essential Drug List in the Delhi government hospitals from February 1 was Mr. Kejriwal's promise to the city.

"We will ensure 100 per cent availability of medicines and consumables as mentioned in the Essential Drug List (EDL) at the city hospitals. 2016 will be the year of health and education for Delhiites," the CM had said.

10. [Ipca Labs gets warning letter from USFDA for 3 plants](#) – The Economic Times

Drug firm Ipca Laboratories has received warning letter from the US health regulator for three facilities on which the regulator had earlier imposed a import ban for not adhering to the good manufacturing norms. Earlier in regulatory filings to the bourses, Ipca had said that USFDA after inspections at its manufacturing units situated at Ratlam, SEZ Indore and Piparia had issued Form 483 observations "which subsequently resulted in issuance of import alert on these manufacturing units."

11. [Bhupendra Singh takes over as new NPPA chairman](#) – Pharmabiz

Bhupendra Singh, an Indian Administrative Service officer of 1985 cadre from Uttar Pradesh has taken over as the new chairman of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). He has earlier served as the principal secretary, government of Uttar Pradesh, divisional commissioner of Meerut, secretary general of a UN sponsored International Jute Study Group based in Dhaka and also joint secretary, textiles, government of India.

Before Bhupendra Singh took over as the NPPA chairman, Injeti Srinivas who was holding the additional charge of chairman of NPPA, has taken over as the new director general of Sports Authority of India (SAI). A 1983 cadre IAS officer from Odisha cadre, Srinivas is a graduate in economics and masters in business administration.