

1. [Draft policy seeks to make health a fundamental right](#) –

Times of India

In a step towards increasing accessibility and availability of healthcare services for all, the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare held a high-level meeting on Saturday to discuss the draft National Health Policy which has suggested making health a fundamental right.

The draft policy has been pending for the last one year after being placed in public domain in January 2015 seeking stakeholder comments and suggestions.

2. [Govt approves scheme to strengthen drug regulatory system](#) – Business Standard

The government has approved a scheme to strengthen the drug regulatory system for detecting distribution and marketing of spurious drugs in the country, Lok Sabha was informed today.

Noting that Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has also

been amended and provisions made for setting up of special courts, Union Health Minister J P Nadda said 26 states and Union Territories have also set up designated special courts for trial of offences under the Act.

3. [Govt committed to provide affordable & quality health care](#) – Business Standard

Union Health Minister J P Nadda today said the government is committed to provide affordable and quality health care to the people of the country.

Chairing the 12th conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare to discuss the draft National Health Policy (NHP), 2016, Nadda said government is committed to provide affordable and quality health care to the people of the country.

4. [Affordable and accessible healthcare is a challenge](#) – Hindu Business Line

The average cost of treatment in private hospitals, excluding child birth, is about four times than that of public healthcare facilities, reflecting the challenges that India faces in providing affordable and accessible healthcare, according to the Economic Survey. It also said with limited

1. [Draft policy seeks to make health a fundamental right](#) – Times of India

2. [Govt approves scheme to strengthen drug regulatory system](#) – Business Standard

3. [Govt committed to provide affordable & quality health care](#) – Business Standard

4. [Affordable and accessible healthcare is a challenge](#) – Hindu Business Line

5. [Budget 2016: Pharma expects a simplified tax regime](#) – Financial Express

6. [NPPA fixes price of 45 medicine packs](#) – ET Health World

7. [Achhe din likely for health sector](#) – India Today

8. [Efforts on to get Indian pharma on the same page as USFDA over quality standards](#) – Business Today

9. [Fund crunch hits Indian drug trial](#) – The Hindu

10. [Budget 2016: Healthcare cannot wait, Mr Jaitley; healthy India can hasten wealthy India](#) – First Post

11. [Mazumdar-Shaw backs move to have separate pharma ministry](#) – Moneycontrol.com

12. [New TB drug won't come to India soon](#) – Times of India

13. [Indian Companies Want to Sell U.S. Customers More Drugs](#) – Fortune

14. [Fine on J&J Vindicates ex-Indian Drug Inspector](#) – Economic Times

15. [How India can avert a youth backlash](#) – Hindustan Times

16. [Now, antibiotics packs will carry red line](#) – DNA

17. [Make in India reinforces Brand India. A look at how key Indian sectors present huge opportunities for investment and growth](#) – YourStory.com

resources and competing demands in the health sector, it is essential for the government to prioritise its expenditure in the sector.

5. [Budget 2016: Pharma expects a simplified tax regime](#) – Financial Express  
It is an accepted fact that the Make-in-India vision encompasses huge potential for the pharma sector and all the calls in 2016 would be towards an increase in government expenditure on public health. Recognised as one of the most cost-effective producers of essential medicines globally and catering to 30% of the demand for generics drugs worldwide, India Inc eyes Budget FY17 with praying hands, with the biggest expectation being a simplified tax regime.

6. [NPPA fixes price of 45 medicine packs](#) – ET Health World  
The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the price of 45 formulation packs including those used for treating cancer, epilepsy, heartburn, eczema and bacterial infections.

7. [Achhe din likely for health sector](#) – India Today  
There may soon be 'achhe din' for the healthcare sector as the Health Ministry is optimistic of an escalation in health Budget by around 20 per cent this fiscal.

While a major chunk of the funds have already been utilised, the Health Ministry is hoping to get ample funds for smooth functioning of all its programmes and schemes, sources said.

8. [Efforts on to get Indian pharma on the same page as USFDA over quality standards](#) – Business Today  
The language may be different but the end goal of the messages seems identical. Two different sets of communication over the past couple of days, one from the US drug regulator and the other from the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, hold out new signs of hope for the Indian pharma industry.

9. [Fund crunch hits Indian drug trial](#) – The Hindu  
Three years after the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) said it would conduct a drug trial to test a novel drug-regimen for tuberculosis (TB), lack of funds is throttling the project, several officials involved with the project told The Hindu on condition of anonymity.

10. [Budget 2016: Healthcare cannot wait, Mr Jaitley; healthy India can hasten wealthy India](#) – First Post  
The Indian Health care industry is growing at a rapid pace (CAGR of 17 per cent) and is expected to become a US \$280 billion industry by 2020. Even so, nearly one million Indians die every year due to inadequate healthcare facilities and close to 700 million people have no access to specialist care.

There are wide gaps between the rural and urban population in its health care system. Improvement in health care infrastructure and facilities and ease of access to them is the only way India can fight against diseases. For that to happen, government spending on healthcare must go up. However, the state of affairs, as they are now, is not very encouraging.

11. [Mazumdar-Shaw backs move to have separate pharma ministry](#) – Moneycontrol.com  
Leading industrialist Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has backed government's proposal to establish a separate ministry for pharma, expressing hope that it would end the current confusion and chaos in the sector due to multi-ministerial control. "I think it will, because it's too confused right now. The whole sector is being sort of under the purview of multi-ministerial control. So, I think that is causing a lot of chaos", the chief of Biocon, the country's biggest biotech company told PTI.

12. [New TB drug won't come to India soon](#) – Times of India  
Patient groups and medical humanitarian organizations have expressed concern on the availability and prices of a new tuberculosis (TB) drug, emphasizing the need for effective treatments being accessible to patients suffering from drug-resistant strains of the disease.

Patents are not granted "merely to enable patentees to enjoy a monopoly on a patented medicine", and the government must take steps to ensure that the drug becomes available to the National TB programme so that MDRTB and XDR-TB patients have access to the most effective treatments, experts add. In India's pre-2005 patent system, if a company did not bring a new drug to India, generic companies could step in to register the drug in India and start supply. Today, with product patents being granted, this cannot be done easily.

13. [Indian Companies Want to Sell U.S. Customers More Drugs](#) – Fortune

Indian pharmaceutical companies have been trying to get a bigger share of the U.S. generic drug market.

Last year, Indian drugmakers paid \$1.5 billion to buy U.S. companies, according to Dealogic data. The reason for the heavy investment is likely due to the growth in the U.S. generic drug market, which is expected to reach \$71.9 billion by 2018, reported the Wall Street Journal.

14. [Fine on J&J Vindicates ex-Indian Drug Inspector](#) – Economic Times

The \$72-million fine on US consumer and pharma goods major, Johnson & Johnson by a court in St Louis has vindicated a former Maharashtra Food and Drug inspector who was the first Indian regulator to take a tough stand against the MNC for not following adequate safety norms in the manufacturing process, he claims. Mahesh Zagde in 2013 had cancelled the manufacturing licence of J&J for its baby powder making facility in Mulund as it found certain batches of the talcum powder were sterilised using ethylene oxide, a carcinogenic substance that can cause cancer. He was transferred from his post following the move, he said. But J&J has taken a defensive stand on the development.

15. [How India can avert a youth backlash](#) – Hindustan Times

An incendiary and violent jobs reservation protest by young people from the Jat community in Haryana got very close to bringing the capital of India to a standstill. Is this an ominous sign of social upheaval that looms in the horizon?

Henrik Urdal of the Harvard Kennedy School finds that globally, it is nearly all young men who fight in wars or commit violent crimes and found that a "youth bulge" made them more strife-prone.

India is currently enjoying a 'demographic dividend', which means it has a higher labour force than the population dependent on it. While this may appear a reason for blissful complacency, it must be remembered that by the latter half of the century India will have an increasingly aging population, yet the country lacks a social security net adequate for the needs of its people. The healthcare sector is really where India must up its game.

16. [Now, antibiotics packs will carry red line](#) – DNA

In a first-of-its-kind decision, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday announced that all antibiotics packets will carry a red line. The move is aimed at raising awareness and promoting rational use of antibiotics. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the antimicrobial resistance will contribute to around 10 million deaths worldwide by 2050.

17. [Make in India reinforces Brand India. A look at how key Indian sectors present huge opportunities for investment and growth](#) – YourStory.com

The Government of India's ambitious initiative, which aims to transform the country from being Asia's third-largest economy into a global manufacturing powerhouse, Make in India, completed one year in September 2015. The initiative has set an ambitious goal of creating 100 million additional jobs in the manufacturing sector by 2022, and increasing the share of manufacturing in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 25 per cent from 16 per cent.