

1. [Policies to control tobacco use can significantly increase govt revenues: Global report](#) – Daily News and Analysis

Policies to control tobacco use, including tobacco tax and price increase can generate significant government revenues for health and development work, according to a new global report from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the National Cancer Institute of the United States of America (USA).

Such measures can also greatly reduce tobacco use and protect people's health from the world's leading killers, like cancers and heart disease. But left unchecked, the tobacco industry and the deadly impact of its products cost the world's economies more than US\$ 1 trillion (Rs. 681765 crores) annually in healthcare expenditures and lost productivity, according to findings published in The economics of tobacco and tobacco control.

The monograph released with the report has examined existing evidence on two broad areas, i.e. the economics of tobacco control, including tobacco use and growing, manufacturing and trade, taxes and prices, control policies and other interventions to reduce tobacco use and its consequences; and the economic implications of global tobacco control efforts.

2. [Pharma market gets a December chill](#) – Mint

November saw pharmaceutical market sales jump as chemists were allowed to accept demonetised Rs500 and Rs 1, 000 notes in exchange for selling medicines. It also meant fewer prescriptions to fill in December. Sales growth jumped to 15.5% in November (from 8.9% in October) but slipped to 7.2% in December, according to market research firm AIOCD Pharmasofttech AWACS Pvt. Ltd. The December quarter's sales growth at 10.6% was lower compared to 15.1% in the year-ago quarter and 13.5% in the September quarter. Price-led growth has shrunk for the past two quarters, and is attributable to price cuts. The quarter's growth figure reflects a slowdown in volume growth and in price growth, with the contribution from new products holding steady. January data should give an idea of the lasting effect, if any, of demonetization on demand for medicines.

3. [SJM slams Niti Aayog's two year performance](#) – Business Standard

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), a Sangh Parivar affiliated economic think tank, on Tuesday held a roundtable conference on "two years of Niti Aayog" and the participants, several of whom were from the Sangh Parivar, said the body had failed to live up to expectations that it would recast India's economic planning by making it more indigenous. On a day that Niti Aayog brought out a study on how demonetisation didn't impact farmers, the participants criticised the commission for venturing into sectors like agriculture and health, where its understanding of issues was

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4. [GOP will work on repealing, replacing health law: Paul Ryan](#) – The Indian Express
5. [Gene-based drugs to cure chronic diseases in 10-15 years: Kurukshetra University professor](#) – The Times of India
6. [ChrysCapital to sell stake in Intas Pharma](#) – Mint
7. [Amgen and Immatico to collaborate for cancer drug research](#) – Business Standard
8. [Inactivated polio vaccine shortage: Type 2 polio virus strain poses threat](#) – The Times of India

questionable. Experts said Niti Aayog leadership was confused about its role, whether it was a think tank or a policy-making institute.

The roundtable was attended by experts in the field of planning, health and agriculture and chaired by SJM's Ashwani Mahajan. Niti Aayog member Bibek Debroy also attended the opening session of the roundtable but didn't address the gathering.

4. [**GOP will work on repealing, replacing health law: Paul Ryan – The Indian Express**](#)

Republicans will work on unraveling and replacing the health care law at the same time, House Speaker Paul Ryan said Tuesday as GOP leaders struggled to align their zeal to rapidly erase one of President Barack Obama's proudest achievements with Congress' legislative and political pitfalls. Ryan, R-Wis., spoke to reporters amid growing concern among Republican lawmakers about erasing Obama's overhaul —which expanded coverage to 20 million people — without having an alternative to show voters. Republicans have been divided for years over how to replace the statute, and the process of crafting replacement legislation they can unify behind is likely to take months or longer. "It is our goal to bring it all together concurrently," Ryan said. "We will pass as much as we can" initially, Ryan said. He said Republicans would then produce a second bill to "show you the full scope of what a real replacement effort looks like."

President-elect Donald Trump has said he supports erasing Obama's law and replacing it simultaneously. Congressional leaders had said in recent weeks that they would quickly repeal the statute and with a delayed effective date, and then work on replacing it.

5. [**Gene-based drugs to cure chronic diseases in 10-15 years: Kurukshetra University professor – The Times of India**](#)

A professor of Kurukshetra University (KU) was selected to deliver the platinum jubilee lecture in chemical sciences at the 104th Indian Science Congress at Tirupati from January 3 to 7. Every year one researcher is selected from across India to deliver the platinum jubilee lecture and the honour went to KU's professor Pawan Kumar Sharma this time. Talking to TOI, he said the present day medicines provided only relief, but did not tackle the root cause of the diseases. "In the coming 10-15 years, we may overcome these problems and would be able to eradicate the chronic diseases with the development of gene-based medicines," he said. He said traditional medicines, plant extracts and allopathy medicines were being used currently but the cutting-edge research was progressing in another direction

6. [**ChrysCapital to sell stake in Intas Pharma – Mint**](#)

Home-grown private equity (PE) firm ChrysCapital has decided to offload its remaining stake in Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd, a privately held drug maker based in Ahmedabad, and is holding discussions to dilute at least half of the stake shortly, two people aware of the development said. "The company is looking to dilute around 3% now and has reached out to other bulge-bracket PE firms for the same. The other 3%, they will carry on to the next fund," said one of the persons mentioned above on condition of anonymity as the PE firm has just initiated the stake-sale process. Delhi-based ChrysCapital, which had first invested in the pharmaceutical firm in 2006, its first bet in the pharma space, is expected to get as much as \$100 million from the sale of its stake, said the second person, also on condition of anonymity.

7. [**Amgen and Immatics to collaborate for cancer drug research – Business Standard**](#)

Amgen and Immatics Biotechnologies GmbH, the German company that specialises in the field of cancer immunotherapy, have entered in to a research collaboration and exclusive license agreement to develop next-generation, T-cell engaging bispecific immunotherapies targeting multiple cancers. The collaboration will combine Immatics' Xpresident target discovery and T-cell receptor (TCR) capabilities with Amgen's validated Bispecific T-cell Engager (BiTE) technology with the aim of

creating novel oncology drugs. Amgen will be responsible for the clinical development, manufacturing and commercialisation worldwide.

Under the terms of the agreement, Immatics will receive an upfront fee of \$ 30 million and is eligible to receive over \$ 500 million in development, regulatory and commercial milestone payments for each program and tiered royalties up to a double-digit percentage of net sales.

8. [Inactivated polio vaccine shortage: Type 2 polio virus strain poses threat](#) – The Times of India

At a time when the state is reeling under shortage of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), paediatricians have expressed their concern over children being exposed to Type 2 virus strain of polio. In the state, children are administered IPV for protection against Type 2 polio virus strain. Since there is a shortage of IPV, the health department can only administer oral polio vaccine (OPV) for Type 1 and Type 3 virus strains to children. But, the OPV available now is bivalent and cannot be used to vaccinate children against Type 2 virus strain. However, the health department claimed that Type 2 virus strain has already been eradicated from the country. But paediatricians believe that Type 2 strain still poses a big threat.