

1. [Government panel wants prices of stents, medical implants capped](#) – Times of India

In a move that could help keep medical costs in check, a government task force has recommended that prices of medical devices, including cardiac stents and implants, be regulated under a mechanism that is distinct from medicines. The committee has taken the view that costs of medical devices should balance consumer and medical industry interests so that the volume of business provides a sufficient incentive to manufacturers.

1. [Government panel wants prices of stents, medical implants capped](#) – Times of India
2. [Government looks to cap trading margin on drugs at 35%](#) - Economic Times
3. [Providing effective, efficient and affordable healthcare: where does India stand?](#) – Mint
4. [Did a red herring over drug safety put paid to India's first new drug?](#) – Business Today
5. [A Strict FDA, competition may slow pharma growth; export may halve to 8 per cent by 2020: Study](#) – Economic Times
6. [India, EU hold stock-taking meet on outstanding issues on FTA](#) – The Hindu
7. [MRCTs reduce innovative medicine lag time in India & benefit patients with advanced therapies: Dr Shenoy](#) – Pharmabiz

2. [Government looks to cap trading margin on drugs at 35%](#) - Economic Times

Drug prices may come down sharply in the coming days as government is likely to cap the trading margin on medicines at 35 per cent.

Chemists and wholesalers are charging margins as high as 2000-3000 per cent in some medicines. Therefore, there is a huge difference between the costing of medicine to retailer and its selling price. It needs to be checked, a senior government official told PTI.

A total of 680 medicines are under the National List of Essential Medicines ( NLEM) under the scheduled category of DPCO, 2013. The NPPA has already fixed the ceiling prices in respect of 530 medicines.

Out of these 530 scheduled formulations, the price reduction was above 40 per cent in 126 drugs compared with the highest prevailing price prior to announcement of DPCO.

Also appeared in [Business Standard](#), [DNA](#) and [NDTV Profit](#)

3. [Providing effective, efficient and affordable healthcare: where does India stand?](#) – Mint

The National Health Policy 2015 draft by the Government of India endorses the goal for providing universal access to good quality healthcare services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. To discuss the challenges faced by the healthcare sector in India and to analyze the opportunities that lie ahead, Mint organized Mint Connect: Healthcare Summit on 16th December in Mumbai with the theme- 'Providing effective, efficient and affordable healthcare: Where does India stand?' In Indian philosophy we believe in 'Antyodaya' meaning serving the last man in the queue but when it comes to healthcare accessibility, affordable healthcare still remains a dream for many.

4. [Did a red herring over drug safety put paid to India's first new drug?](#) – Business Today  
On December 16, 2015, the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) removed the final restrictions on the use of rosiglitazone, an anti-diabetes medicine. While it was an important development that came as a relief to pharma companies, it also raises a nostalgic point around the efforts of those engaged in drug development using this class of compound.

5. [A Strict FDA, competition may slow pharma growth; export may halve to 8 per cent by 2020: Study](#) - Economic Times  
Tighter scrutiny of Indian manufacturing sites by US drug regulators, increased competition and weaker currencies in key markets such as Africa and Russia are likely to slow down the growth of Indian pharmaceutical exports over the next four years, says a new study.

The annual growth rate in pharmaceutical exports may almost halve to 7.98% by 2020 from 14.77% CAGR during 2010- 2014, according to a joint report on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) by TechSci Research and industry chamber Assocham.

6. [India, EU hold stock-taking meet on outstanding issues on FTA](#) – The Hindu  
India and the European Union on Monday held a stock-taking meeting on “outstanding issues” — including duty cut on automobiles and wines/spirits as well as easier temporary movement of skilled professionals — which had stalled talks on the proposed bilateral free trade agreement (FTA).

The talks were to be restarted in August 2015, but India deferred them expressing disappointment and concern over the EU banning sale of around 700 pharma products clinically tested by GVK Biosciences.

On this issue, Ms. Teatota said: “There has been a progress ... As we speak, our delegation is already in Brussels and there is a meeting (going on) between the regulators to discuss the GVK matter”.

7. [MRCTs reduce innovative medicine lag time in India & benefit patients with advanced therapies: Dr Shenoy](#) – Pharmabiz  
Multi-regional clinical trials (MRCT) would pave the way to reduce innovative medicine lag time in India and benefit the patients in need of these innovative therapies, said Dr Premnath Shenoy, chief technical officer, Dossier Solutions and Services.

While these trials are a big advantage for India, regulators must create a conducive environment for the global companies to include India in MRCT.

Through carefully controlled clinical studies, researchers can thoroughly assess the safety and efficacy of new drug candidates. There are over 7,000 innovative drugs in development worldwide which is an all-time high. Over \$500 billion has been invested in R&D since year 2000 by research based global companies and therefore hope is certainly on the horizon. In the last ten years over 300 new medicines have been approved by the FDA. Now the objective of MRCT globally is to bring new medical treatments to patients, as fast as possible in a scientific manner.