

1. [Health ministry to begin drafting of Drugs and Cosmetics \(Amendment\) Bill after Union Budget](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Union health ministry is all set to commence drafting of Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 for upgradation and introduction of provision for newer areas of biological, stem cells and regenerative medicines, medical devices and clinical trials after the Budget. This would be in step with the central government's 'Make in India' initiative. The move was welcomed by Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI).

"OPPI is appreciative of the fact that the Committees constituted by the Government to look into various aspects of law such as new drugs, clinical trials, manufacture etc. are engaging with stakeholders in the evolutionary process. OPPI looks forward to a continued engagement with the government in its endeavour to establish a transparent, process-driven and standardised regulatory structure," said Kanchana TK, Director General, OPPI.

1. [Health ministry to begin drafting of Drugs and Cosmetics \(Amendment\) Bill after Union Budget](#) – Pharmabiz.com
2. [Union Budget 2017: An opportunity to drive innovation and rapid growth in the pharma sector](#) – The Financial Express
3. [India should prepare strategy to prevent emerging & chronic diseases](#) – Business Standard
4. [Demonetisation may usher in the era of cashless healthcare](#) – Deccan Herald
5. [Suven Life gets patent for neuro-degenerative drug](#) – The Economic Times
6. [Higher tax exemption in Budget can make health insurance affordable to public at large](#) – Firstpost
7. [WHO team to help State meet health targets](#) – The Hindu
8. [Need for promotion of API industry and SMEs to boost pharma industry: IDMA](#) – Pharmabiz.com
9. [Indian paediatric vaccines market driven by new drug launches](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. [DoP directs NPPA to desist from fixing ceiling prices on its own derived principles; asks it to stick to provisions of DPCO 2013](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. [Union Budget 2017: An opportunity to drive innovation and rapid growth in the pharma sector](#) – The Financial Express

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is on the threshold of becoming a major global market by 2020 with revenues close to Rs 1,652 billion (FY 2014-15), and is expected to grow at a 15-20% CAGR. Exports clocked revenues close to Rs 942.75 billion in FY 2014-15.1

Recognizing the importance of intellectual property (IP) as a driver of technological innovation, last year, the government introduced a patent box regime, largely similar to that followed in many countries globally. While this was a good start, the government may consider some additional aspects in order to strengthen the regime and make it more attractive for the industry.

3. [India should prepare strategy to prevent emerging & chronic diseases](#) – Business Standard

Healthcare over the last few years is considered as one of the largest sectors in terms of both revenue and employment. While, Indian healthcare sector is predicted to grow \$ 280 billion in size by 2020, the country still lags behind due to major problems in accessing medical treatments, high mortality rates, lack of awareness and malnutrition, amongst other. This is mostly due to the patchiness in health care system. The healthcare sector in India is overcrowded with private and public players. Indian healthcare features cluttered hospitals and clinics on one hand and

unaffordable hospitals on the other. This difference has created a vacuum in the industry which has further created an evident divide. In the last few years, it has been noticed that there is a shortfall in the specialist at some places. Adequate doctors, nurses and other health cadres are missing from hospitals which need them the most. This further deteriorates the quality of care which is today majorly palpable in government run hospitals. The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) numbers show a decrease in the use of public hospitals over the past two decades—only 32 percent of urban Indians use them now, compared with 43 percent in 1995-96. Hence, this makes human resources another challenge which has creates roadblocks towards a healthy India. The shortage of qualified medical professionals is one of the key challenges facing the Indian health care.

4. [Demonetisation may usher in the era of cashless healthcare](#) – Deccan Herald

The demonetisation of banknotes of denomination Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 took the country by surprise. Temporary inconveniences apart, this bold move has given great impetus to the growth of a cashless economy in the country. This is a significant step forward for the healthcare industry. Healthcare is a recurring and expensive occurrence for every family. Recent reports suggest that primary healthcare accounts for over 70% of all medical spend, and pegs the market at around Rs 1,35,000 crore. This, by corollary, indicates that the overall healthcare market in the country stands at approximately Rs 1,80,000 crore. Only 2% of the Indian population is covered by individual health insurance policies; and only another 4% is covered under group medical policies. This suggests that a significant portion of healthcare expenses today are borne out-of-pocket by Indian families. Considering the fact that one usually transacts with notes of higher denominations for payments at medical centres, demonetisation has had a direct impact on the ability of families to manage their medical care.

5. [Suven Life gets patent for neuro-degenerative drug](#) – The Economic Times

Drug firm Suven Life Sciences has been granted a patent by Australia for a drug used in the treatment of neuro-degenerative diseases. Suven Life in a filing to BSE stock exchange announced "the grant of one product patent from Australia corresponding to the New Chemical Entities (NCEs) for the treatment of disorders associated with neurodegenerative diseases." The patent is valid till 2033, the filing said. Suven Life CEO Venkat Jasti said: "We are very pleased by the grant of these patents to Suven for our pipeline of molecules in the CNS arena, which are being developed for cognitive disorders with high unmet medical need with a huge market potential globally." With this new patent, Suven has a total of 25 granted patents from Australia.

6. [Higher tax exemption in Budget can make health insurance affordable to public at large](#) – Firstpost

The year 2016 experienced innovations and developments in the insurance industry that brought changes in the sector aimed at benefiting the customers. The opening of e-insurance account is one such example that will help the customers in the long run. Also, the introduction of selling and buying of insurance policies through e-commerce will certainly bring a new buying behavioral shift which will come with a lot of benefits for both the insurers and the customers. Adding to this, in November, the government of India announced demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes in early November last year. This move will help the industry move towards digitisation with a view of making government's 'Make in India' campaign a success. With this, customers are now expected to increasingly opt for electronic payment of their insurance premium.

7. [WHO team to help State meet health targets](#) – The Hindu

A four-member team from the World Health Organisation (WHO) is in the capital to explore the ways in which it can cooperate with the Health Department in addressing the challenge of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and assist the State in achieving health targets in sync with those under UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The group held a preliminary round of discussions on Monday with a core team of experts who have been working with the Health Department on the SDG targets. Senior Health officials handling NCD programmes under the SDG

group – including mental health and cancer – took part in the discussions and identified the areas where the State would benefit from inputs and support from the WHO.

8. [Need for promotion of API industry and SMEs to boost pharma industry: IDMA – Pharmabiz.com](#)

Apart from promoting pharmaceutical clusters, there are issues related to the API industry which need to be addressed in terms of environmental compliance, power and water costs, grant of compulsory licenses, central and state financial grants for CETPs. These were some of the thoughts deliberated as part of the 55th Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA) annual celebration under the theme 'Indian Pharmaceuticals Nation's Pride' held in Mumbai recently. Besides this, if adequate funding and training is provided for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the number of WHO-GMP units in India can go up from the current 1,200 to 2,500. Therefore, SMEs need to be given adequate opportunities and need to be provided with purchase preference and price preference of about 15 per cent while participating in government tenders. There should be no turnover criteria for limiting the SMEs and WHO-GMP Certification which is meant for exports, said national president IDMA SV Veeramani on the sidelines of the event.

9. [Indian paediatric vaccines market driven by new drug launches – Pharmabiz.com](#)

India's emergence as a global hub of generic medicines and vaccine supplier has contributed highly towards the growth of the paediatric drugs and vaccines market. The paediatric market for drugs and vaccines has increased in terms of value from FY'2011 to FY'2016 at a CAGR of 18.1 per cent during the period, according to Ken Research.

In a latest publication "India Paediatric Drugs and Vaccines Market – Rise in prevalence of chronic diseases and inclusion of several new vaccines in national immunization programme to Shape Future Growth." Ken Research provides a comprehensive analysis of the paediatric drugs and vaccines market in India and covers market size and segmentation of overall market by drugs and vaccines. The report covers the further segmentations of different spaces such as drugs and vaccines into sub segments based on their individual characteristics. The report also covers detailed profiles of leading players in the different sub segments in the market. The potential and future outlook has been individually discussed for India Paediatric Drugs and Vaccines market.

10. [DoP directs NPPA to desist from fixing ceiling prices on its own derived principles; asks it to stick to provisions of DPCO 2013 – Pharmabiz.com](#)

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has directed the national drug price regulator the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to desist from deciding the ceiling prices of schedule drugs on its own derived principles which are beyond the provisions of DPCO 2013. The DoP's directive to the NPPA in this regard came during the examination of a review application filed by pharma major Sun Pharmaceutical Industries against price fixation of "Volitra AQ injection (diclofenac sodium injection 75 mg/ml)" by the NPPA through its order No. S.O. 2195(E) [corrected SO No.2194(E)] dated 23.06.2016. "Review application of the company is accepted and NPPA is directed to re-fix the price as per the provisions of DPCO 2013 within one month of this Order, rather than deciding the prices on its own derived principles which are beyond the provisions of DPCO 2013. The calculation sheets should also be put up in the public domain," the DoP in its order said.