

1. **[Innovate In India: A strong intellectual property framework is critical to making India the world's pharmacy](#) – The Times of India**

A robust intellectual property (IP) rights framework encourages investment in innovation and promotes the development of new product and processes. India is now at the cusp of its transformation to becoming a knowledge, science and technology driven economy, as it tries to expand its share in global markets and raise per capita incomes. To do so, it will have to move up on the technology ladder and compete not only on the basis of lower cost but also by coming up with new products.

This is true of all sectors including of course the pharmaceutical sector in which it is a mistake to view patents as an obstacle to life-saving drugs. Indeed, there can be no access to drugs that no one has developed!

Generic medicines exist because someone has invested in research and innovation to invent new medicines. Patented medicines feed the pipeline for generic medicines. IP rights, including patents, are fundamental to the discovery of new molecules that push forward the curative frontiers.

2. **[Donald Trump's push for lower drug prices to benefit Indian Pharma](#) – The Indian Express**

Indian pharmaceutical sector is likely to gain, rather than being impacted, as the new US President Donald Trump aims to reduce drug prices since the country's generic medicines are already affordable, according to industry players.

“Considering the fact that India offers a low-cost innovation and manufacturing hub and India-made generics sometimes cost almost one-tenth of branded drugs sold in the US, we are likely to be least affected by the anticipated policy changes,” Biocon Chairperson and MD Kiran Mazumdar –Shaw told PTI. She further said Trump would focus on introducing new pricing models that will make expensive innovative drugs more affordable.

Echoing similar sentiments, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) Secretary General Dilip G Shah said: “We are positioning ourselves as a trust worthy and reliable partner of the USA for access to quality medicines at the affordable prices.”

1. [Innovate In India: A strong intellectual property framework is critical to making India the world's pharmacy](#) – The Times of India
2. [Donald Trump's push for lower drug prices to benefit Indian Pharma](#) – The Indian Express
3. [Prices of essential medicines cut by 30-50%](#) - The Economic Times
4. [India needs to prioritise its healthcare agenda to fast track country's progress](#) – Hindustan Times
5. [What Healthcare sector is expecting from Union Budget 2017](#) – Business Today
6. [GST on healthcare will make medicare unaffordable, says ASSOCHAM-TechSci study](#) – ETHealthworld.com
7. [IPA to organise Technical Conference in Ahmedabad on Jan-28 to improve practice & reporting of Quality Metrics to US FDA](#) – Pharmabiz.com

3. [Prices of essential medicines cut by 30-50%](#) - The Economic Times

Drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has slashed the prices of around 33 essential medicines, bringing down their retail prices by 30-50%. This includes anti-allergics used for common cold and cough, antibiotics and drugs used to treat ulcerative colitis, arthritis, psoriasis, gastroesophageal reflux disease (Gerd) and tuberculosis. "Manufacturers not complying with the ceiling price and notes specified herein above shall be liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with interest thereon under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955," the regulator said in a notification. The move aims at reducing the prices of commonly used drugs for critical diseases by expanding the span of price regulation to cover new drugs. The 33 drugs have been divided into two categories. While the regulator has brought 11 new drugs under price control, prices of 22 new drugs whose prices were already capped have been further reduced. All the 33 drugs are part of the revised National List of Essential Medicines, 2015. The health ministry had come out with the new list in December increasing the span of price control from 684 to 875 medicines. The NPPA has so far capped prices of 627 drugs since April last year. The idea is to make treatment of critical diseases more affordable by bringing down the cost of medicines, which constitute a major part of the total health expenditure.

Similar reports –

- [NPPA fixes prices of 33 essential drugs](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [NPPA fixes prices of 33 essential drugs](#) – Intoday.in
- [NPPA revises ceiling prices of 33 scheduled drugs](#) – Pharmabiz.com

4. [India needs to prioritise its healthcare agenda to fast track country's progress](#) – Hindustan Times

While it is true that budget allocation for the health sector has increased progressively from 0.9% of total GDP, to about 1.3%, we still have a long way to go. While cancer, diabetes and cardiac diseases affect more and more people each year, seasonal ailments and communicable diseases continue to exert pressure on our already challenged resources. Our primary health centres and government hospitals are severely short staffed and challenged in terms of beds, equipment and medicines. On the other hand, private sector facilities, largely in the specialist and super specialist segment, continue to grow. The budget needs to have enhanced allocations for the treatment of chronic diseases such as cancers, heart diseases, malnutrition and diabetes. A preferred status to the sector must be accorded with matching tax incentives for capital expenditure and a 10-year tax holiday for new and existing hospitals undergoing an upgrade or expansion. Feasible and realistic guidelines to involve private capital in the establishment of medical and nursing colleges to bridge this vital skill gap, are necessary. There is also need to incentivise industry to invest more in capacity building for medical staff.

5. [What Healthcare sector is expecting from Union Budget 2017](#) – Business Today

It takes a healthy nation to build a wealthy nation. Focus on ease of doing business, creating jobs, building houses, putting more disposable income in the hands of people are all appreciated and needed. Yet, the importance of health cannot be undermined because all of the above will be meaningful only when the people who reap the benefits of such reforms are healthy enough to enjoy the benefits. Healthy citizens also improve the efficiency and effectiveness in the economy, thereby contributing much more to the nation. India has one of the lowest health expenditure ratios in the world in terms of the government spending on health as a percent of GDP. This is lower than that of the low income countries as well. India is a lower middle income country as per the World Bank classification. Similarly, India also has one of the highest out-of-pocket health expenditure in the world, which is higher than the out-of-pocket health expenditure (as a % of total expenditure on health) of the lower income, lower-middle income, as well as the middle income countries (see Exhibit, Data Source: World Development Indicators).

6. [GST on healthcare will make medicare unaffordable, says ASSOCHAM-TechSci study – ETHealthworld.com](#)

The healthcare sector catering to the unmet health needs of the society should be kept out of the purview of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) or else medical care would become expensive and unaffordable for the common persons, said an ASSOCHAM-TechSci Research paper. Currently healthcare is exempted from service tax and a similar dispensation should continue even after implementation of the GST regime at least for ten year. Besides, the Finance Minister, Mr Arun Jaitley in the forthcoming Budget should raise tax exemption on preventive health check-up and announce a healthcare infrastructure medical innovation fund, it said. "A large number of items like food and other essentials for a common household are being kept outside the purview of the GST. The healthcare is equally important and essential, important only next to food. So, there is a strong case for the sector to be spared the GST," said ASSOCHAM Secretary General D S Rawat. The paper cautioned that if GST is levied on healthcare services and facilities, the much avowed national goal to provide universal healthcare coverage would take a hit.

7. [IPA to organise Technical Conference in Ahmedabad on Jan-28 to improve practice & reporting of Quality Metrics to US FDA – Pharmabiz.com](#)

In order to help participants improve their practice and reporting of quality metrics to US FDA, the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) Industrial Pharmacy Division in association with IPA-Gujarat State Branch, Gujarat Food and Drug Control Administration (FDCA) and Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) is organising IPA-Pharmexcil technical conference 2017 on 28th January 2017 in Ahmedabad under the theme 'Quality Metrics - Future need of the Pharmaceutical Industry for marketing drug products in the US market'. This will help small to medium scale entrepreneurs and academicians to understand the requirements of quality metrics and voluntarily start the practice of quality metrics. Quality metrics are used throughout the drugs and biologics industry to monitor quality control systems and processes and drive continuous improvement efforts in drug manufacturing. These metrics can also be useful to FDA to help develop compliance and inspection policies and practices, such as risk-based inspection scheduling of drug manufacturers; to improve the agency's ability to predict, and therefore, possibly mitigate, future drug shortages; and to encourage the pharmaceutical industry to implement state-of-the-art, innovative quality management systems for pharmaceutical manufacturing.