

**1. [India needs to catch up on R&D](#)**

– Business Standard

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the Indian Science Congress at Mysuru on Sunday comes in the context of various controversies over knowledge drawn from classical texts, including his own reference in the past to plastic surgery in ancient India. But, there can be no quarrel with the PM's assertion that the country must "bridge the distance between traditional knowledge and modern science" and must also "use scientific techniques and methods to delve deeper into traditional medicines and practices like Yoga."

1. [India needs to catch up on R&D](#) – Business Standard
2. [Ministry of Health proposes steep fee hike for drugs licences, registration, manufacturing](#) – Economic Times
3. [Innovations that will change the world](#) – Economic Times
4. [Exclusive: Govt mulls capping drug trade margins at 35-50%](#) - Bloomberg TV
5. [Drug regulator warns e-pharmacies against violating rules](#) – Mint
6. [DCGI directs all state drug controllers to act against online sale of drugs in violation of D&C Act](#) – Pharmabiz

The discipline of scientific enquiry will remain central, and traditional knowledge must be subject to the scientific method. In fact, since the prime minister has also mentioned issues like treatment and wellness, it will be a great gain if large clinical trials are run to validate traditional remedies.

**2. [Ministry of Health proposes steep fee hike for drugs licences, registration, manufacturing](#) – Economic Times**

Drug makers may have to shell out significantly higher fees for a whole set of regulatory submissions in India in the New Year.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has proposed multifold fee increases for product registrations, manufacturing and product licences and clinical trials.

The increase proposed in the new rules for site registrations for importing drugs is more than six-fold to \$10,000 from \$1,500. The charge for product registrations will jump to \$5,000 from \$1,000.

The notification has left some wiggle room for debate and called for any objections from interested parties.

**3. [Innovations that will change the world](#) – Economic Times**

The year 2015 was memorable for researchers in many fields of science and technology. There were fundamental advances in some fields, and companies launched several products that constituted a big leap in their specific industries.

Spaceflight and cancer research are two of the key areas that we have chosen for this year's crystal gazing. They were automatic choices, as were solar energy, new batteries, new aircraft engines, gene editing and quantum computing.

Over the year, all these breakthroughs will make our lives better. Pharma companies are on the verge of launching several products against cancer, and some of them would make a real difference to those unfortunate to be ill with this serious disease.

4. [Exclusive: Govt mulls capping drug trade margins at 35-50%](#) - Bloomberg TV

In what could be a major relief to the poor, the government is considering capping trade margins on drugs of up to 50 per cent, a move that will crimp profit margins of drug stores and pharma companies.

The move to cap trade margin will compel manufacturers to cut down the MRP of drugs.

Sources told Bloomberg TV India a committee headed by Sudhansh Pant, joint secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals, has submitted the final report which recommended a gradation system for capping the margins—at least 35 per cent cap on medicines with maximum retail price (MRP) of Rs 50 and above, and 50 per cent on medicines with MRP between Rs 2–20.

All medicines with MRP below Rs 2 MRP should be exempted from a cap on trade margin, the panel said in its report.

5. [Drug regulator warns e-pharmacies against violating rules](#) – Mint

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) said on Monday that it will ban companies selling medicines online if they are found to be violating the rules. The DCGI also directed all state governments and Union territories to take action against e-pharmacies if they are found to be in breach of regulations.

At present, there is no ban on the sale of medicines online, contrary to a media report published on Monday, although drugs can't be sold except with a doctor's prescription.

6. [DCGI directs all state drug controllers to act against online sale of drugs in violation of D&C Act](#) – Pharmabiz

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has directed all the state/UT drugs controllers to keep a strict vigil on online sale of medicines and take action against those indulging in online sale of medicines in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, in the interest of public health.

The DCGI's directive in this regard comes in the wake of the fact that in the recent past, a spate of representations have been received by the DCGI office from individuals, organisations, trade bodies, etc against e-pharmacy.

An analysis of the representations has revealed that serious concerns have been raised on issues impacting public health such as gross violation of the provisions under Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules, endangering human lives, rendering pharmacovigilance machinery ineffective, rendering drugs recall impossible, compromise of storage conditions, danger of online sale of controlled substances, encouragement of drug addiction among youth, etc, Dr S Eswara Reddy, Joint Drugs Controller of India, in the directive to the state drug controllers said.