

1. [Make In India On The Right Track?](#) – Express Pharma

More than a year after the 'Make in India campaign' was launched, pharma manufacturers are divided on its impact. Will the enthusiasm fizzle out or will the sector build up momentum in 2016? A roundup of industry perspectives.

'We look forward to partnering with the government to bring about a healthy India and an innovative India' – Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, OPPI

1. [Make In India On The Right Track?](#) – Express Pharma
2. [Less than \\$1 spent on each Indian for health research](#) – Times of India
3. [No ban on online sale of medicines](#) – Hindu Business Line
4. [Govt for risk-based clearance approach for faster import of drugs and food items](#) – Business Today
5. [Prices of crucial drugs likely to fall steeply](#) – Hindustan Times
6. [Cap on stent prices delayed yet again](#) – Times of India

2. [Less than \\$1 spent on each Indian for health research](#) – Times of India

At a time when healthcare risks have become one of the most difficult issues that the country is dealing with, India's percapita expenditure on health research is less than \$1. And, just 3% of this is spent on public health research.

Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) director general Dr Soumya Swaminathan said out of \$1 billion that the country has been spending annually, just 1% is for healthcare and it is 0.06% of GDP. Of the total amount, only 16% is by not-for-profit institutions and 83% by pharmaceutical industry.

3. [No ban on online sale of medicines](#) – Hindu Business Line

Online pharmacies continue to operate with the latest circular from the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) not imposing any ban but only seeking strict adherence to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

The circular dated December 30, a copy of which was seen by BusinessLine, has nowhere mentioned any temporary or permanent ban on these e-pharmacies, which act as a marketplace for offline medical stores. These online players do not directly sell any medicines.

4. [Govt for risk-based clearance approach for faster import of drugs and food items](#) – Business Today

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will speed up the clearance of import and export consignments of medicines and food materials from sea ports, airports, and other points of entry and exit from March this year.

The ministry will introduce a risk-based sampling system for all consignments covered under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, a directive issued on 29 December 2015 said.

5. [Prices of crucial drugs likely to fall steeply](#) – Hindustan Times

Drug prices may see a sharp drop with the government planning to prune the profit margins of chemists and wholesalers, a move that will especially prove to be beneficial to those battling cancer, heart, kidney and liver illnesses.

The retail price of some of the drugs is 11 times (1000%) higher than their production cost, but the government wants to lower drug prices.

“We plan to cap traders’ margin at around 100% across drug categories — generic, branded, scheduled and non-scheduled,” minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Hansraj Gangaram Ahir told HT on Tuesday.

Bihar authorities have blown the lid off a nexus between pharmaceutical professionals and crime syndicates that led to crucial medicines including anti-cancer drugs becoming twenty times costlier than their landing price.

The findings also point to serious violations of the government’s drug price control order as well as the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA).

6. [Cap on stent prices delayed yet again](#) – Times of India

In what may lead to a delay in price regulation of stents yet again, the department of pharma (DoP) has raised objections to health ministry's proposal to cap prices of such essential medical devices.

In a fresh letter to the health ministry, the department has mooted voluntary price control measures by the medical devices industry.

The department, which essentially looks at production, availability and pricing of pharmaceutical products including medical devices, is of the view that industry should be given a chance for "self-regulation", before the government steps in with price control measures.