

1. ['Pricing, FDI, Make in India important initiatives in pharma'](#) – Business Standard

Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Ananth Kumar on Thursday said pricing regulation, FDI policy and 'Make in India' campaign are the important initiatives taken up by the Narendra Modi government for the pharmaceutical sector.

"The union cabinet has given its approval to amend the existing FDI policy in the pharmaceutical sector in order to cover medical devices. The cabinet has allowed FDI up to 100 per cent under the automatic route for manufacturing of medical devices subject to specified conditions," he said at the India Pharma & India Medical Expo 2016 here.

2. [Shri Ananth Kumar inaugurates international exhibition and conference on Pharma industry, medical electronics and devices sector](#) – Business Standard

The Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Ananth Kumar inaugurated an international exhibition and conference on Pharma industry, medical electronics and devices sector at Bengaluru today. India Pharma 2016 and India Medical Expo 2016 is the first such major composite event in the country for the pharmaceutical and Medical devices industry. The 3-day event is aimed at increasing overall growth of Pharma sector including exports, and focuses on increasing domestic production in the sector. The event also strives to encourage Make in India for manufacturing drugs and pharma machines, and also provides a platform to global investment community to connect with stakeholders.

3. [ISCR voices optimism for clinical research in India amidst evolving regulatory landscape](#) – Pharmabiz

In order to discuss the role and relevance of clinical research in meeting the needs of patients in India, Indian Society for Clinical Research (ISCR) is going to organise its 9th annual conference on the theme 'Clinical Research in India: Patients First and Research for India' in Mumbai between January 8 and 9. Around 400 clinical research professionals from India and overseas are expected to attend the event.

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4. [NDA has failed on reforms, says Amartya Sen](#) – The Hindu

5. [Centre working to ensure Pharma R&D gets total IT exemption to drive innovation & drug discovery at faster pace](#) – Pharmabiz

6. [Karnataka to be home to 100-acre pharma park](#) – Deccan Herald

7. [India will be self-reliant in bulk drugs by 2020: Government](#) - Economic Times

8. [Mylan launches generic Hepatitis C drug in India](#) – Economic Times

9. [Petition against Sun Pharma for allegedly violating merger norms](#) – Mint

Over the last few years, clinical research in India went through a very turbulent period. Hard-hitting revisions in compensation guidelines in January, 2013 negatively impacted the growth of clinical research in India before more rational guidelines in 2015 restored some balance in the regulatory environment.

The forthcoming 9th annual conference will cover a vast range of topics of relevance and contemporariness from the perspective of clinical operations, investigator initiated research, accreditation, ethics, training, regulation, pharmacovigilance, medical writing, data management, statistics and career development in clinical research. It will be preceded by a series of pre-conference workshops for clinical researchers and students on accreditation, medical writing, risk-based monitoring and causality assessment.

4. [**NDA has failed on reforms, says Amartya Sen**](#) – The Hindu

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has said that the NDA government had been slow to move on key reforms and even failed to deliver on the reforms it had promised, thus hampering the successful functioning of a market economy.

The three big lessons that economics offers have not been fully appreciated. One is the lesson that you need a successful market economy for continued fast growth and development. That is being absorbed but even now I have to say that the Modi government has been too slow with the reforms and has not carried out the reforms they promised they will.

Secondly, while the market economy does well for industries and agriculture, by and large, with a few exceptions, it does not do well for education and healthcare. There you need the government to come in in a big way, a point that was made by Adam Smith in 1776. And that has been neglected and not much has happened on that. The UPA government was an underperformer and the Modi government is even more of a disaster.

The third point is the issue of asymmetric information: the fact that quite often the buyers don't know what the seller is selling. This is a very important part in the understanding of any market economy, and which is why the idea that you could privatise healthcare at a basic level without first providing public health is something that has not been possible in any country in the world and it will not be possible in India.

India is the only country which is trying to get universally educated and universal healthcare through the private sector. Japan, US, Europe, China, Vietnam, Cuba, Hong Kong, Singapore, whether they are politically right or politically left, they all saw the importance of the state in making education and healthcare widely spread and universal.

5. [**Centre working to ensure Pharma R&D gets total IT exemption to drive innovation & drug discovery at faster pace**](#) – Pharmabiz

Union government is now gearing up to ensure that the pharma industry gets an exemption in income tax for research and development (R&D), said Union minister for chemicals and fertilizers Ananth Kumar.

The country needs to provide an additional focus to R&D to drive innovation. This is the need of the hour and the first step in this direction is to ensure that we give total exemption for R&D in pharmaceuticals, Kumar said while inaugurating the Indian Pharma and India Medical Expo 2016 in Bengaluru.

“R&D is the backbone of the pharma industry. Now India needs to ensure that innovation is in place to drive its drug discovery efforts,” he added.

“The pharma industry during its dialogue with the government has been insisting for this. We are now working to ensure that the captains of the pharma industry can have a dialogue with the Union minister for finance Arun Jaitely to put forth this request on not just income tax exemption, but also subvention in interest rates and also setting right the anomalies of inverted tax structure which is affecting the sector. This meeting will be well before the Union Budget 2016,” the minister said.

6. [Karnataka to be home to 100-acre pharma park](#) – Deccan Herald

Speaking at the inauguration of the India Pharma and India Medical Expo 2016, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Center (BIEC) here on Thursday, Kumar said, “The government is committed to the growth of the pharmaceutical sector in India. The Karnataka government has promised 100 acres of land for setting up of the pharma park in the state. There is also a proposal for a huge pharma park in Hyderabad in 350 acres also one in Rajasthan.”

7. [India will be self-reliant in bulk drugs by 2020: Government](#) - Economic Times

Union Minister Ananth Kumar today said the country will be self-reliant in bulk drug in the next five years as the government is exploring ways to boost infrastructure and bring down cost of production as also reduce the dependence on imports from China.

He also said the Union Cabinet would soon take a final decision on the recommendations of the Katoch Committee, which was set up to suggest ways to strengthen domestic pharma sector and reduce dependence on Chinese imports, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Ananth Kumar said today.

8. [Mylan launches generic Hepatitis C drug in India](#) – Economic Times

Drug firm Mylan NV has launched generic Harvoni tablets, used to treat Hepatitis C, under the brand name 'MyHep LVIR' in India.

Mylan Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of the company has launched generic Harvoni in the country, Mylan NV said in a statement.

"Mylan recognises the urgent need to expand access to high quality, affordable Hepatitis C treatment options in India, where roughly 12 million people are infected with the virus," Mylan President Rajiv Malik said.

9. [Petition against Sun Pharma for allegedly violating merger norms](#) – Mint

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, which acquired Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd last year, is facing protests from its sales force after the country's largest drug maker allegedly transferred and demoted some employees belonging to the acquired company.

On Wednesday, the Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Associations of India (FMRAI), the largest grouping of medical sales representatives in the country, filed a petition against Sun Pharmaceuticals in the Punjab and Haryana high court.