

Access to Healthcare

Government targets 95% immunisation cover by 2016 end, says Health Minister JP Nadda, [DNA India](#)

The government has set a target to achieve 95 percent immunisation cover by the end of 2016, Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday said, even as he sought help of the private sector for better management of the programme in rural areas. "The government is targeting to immunise 95 percent children population in the next 1.5 years. The government today is ready for all types of linkages and partnerships with the industry, with innovators," he said. The minister said the government has achieved significant progress under the National Health Mission (NHM) which takes care of the overall health of children since birth to 16 years.

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Maha FDA asks Union health ministry to address short supply of human albumin [Pharmabiz](#)

To address the shortage of human albumin in the country, Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) is planning to write to the Union health ministry to look into the issues associated with the availability, supply and shortage of human albumin.

Albumin, a component of human blood, is produced by the liver. Its function is to maintain levels of calcium in the body and transport nutrients or drugs through the bloodstream. The body can suffer a shortage of albumin if a patient has liver disease, kidney failure, burns, or malnourishment.

Reaching healthcare to rural population can be immediate deliverable of PM's Digital India programme: ASSOCHAM [Indian Education Diary](#) –

As one of the immediate possible deliverables to Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi's Digital India programme, an ASSOCHAM sectoral Paper has suggested Tele-medicine be reached to a vast population of the country which is still not covered with the basic health amenities. The key issues which can make the programme a big success would be costs and adequate availability of Internet bandwidth, the paper has said.

Making medicines affordable for all [The Times of India](#)

Kamla Vasava was at her wits' end outside a chemist shop just off the SSG Hospital premises. With limited cash she had no way of buying all the three medicines prescribed by the doctor. A nurse saw her leaving the shop without the medicines and directed her to the one place where she could buy medicines and still keep some money to reach back home.

The Kushalchand counter is brimming with such examples where patients can buy medicines at cheaper rate. The fight against high-cost medicines and irrational drug combinations started over 40 years ago for Dr Shagun Desai and his colleagues. Their attempt was supported by the Sheth Kushalchand Charitable Medical Trust.

CM dedicates community health centre at Bopal in Ahmedabad [The Times of India](#)

Chief Minister Anandiben Patel dedicated Community Health Centre (CHC) built at a cost of Rs 3.53 crore at Bopal in Ahmedabad. The new CHC, built by Health and Family Welfare Department of Gujarat Government, has capacity of 30 beds and all modern equipment for the treatment of patients.

On the occasion, Patel distributed 'MAA' Vatsalya Cards, medical kit and nutritious food among 116 Aanganwadi and directed health workers and officers to encourage the people to join diabetes test, breast cervical screening and other medical programmes initiated by the government.

Contraception choices to be widened, govt tells SC, [Deccan Herald](#)

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that states have agreed to enlarge the scope of contraceptive choices to rejuvenate the family planning programme with an aim to reduce the maternal mortality rate. The Centre also said that all details about deaths, failures and complications resulting from contraception practices would be computerised. In an affidavit, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that the states would also conduct workshops on quality in sterilisation services both at the state and district level on the updated manuals on standards, male and female sterilisation and family planning indemnity scheme.

Ethics & Compliance

Unethical medical practice in India is rampant, [DNA India](#)

Patients are made to undergo unnecessary investigations, hospitalisations and even surgeries in cases where there may be no need for any of that. In a majority of small nursing homes, doctors own medical stores and laboratories. Unnecessary prescriptions of expensive drugs are asked to be procured with no explanation given whatsoever to patients and relatives. Nobody is interested in the concept of generic medicine. Large multinational pharmaceutical companies regularly supply expensive gifts and other medical equipment to leading physicians who then only prescribe that MNC's drugs. Doctors are put up in five-star hotels along with family members, while being gifted holidays abroad by the MNCs.

Medical & Regulatory

Health ministry's drug warehouse raided, [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Following allegation that some senior officer was indulging in malpractices of selling expired drugs to private buyers from central drug warehouse in Vepery, the sleuths from the CBI on Monday carried out search operations on the godown for the second time in last one week. The drug warehouse belonging to ministry of health and family welfare came under the CBI scanner after it was reported that an official in the rank of assistant director was allegedly helping a racket to repack and sell the expired drug in the market. According to sources, the official made huge illegal money by indulging in such malpractices.

Lack of inspection at ISM stores & companies poses threat of adulteration and spread of spurious drugs in TN [Pharmabiz](#)

The complaint filed with Kerala drugs control department against the Chennai-based Pothigai Pharma alleging adulteration and admixture of 'sildenafil citrate' in their ayurvedic capsule, Sulthan Forte, establishes one fact that the inspection mechanism under the department of Indian System of Medicines (ISM) in Tamil Nadu is feeble and inadequate.

Neither the department of health and family welfare nor the department of Indian System of Medicines is taking any positive and reliable step towards strengthening the enforcement of chapter 4 (a) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act which deals with Indian medicines, sources alleged.

Pfizer gets CCI nod for Hospira merger [Business Standard](#)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its nod for the proposed merger of Pharma major Pfizer and Hospira, in which the latter has various manufacturing operations in India through its wholly owned subsidiary and in joint venture with Gujarat-based Cadila Healthcare.

The order, issued dated June 11, 2015, said that Pfizer Inc filed a notice pursuant to the execution of an Agreement and Plan of Merger between Pfizer, Hospira, Inc and Perkins Holding Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pfizer, on February 5, 2015.

Pharmexcil urges commerce ministry to exempt small Ayush cos from barcode implementation [Pharmabiz](#)

Keen to address the issues of the ASU sector arising out of the implementation of barcode, the Pharmexcil recently made a strong appeal to the Union ministries of commerce and Ayush, requesting them to look into the possibilities of giving some reprieve from barcode implementation. This move comes in the wake of repeated requests made by the Ayush sector to exempt the sector from the ambit of impending implementation of barcodes on all export consignments, which is expected to be in place by October 1.

Other News on Pharma

Task force mulls curriculum for allied health professionals, [Business Standard](#)

The task force to set up a national regulatory body for allied health sciences met here to finalise a standardised curriculum for various paramedical courses. The meeting, co-organised by the union health ministry, Public Health Foundation of India, and Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi, has been working on plans to set up an apex national body for allied health sciences as a facilitator for standardisation and development of an allied health system across the country.

US pharmaceutical chemicals demand to reach \$ 47 bn in 2019 [Business Standard](#)

The US demand for pharmaceutical chemicals is expected to increase from \$ 34.2 billion in 2014 to \$46.9 billion in 2019 – an annual increase of 6.5 percent, according to a new [Freedonia](#) Group report.

Gains will accelerate from the average pace of the 2009-2014 period, led by the introduction of new therapies for Alzheimer's disease, cancer, diabetes, heart failure, and healthcare-associated infections. The value of pharmaceutical chemicals demand will remain fairly evenly divided between the merchant market and the captive and contract production segment.

'It's time to discuss, rebuild doctor-patient bond' [The Times of India](#)

A group of doctors, fed up with the tag of commercialization attached to the Indian medical fraternity, has come up with a Munnabhai-style campaign to counter it. On the occasion of Doctor's Day on July 1, these doctors will use a letter—purportedly written by a patient - thanking his/her doctor for being ethical unlike others being accused of over-prescribing medicines and tests.

The national group - which calls itself the Network of Doctors for Ethical, Rational and De-commercialised Healthcare' - wants all doctors to put up this letter outside their clinic to establish their credentials as non-commercial doctors.

Unshackling centrally sponsored schemes [Mint](#)

In a country as diverse as India, economic development should follow the dictum of think locally, act locally. Instead, since Independence, think centrally—and even worse—act unilaterally has been a watchword for governments of all hues, including the ones professing federalism. That may, finally, be about to change.

Last week, a sub-group of chief ministers tasked with looking at various schemes launched by the Union government agreed on a drastic pruning in their number. The report of these chief ministers is expected this month.
