

1. [Sri Lanka woos Indian pharma companies to set up operations in the country](#) - **The Economic Times**

Sri Lanka has invited Indian pharmaceutical companies to set up operations in the country by offering them space in its special economic zones, a prospect that has raised concern for domestic manufacturers. The Sri Lankan government could also offer sops to Indian firms which invest to expand the production of formulations and bulk drugs there.

2. [BRIEF-AlliancePharma to buy three companies](#) – Reuters

AlliancePharma Inc :

* To acquire three companies and has also entered into a private placement agreement with a healthcare-focused private equity fund

* Says Persistence Capital Partners (PCP) entered into an agreement to subscribe for 40,000 class A preferred shares of corporation

* Says \$4 million private placement from Persistence Capital Partners

* Says acquisition of Pro-J-Pharma Inc and entering into definitive agreements to acquire Pharmapar Inc and Agence L.I.V. Inc

3. [Novo Nordisk invests \\$ 59 mn to expand insulin plant in Denmark](#) – **Business Standard**

Novo Nordisk will invest 400 million Danish kroner (about \$ 59 million) in a 500 square meter extension of the world's largest insulin production plant in Kalundborg, Denmark. "The expansion of our production plant highlights our ambition to continue strengthening our presence in Kalundborg. The new facilities will give us greater flexibility and enable the installation of equipment that will enhance efficiency and increase the long-term production capacity of the plant," said Michael Hallgren, senior vice president and head of production in Kalundborg.

4. [NITI Aayog vision document: Does India need a national health policy?](#) – **The Financial Express**

In an authored article, Rajeev Ahuja – a development economist, formerly with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank, talks about how NITI Aayog must reflect a common understanding between the Centre and states on healthcare. Having a health policy is desirable as it brings predictability, clarifies a sense of direction and prioritisation—which is helpful to all key stakeholders in aligning their interests—and in enabling them to marshal their efforts and resources to achieving those priorities, he said. However, formulating a health policy just got a little tougher under the NDA regime. Post the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommendations, states have been given a greater role in financing of their health priorities. What role the Centre will play in the health sector is yet not clear as a new "cooperative federalism" model is still getting evolved. But what is indeed clear is that states will have to play the lead role in defining and moving the health agenda, much of which is squarely in their

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5. [Chemists seek regulation of online sale, threaten strike](#) – The Times of India

6. [Maharashtra has failed its urban poor, says Union Health Ministry](#) – The Hindu

7. [Ephedrine in demand after MD is banned](#) – The Asian Age

8. [Net sales of 100 top pharma cos move up by 10.3% to Rs. 1.9 lakh crore in 2015-16](#) – Pharmabiz.com

domain. The Centre can, at best, play a supportive role, both technically and financially, he added.

5. [Chemists seek regulation of online sale, threaten strike](#) – **The Times of India**

Over 8 lakh chemists across the country have called for an indefinite strike by the end of this month as the government has failed to respond to their concerns, including the demand to regulate online sale of medicines. This comes almost a year after pharma retailers observed a daylong strike on October 14. The strike was called off following an assurance from health minister J P Nadda to evaluate the matter at the earliest.

6. [Maharashtra has failed its urban poor, says Union Health Ministry](#) – **The Hindu**

Maharashtra has failed the State's urban poor because of its apathy in implementing central health schemes, says a report by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Union Health Secretary B.P. Sharma's report for the two-year period from 2014 highlights a breakdown of State machinery while implementing the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), under which Rs. 2,578 crore was distributed to all States and Union Territories for improving primary health care in urban slums. But the progress under the scheme was found to be 'not very satisfactory' in Maharashtra, and no effort was made to spend central funds on time or implement the scheme seriously.

7. [Ephedrine in demand after MD is banned](#) – **The Asian Age**

Ephedrine is now the new substitute for MD. Experts have noted a spike in the sale of ephedrine, because this drug with slight modifications in chemical laboratories can be converted into MD or methamphetamine, which is highly popular among youngsters. Ephedrine is a derivative of pseudoephedrine, and used in making medicines for cold, cough and sinus.

8. [Net sales of 100 top pharma cos move up by 10.3% to Rs. 1.9 lakh crore in 2015-16](#) – **Pharmabiz.com**

The leading 100 Indian pharmaceutical companies registered satisfactory financial performance during fiscal year 2015-16 despite quality problems, Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), volatile foreign exchange rates and stiff competition. The net sales of 100 companies increased by 10.3 per cent to Rs. 190,627 crore during 2015-16 from Rs. 172,842 crore in the previous year and the compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of sales for the last six years worked out to 13.3 per cent. The growth is propelled by increasing affordability, improving medical infrastructure and rising insurance penetration in domestic market. Further, new product launches through investment in R&D, entry into new therapies and markets played crucial role. Among the Pharmabiz sample of 100 listed companies, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries maintained its top position with net sales of Rs. 27,744 crore in 2015-16 as against Rs. 27,245 crore after merger of Ranbaxy Laboratories in previous year. Similarly, Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) keeps its No 2 position with net sales of Rs. 15,471 crore and Lupin at third spot with net sales at Rs. 13,702 crore.