

1. [One Woman Dies every 5 minutes during pregnancy: WHO](#) – **ETHealthWorld.com**

According to WHO, of the 529,000 maternal deaths occurring every year, 136,000 or 25.7 per cent take place in India. Postpartum bleeding or postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) is defined as loss of more than 500 ml or 1,000 ml of blood within first 24 hours of child birth. As a result of high PPH incidences in India, it is unlikely that the country will achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 focused on reducing maternal mortality and achieving universal access to reproductive health care. According to WHO, blood is in chronic short supply in India which stipulates that every country needs at least a one per cent reserve.

2. [Drugmakers get NPPA notice for violating pricing control order](#) – **Times of India**

Concerned over 'wilful violation' of its drug pricing control rules, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has slapped show-cause notices on ten top drugmakers for failing to register their products on its online database and submit the mandatory disclosures. The NPPA is authorised to cap the drug prices

to ensure that the companies do not overcharge for essential medicines while the companies are also required to make certain disclosures and list their products on the Authority's online database to ensure compliance and transparency. "In this regard, NPPA is now constrained to issue show-cause notices to individual companies for not having their pharmaceutical products under IPDMS and not having filed mandatory returns in form II, III and V through IPDMS," it added. Toughening its stand, it added that "NPPA shall also be constrained to take necessary legal action against the companies, including exercises of its powers under para 29, para 30 of DPCO 2013, including prosecution under the Essential Commodities Act under unavoidable circumstances".

3. [Antibiotic resistance: How soon will your antibiotics stop working?](#) – **Times of India**

As per a report 'State of World Antibiotics 2015' conducted by the Centre for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy, New Delhi, India is counted as the leading consumer of antibiotics. Reports have also claimed that antibiotic resistance will kill 300 million people by 2050. Dr

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12. [Passage of GST Bill may help pharma sector to improve supply chain efficiency: Pednekar](#) – Pharmabiz.com
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14. [Govt urged to make laws to absorb Pharm D graduates for healthcare delivery in rural areas](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Supradip Ghosh, Additional Director, Department of Critical Care, Fortis says "The more harmful bacteria are exposed to antibiotics, more they tend to resist the same." As per WHO, "Patients with infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria are generally at increased risk of worse clinical outcomes and death, and consume more health-care resources than patients infected with the same bacteria that are not resistant." CDC states that two million people in the US alone get infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and around 23,000 people die because of these infections. As per DSM Sinochem Pharmaceuticals, "Big global manufacturers prefer to set up local units in India and China to bypass laws and regulations (due to lack of effective enforcement) and also sell their antibiotics at cheap prices. Producing antibiotics generates loads of waste in the form of water, air and solids. If these waste streams are not managed responsibly, the pollutants can end up in our environment and reach our bodies through air and water."

4. [Health dept to introduce mobile medical vans for preventing spread of malaria, dengue – Times of India](#)

Minister for health and family welfare U T Khader told that three mobile medical vans each will be introduced in all districts across the state to prevent the spread of dengue, malaria and other vector borne diseases. "Each van will have a nurse, lab equipment and larvicide sprayer. The vans will reach villages and provide medical care and take up larvicidal activities to stop mosquito breeding," Khader said adding that more such vans will be introduced based on requirement. "District level audit committee headed by the DHO verifies test reports and concludes whether the death is caused by dengue or not," Khader said. Private medical colleges including KVG Medical College, KS Hegde Medical Academy, KMC, Yenepoya Medical College and Father Muller Medical College will also be joining hands with the department by deputing doctors.

5. [New policy to dispose of expired drugs soon: Khader – Times of India](#)

The government will introduce a new expired drugs disposal policy to clear huge stocks of expired medicines piling up in warehouses of the state health department. As per the new policy guidelines, expired drugs stocked in warehouses will be disposed of scientifically through an agency that is approved by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), said minister for health and family welfare UT Khader. The expired drugs worth Rs 10 crore are stocked at various district-level warehouses across the state. "As per the new policy guidelines, the stock will be disposed of through a company. We will soon hand over the contract, and the process will begin in six months. It may require at least Rs 1 crore. In future, drugs will be destroyed as per KSPCB guidelines every year," he said.

6. [Experts, scientists urge Kerala govt to include IPR in curriculum – The Times of India](#)

Since the last seven years, a proposal to set up an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Academy in Kerala remains only on paper. Now, the IPR experts and scientists have submitted a representation to the new Kerala government to include IPR in the educational curriculum from the school level and to set up an IPR Academy. IPR should be made a compulsory paper in degree courses as per the proposed curriculum revision, he said. IPR is already an optional subject for Law students in Kerala. Also the people should be made aware of the need to protect traditional knowledge from private appropriation. Research institutions and Universities should be trained to secure legal rights on their creations, CSIR- National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) senior scientist- Tech transfer and IP management Praveen Raj said. He added, the purpose of an IPR Academy will be to train all including school and college students, farmers, scientists, start-up innovators, small entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the basics and legalities of IPR to practically protect their innovations and intellectual property.

7. [No threat to strategic autonomy, yet – The Hindu](#)

The new symphony in India-U.S. ties does not limit New Delhi's engagement with other world powers or emerging economies. The joint statement signed during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington D.C. sets India's foreign policy on new and untested waters. The claim that it "tilts" India towards the U.S., however, needs to be examined seriously. If the joint

statement set out to advance substantive engagement with the U.S., it certainly achieved this objective. But does it constrain India's ability to conduct its diplomacy with other major powers like China and Russia? A closer look at the document suggests that this is not the case. On trade, the U.S. continues to push India on "relaxing" its intellectual property rights regime, but there is no indication in the joint statement of any major concession on New Delhi's part. The India-U.S. joint statement clearly nudges New Delhi towards new climate, trade and cyber regimes, the economic and strategic implications of which Indian negotiators should assess. It does not, however, limit India's engagement with the G77, China, or other emerging economies. In fact, New Delhi should work with like-minded countries to balance U.S. preferences in new regimes.

8. [Hepatitis B Virus more prevalent than HIV in donor blood](#) – The Hindu

Of every 300 donor blood samples tested, one sample was found to be positive for HBV. At a time when doubts are being raised about safe blood transfusion in the country, data from the only Individual Donor-Nucleic Acid Testing (ID-NAT) blood bank at the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital here has revealed that Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) is more prevalent in donor blood than HIV in the State. Of every 300 donor blood samples tested in this laboratory using ID-NAT, an advanced screening technology, on an average one sample was found to be positive for HBV. The numbers vary for HIV and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). While one in every 1,250 samples tested here is found to be positive for HIV, one in 500 samples is found to be positive for HCV.

9. [DCGI starts inspection of Pharma companies](#) – Daily Pioneer

In a bid to emphasise on the quality of the product as well as the process, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has kicked off a "risk-based inspection" of pharma companies in the country with its inspectors assessing the compliance of manufacturing facilities with the specified good manufacturing and laboratory practices. The DCGI, under the Union Health Ministry, has recently released a voluminous new draft checklist and evaluation tool for pharmaceutical inspectors of manufacturing sites in the country and has already undertaken assessment in over 36 pharma companies including the MNCs so far. Among the items on the checklist are questions on the location and surroundings, building and premises, water and waste system and other pertinent details on warehousing, production, quality control and manufacturing operations and controls. "The inspections will assess the compliance of manufacturing facilities with the specified GMP (good manufacturing practices) and GLP (good laboratory practices) requirements and also seek to harmonise the procedures for conduct of inspections throughout the country, identify gaps in such compliance and communicate the same to the manufacturers," the drug controller GN Singh said in a public notice released last week.

10. [Hope for alternatives to painful biopsies](#) – Deccan Herald

A blood test to detect cancer mutations produced results that generally agree with those of an invasive tumor biopsy, researchers reported, heralding a time when diagnosing cancer and monitoring its progression may become less painful and risky. The blood tests, known as liquid biopsies, represent one of the hottest trends in oncology. They take advantage of the fact that DNA fragments from tumours can be found in tiny amounts in the blood of patients with cancer. The US Food and Drug Administration gave its first approval for such a test, one developed by Roche (pharmaceutical firm) to detect mutations in a particular gene. Lung cancers with mutations in that gene are vulnerable to treatment with certain drugs, including Roche's own Tarceva. Many liquid biopsy tests are being sold by other companies under rules that do not require FDA approval.

11. [PPP Model will strengthen the entire healthcare ecosystem: NATHEALTH](#) – Express Healthcare

NATHEALTH (The Healthcare Federation of India), today said that the government's attention on Public Private Partnership (PPP) and actionable interventions with regard to regulatory changes could significantly improve the entire healthcare ecosystem in the country. NATHEALTH's 'Aarogya Bharat 2025' report recommends that India should have an ecosystem that better supports private investment in healthcare. Government think tank NITI Aayog has also advocated the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model to improve health services

in the country against the backdrop of dismal performance of public hospitals at district level. Niti Aayog advocates forming a body to promote innovative PPP models. NATHEALTH strongly advocates that access to healthcare for all Indians could be made possible through the suggested model with a nominal increase in the healthcare sector's allocation in the Union Budget if the Indian economy continues to grow 7-7.5 per cent in the next several years.

12. [Passage of GST Bill may help pharma sector to improve supply chain efficiency: Pednekar](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Goods and services tax (GST) Bill, once passed by the parliament, will usher in significant improvement in Indian pharma industry's supply chain efficiency as well as a decline in manufacturing cost of pharmaceutical products, according to Rajesh Pednekar, a leading expert of Pharma Supply Chain Management. "If GST bill is passed, pharma industry's traditional cost and distribution model will get replaced by supply chain efficiencies because the central tax subsumed under GST and interstate transactions between two dealers will become tax neutral. This will lead to decrease in cost which can be added to margins or even customers will get benefited from it," he said. Indian pharma industry is one of the largest producers of medicines in the world and it ranks fourth in terms of volume. The manufacturing cost in India is nearly half the manufacturing cost in the US. Though the labour cost and overall production cost is lower in India than US, the taxation in India makes it dull. There are some issues like CST on raw materials, credit accumulations of VAT (value added tax) and limitations of VAT etc which affect overall production costs. GST will decrease transportation cycle time, spur supply chain decisions, pave the way for consolidation of warehouses which could help pharma supply chain reach its highest peak, he added.

13. [CDSCO working towards drafting new Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 2016](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) is working towards drafting a new Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 2016 and a Medical Devices Act, 2016. The move follows after the ministry of health and family welfare initiated steps to revisit the D&C Act 1940 and Rules 1945. The effort is to match up with the current regulatory requirements related to safety, efficacy and quality of drugs and medical devices. The government has taken a decision to remain updated to newer technology and with the onset of several revised guidelines that have come in not just from global regulatory authorities but also India. Moreover, for the government, pharmaceuticals is a priority sector and therefore it has found it critical to ensure that its regulations are required to be strengthened. The new regulations may also cover the Uniform Code for Pharma Marketing, Formation of Task Force to formulate bulk drug policy, medical devices policy, creation of price monitoring and resource units in the state drugs control department. With active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) being the core of any drug formulation, the government has seen the need to come out with a bulk drug policy and therefore the new Drugs and Cosmetics Act 2016 may see appropriate related inclusions.

14. [Govt urged to make laws to absorb Pharm D graduates for healthcare delivery in rural areas](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Former vice-president of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) Dr Roop Narayan Gupta urged the Union government to absorb the Pharm D graduates in the health department to support the doctors community in rural areas where there is a huge shortage of doctors. In a letter to the government, Dr Gupta said that as per 2011 Indian Census, the present doctor-patient ratio is 1: 1700 in urban areas and 1:20000 in rural areas. This shows that the country's workforce to deliver proper health facility is less than the actual requirement. So, to meet this shortage, Pharm D holders must be recruited to provide healthcare in the villages. Dr. Gupta says that a major section of the population in India has no access to essential medicines due to their economic conditions. Besides, this section of people does not have the facility to take the full course of medication advised by doctors. The non-completion of the course may lead to drug resistance on second exposure. Here, the Pharm D graduates can play a major role in directing the patients for proper medication use.