

1. [Govt to withdraw UPA drug regulatory bill – PTI](#)

The government on Wednesday decided to withdraw a United Progressive Alliance (UPA) bill from Parliament aimed at strengthening the drug regulatory system and replace it with a new measure keeping in mind advancements made in various fields including stem cell research and clinical trials that would be in step with the Modi government's 'Make in India' initiative. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to withdraw the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2013, which had been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. A Standing Committee of Parliament had made a number of recommendations for changing the provisions of the Bill.

2. [Government to revise drugs law, draft new rules for medical devices – The Economic Times](#)

Government said it is revising its drugs law to make it easier for companies to do business while ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicines, in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's latest move to encourage industry. Until last year, India was trying to tweak its archaic drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940, and an amendment bill was introduced in the upper house of parliament in 2013. But that has now been withdrawn, the government said in a statement on Wednesday.

3. [2,839 bottles of Sun Pharma Inc being recalled in US – The Economic Times](#)

As many as 2,839 bottles of anti-bacterial medicine Nitrofurantoin Oral Suspension manufactured by Sun Pharmaceutical Industries are being recalled in the US market on account of failed dissolution specifications. The ongoing nationwide voluntary recall by Nostrum Laboratories Inc for Nitrofurantoin Oral Suspension, usp, 25 mg/5 mL is a class II recall, according to the latest enforcement report on USFDA site.

4. [Government invites entries for NPPA logo – The Economic Times](#)

The Department of Pharmaceuticals plans to differentiate drugs under price control and make it easier for patients to identify them by printing a logo of price regulator NPPA on packages. The department is seeking designs of logo for National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) through a public contest. "The basic idea is that there should be a symbol displayed on

1. [Govt to withdraw UPA drug regulatory bill – PTI](#)
2. [Government to revise drugs law, draft new rules for medical devices – The Economic Times](#)
3. [2,839 bottles of Sun Pharma Inc being recalled in US – The Economic Times](#)
4. [Government invites entries for NPPA logo – The Economic Times](#)
5. [Govt's pharma FDI sop may hit affordable healthcare – The Financial Express](#)
6. [Drug makers tweak cold syrup formula after ephedrine crackdown – Mint](#)
7. [First human trial of CRISPR gets US panel's nod – Business Standard](#)
8. [Govt stress on preventing diabetes, fighting cancer – The Times of India](#)
9. [Centre launches scheme for pregnant women 13 days after PM Modi moots idea at rally – The Indian Express](#)
10. [Sack Arvind Subramanian, says Subramanian Swamy, days after Raghuram Rajan announces exit – The Times of India](#)
11. [Pharma industry witnesses improvements in project completions in 2015/16 – Business Today](#)
12. [NPPA fight for 20 Years – Pharmabiz.com](#)
13. [US FDA approves Sangamo BioSciences' ZFN-mediated genome editing treatment of MPS II – Pharmabiz.com](#)
14. [Pharma exports cross 1 lakh cr mark – The Hans India](#)

scheduled medicines, so that even an illiterate consumer can identify that the medicine is under price control," a senior government official said.

5. [Govt's pharma FDI sop may hit affordable healthcare](#) – The Financial Express

The government's decision to allow foreign direct investment (FDI) up to 74% through automatic route in existing pharmaceutical companies is likely to hit affordable healthcare in the country, especially in the vaccine (in which the government also runs programmes) and injectables segments, according to senior domestic industry executives. Vaccines and injectables are challenging verticals with very few good manufacturing facilities in India and even fewer firms invest in research and development in these verticals. Hence, the acquisition of existing companies could potentially undermine the government's efforts to keep costs of such essential public healthcare items at reasonable levels for the masses, they said.

6. [Drug makers tweak cold syrup formula after ephedrine crackdown](#) – Mint

Given the cumbersome regulations, arbitrary law enforcement, risk of theft and misuse of these substances, most companies have re-formulated their products, replacing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine with phenylephrine, a safer alternative," said a top executive of a pharmaceutical company on condition of anonymity. Phenylephrine is no match to the efficacy of pseudoephedrine as a decongestant, but manufacturers have no option, the executive added.

7. [First human trial of CRISPR gets US panel's nod](#) – Business Standard

For a study designed to target three types of cancer, a US advisory panel has approved the first human use of the groundbreaking gene-editing technology CRISPR, media reports said. The proposed experiment is being funded by former Facebook President Sean Parker's new cancer institute. The experiment, proposed by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, would use CRISPR-Cas9 technology to modify patients' own T cells to make them more effective in attacking melanoma, multiple myeloma and sarcoma, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

8. [Govt stress on preventing diabetes, fighting cancer](#) – The Times of India

Concerned over the rising cases of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like cancer, diabetes and even mental disorders in India, the health ministry has kick-started some key initiatives to promote preventive care to arrest the trend. "Prevention of diseases will always remain in the forefront, whether for communicable or non-communicable diseases, and awareness regarding a balanced lifestyle and healthy living is a crucial pillar in combating non-communicable diseases," health minister JP Nadda said, launching the initiatives.

9. [Centre launches scheme for pregnant women 13 days after PM Modi moots idea at rally](#) – The Indian Express

According to World Bank data, India's maternal mortality rate was 174 per 100,000 live births in 2015. The health ministry recently launched its third programme to bring down this rate, just 13 days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi mooted the idea at a rally. Addressing a rally in Saharanpur last month, Modi had said: "Can my doctor friends do one thing? On the 9th of every month, if any poor pregnant women comes to them, they should give her free treatment."

10. [Sack Arvind Subramanian, says Subramanian Swamy, days after Raghuram Rajan announces exit](#) – The Times of India

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy has called for the sacking of yet another of the country's top economic functionaries. After targeting RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, who announced on Saturday that he would not be serving a second term, Swamy has now attacked Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian, a PM Modi-appointee. In a series of tweets on Wednesday morning, Swamy took aim at Subramanian over his stand on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Citing a TOI report, Swamy recalled that Subramanian had recommended that the US government act against India through the WTO over its pharmaceutical IPR regulations.

- 11. [Pharma industry witnesses improvements in project completions in 2015/16](#) – Business Today**
The drugs and pharmaceuticals industry saw an improvement in the number of projects completed in 2015/16. A total of 26 projects were commissioned during the year. Cost details of 19 projects were available, which amounted to Rs 2,310 crore. The industry had shown a slowdown in project completions during the three years ended March 2015.
- 12. [NPPA fight for 20 Years](#) – Pharmabiz.com**
In an Editorial, PA Francis talks about how National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) last week said that it would set up Price Monitoring and Resource Units in seven states for better compliance of its price fixing orders. These state-level units will be established first in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Haryana, Kerala, Assam and Manipur at an investment of ₹ 4-5 lakh each. NPPA will be providing logistical support to these units in the states and will not hire its own inspectors. The structure and operations of these pricing monitoring units are being worked out. Depending upon the success of these units in the seven states, monitoring units will be set up in other states as well. NPPA has been finding it difficult to ensure ground-level compliance of its orders on ceiling prices for both essential and non essential medicines ever since the price monitoring body was set up. NPPA being a Central body with no effective network of inspectors in states and Union Territories to monitor price violations, drug companies have been flouting DPCO provisions until violations are detected. Yet, the price monitoring body has been trying hard to detect cases of major violations with the support of some of the state drug control administrations. In fact, the Authority had attempted last year to involve the state governments in curbing price violations and requested the state drug control administrations to set up their own price monitoring cells.
- 13. [US FDA approves Sangamo BioSciences' ZFN-mediated genome editing treatment of MPS II](#) – Pharmabiz.com**
Sangamo BioSciences, Inc., a leader in therapeutic genome editing, announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared the company's Investigational New Drug application (IND) for SB-913, a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN)-mediated approach designed as a single treatment with the potential to provide a long-lasting therapy for Mucopolysaccharidosis Type II (MPS II, Hunter syndrome). The IND is now active and enables Sangamo to initiate a phase 1/2 clinical trial (SB-913-1602) to assess the safety, tolerability and potential efficacy of SB-913 in adults with MPS II. "Our team has successfully prepared and filed three IND applications in short succession, for hemophilia B, MPS I and now MPS II, meeting our stated goal for filing the third IND application for our IVPRP genome editing approach in the first half of 2016," said Geoff Nichol, M.B., Ch. B., Sangamo's executive vice president of research and development.
- 14. [Pharma exports cross 1 lakh cr mark](#) – The Hans India**
Pharma exports from the country crossed the coveted Rs 1 lakh crore mark for the first time in its history in last financial year. The total exports stood at Rs 94,275 crore in the preceding fiscal year (2014-15). "Pharmaceutical exports grew by 9.8 per cent in dollar terms and by 17 per cent rupee (constant currency) terms in the last financial to reach Rs 1.12 lakh crore. This is the first time that exports have crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark, helped by a robust upswing in the US market," Dr P V Appaji, Director General, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), told The Hans India.