

1. [India needs strict prosecution laws to fix drug regulatory system: Ranbaxy whistleblower Dinesh Thakur](#) - The Economic Times

Dinesh Thakur, the whistle blower famous for highlighting data manipulation issues at top Indian drug maker Ranbaxy (now part of Sun Pharma), said that the country needed strict criminal prosecution against suppliers of substandard drugs, a nationwide product recall system and more teeth to the central drug administration. Thakur shared these views as part of his submissions to the health ministry, which is engaging with stakeholders for a comprehensive overhaul of rules governing the Indian Pharmaceutical industry.

2. [Tariffs alone can't stop undesirable imports: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) - The Economic Times

Commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that tariffs alone will be unable to stop imports that India doesn't desire. "Only tariffs can't stop imports that we don't desire," she said at CII's National Standards Conclave here.

3. [Pharma contract manufacturers hit as IPM slows down](#) - Business Standard

The ban on fixed dose combination drugs along with the new cap on medicine prices has significantly hit the business of pharma contract manufacturers who now have idle manufacturing capacity. Industry estimates that in the last six months or so, there has been a production cut to the tune of 25-30% as many popular drugs are out of the market, and for the remaining, production volumes have come down as pricing makes them unattractive.

4. [Nadda reviews polio immunization campaign in Telangana](#) - Business Standard

In the wake of the recent polio scare in Telangana, Union Health Minister J P Nadda today reviewed the special vaccination campaign being conducted by the state government and said that over 2 lakh children have been immunised against the disease. The minister assured the state government of full support from the Centre and asserted that "India continues to be polio-free".

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5. [Need to strengthen standards regime, says Sitharaman](#) - Business Standard
6. [Mylan says Indian drug industry needs more transparency from FDA](#) - Mint
7. [India's Sun Pharma bets on new products to boost US skincare products growth](#) - The Financial Express
8. [Indian E-pharma Obstructed With Muddled Regulatory Norms](#) - BusinessWorld
9. [100% FDI in pharma, agriculture will kill Indian brands, fears Mamata](#) - Hindustan Times
10. [Why India's patent law is more secure at WTO than in bilateral engagements](#) - The Times of India
11. [Biocon, Quark get DCGI nod for new eye drug trials](#) - The New Indian Express
12. [Dispensing Medicines](#) - The Hindu
13. [PM gives nod to umbrella health insurance scheme](#) - The Asian Age

5. [Need to strengthen standards regime, says Sitharaman](#) – Business Standard
India needs to strengthen the domestic standards regime for products so as to ensure safety of citizens and stop spurious imports flooding the market, Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday. Speaking at the 3rd edition of the Standards Conclave organised by the Commerce Ministry and the Confederation of Indian Industry, Sitharaman said expanding the scope of mandatory product standards is a priority area for the government.
6. [Mylan says Indian drug industry needs more transparency from FDA](#) – Mint
Mylan NV president Rajiv Malik said the Indian drug industry is starting to get frustrated with US regulators over a lack of transparency in the process for resolving sanctions after a wave of actions last year halted new product approvals at many plants. Canonsburg, Pennsylvania-based Mylan in 2013 purchased Bangalore-based Agila Specialties Pvt., and three of its facilities were among Indian drug plants to last year receive Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warning letters over deficient manufacturing practices.
7. [India's Sun Pharma bets on new products to boost US skincare products growth](#) – The Financial Express
India's largest drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries is banking on the launch of newer and more complex products to offset rising competition in its lucrative US dermatology business, its US chief said. The world's fifth-largest maker of generic drugs was the first among its Indian peers to enter the roughly \$5 billion US dermatology space by acquiring a controlling stake in Israel's Taro Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd in 2010.
8. [Indian E-pharma Obstructed With Muddled Regulatory Norms](#) – BusinessWorld
The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) filed an FIR against Mchemist Global Pvt Ltd and has also asked to maintain a strict vigil on all activities conducted by the epharma companies. There are regular probes and raids at office spaces, where employees are frisked and threatened. Mumbai-based Pharmeasy, Delhi-based M-chemist and Mera Medicare in Gujarat had recently faced police investigations and FIRs. The industry has been losing about 50-60 per cent business because of being stringent with prescriptions and renewing requests. India's pharmaceuticals industry is expected to account for about 3.1-3.6 per cent of the global pharma industry by value, and currently accounts for 10 percent by volume. (Source: Make in India Statistics) The \$18-billion pharma retail market is set to grow to \$55 billion by 2020 and is fast coming under the spotlight due to its growth potential in the coming years. Online e-pharma startups in India have already raised \$92.6 million in funding so far.
9. [100% FDI in pharma, agriculture will kill Indian brands, fears Mamata](#) – Hindustan Times
West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday lashed out at the Narendra Modi government's decision to relax FDI norm in several sectors, saying 100% foreign direct investment in sectors like manufacturing, agriculture and pharmaceutical will "kill Indian brands". Replying to the debate on governor KN Tripathi's address to the state assembly, she said MPs of her Trinamool Congress would raise the matter in parliament. Asserting that her government was still opposed to FDI in such sectors, she said Indian brands have to be looked after.
10. [Why India's patent law is more secure at WTO than in bilateral engagements](#) – The Times of India
In an authored article by Sanjiv Shankaran, he talks about how it is not just in India that patent law triggers a controversy. Even in the US, there is research to show that patent law has become one-sided and now seems to largely benefit pharmaceutical companies. Petra Moser, an economist, published a study titled "Patents and Innovation: Evidence from Economic History" in 2013 in the Journal of Economic Perspectives which is published by the American Economic Association. The study's conclusion was that the role of patents in spurring innovation was overstated.

11. [Biocon, Quark get DCGI nod for new eye drug trials](#) – The New Indian Express

Biopharmaceutical firm Biocon on Thursday said that the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given its nod to it and its Israeli partner Quark Pharmaceuticals to proceed with human clinical trials for a new drug candidate, 'QPI-1007' targeting orphan eye disease. Orphan disease is a condition that affects fewer than 200,000 people nationwide. The study will determine the effect of QPI-1007 on visual function in subjects with acute non-arteritic ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION), a rare ocular disorder with an unmet need globally.

12. [Dispensing Medicines](#) – The Hindu

Pharmacies should maintain impeccable standards of quality and safety. The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has prescribed standards that should be met by the pharmacies. Pharmacists bridge the health disparities gap between a physician and a patient. PCI has stated that any drug from a pharmacy can be dispensed only by a pharmacist. "Each and every drug has its own specifications on intake and storage methods. To avoid drug interaction and adverse side effects, strict regulation on dispense of the drugs is needed. Moreover, treatment of conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and hyperthyroid demand special counseling on the intake of medicines, which highly differs from one person to the other (which is highly individual specific). Pharmacists cannot work independently. Regulations allow pharmacies to conduct various tests and present reports to a physician but they do not have the authority to prescribe medicines based on their test results.

13. [PM gives nod to umbrella health insurance scheme](#) – The Asian Age

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi gave his approval for introducing an integrated health insurance scheme. The new scheme which is likely to be named-National Health Protection scheme (NHPS) aims to bring together all existing health insurance schemes and in its new avatar is expected to offer increased coverage. Sources said that after extensive deliberations, a final presentation was made before the Prime Minister on Monday soon after he came back from Chandigarh after the grand international yoga day celebrations. 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.