

1. [Pharma sector to grow by 20 per cent on relaxed FDI norms: Ananth Kumar](#) – **The Economic Times**

The pharma sector is expected to grow by 20 per cent on account of relaxed foreign direct investment (FDI) norms and a separate ministry to focus on the sunrise sector is on the anvil, Chemical and Fertiliser Minister Ananth Kumar today said. While continuing with 100 per cent FDI under automatic route in greenfield pharmaceuticals, the government had earlier this week allowed 74 per cent foreign investment in brownfield pharma companies through the automatic route.

2. [FDI in pharma: Supply of NLEM drugs to be maintained for 5 years](#) - **The Economic Times**

Foreign pharma firms wanting to invest up to 74 per cent in domestic companies will have to commit to maintain the same production level and supply of essential drugs at the time of investment for a period of five years, according to the latest relaxed norms of FDI. Further, R&D expenses will also have to be maintained in value terms for five years at an absolute quantitative level at the induction of the FDI of up to 74 per cent, which has now been allowed under the automatic route.

3. [Brexit aftermath: Drug firms brace for new regulatory framework](#) – **Business Standard**

According to Grant Thornton's 2016 report, the fastest growing Indian pharmaceutical companies in the UK are Emcure, Wockhardt, Lupin, Glemark and Dr Reddy's. "Emcure Pharma, following its acquisition of Tillomed Laboratories through its UK subsidiary, has ambitious expansion plans in the EU and UK markets," said the report. According to experts, in the short term, there would not be any significant effects as the exit would take place only after two years. This deadline of two years would start only when UK serves the exit notice to EU, which is likely to happen sometime after October.

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12. [Brexit will disrupt EU and UK drug regulation](#) – The Asian Age
13. [Just a step in the right direction](#) – The Asian Age
14. [Data sciences can save India and here is why](#) – YourStory.com
15. [CDSO renews WC certificate to API units to ease export to EU countries](#) – Pharmabiz.com
16. [DCGI should lay down specific norms for online pharmacies or frame rules with no delay: Dr BR Jagashetty](#) – Pharmabiz.com

4. [India needs game-changer M&A reforms; here's why](#) – The Financial Express

The narrative of reforms since then has been one of eliminating entry barriers. This government has endeavored to push ahead the reform agenda by embracing a series of measures such as Make in India, Start-up India and other entrepreneurship initiatives. India has also endorsed radical changes in the foreign investment policy and, with the recent set of reforms, most sectors are now open to 100% foreign ownership. The overall theme has been directionally positive, collectively meaningful and resonates with the government's commitment to facilitate growth and stability.

5. [India's new IPR policy a step in right direction: Richard Verma](#) – The Financial Express

Describing the new IPR policy by the Centre as a "step in the right direction", US Ambassador to India Richard Verma today stressed the need for robust IP protection mechanism, saying foreign investors would also make decisions based on steps being taken to protect Intellectual Property. "India's recently released IPR policy which really is a step in the right direction towards nurturing a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within a strong national IPR framework. There is always room for improvement, however.

6. [Pharma majors see minimal impact of breakaway decision](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) Director General PV Appaji points out that the UK hovers between the second and third places for Indian drug exports. The outright leader is the US, with South Africa giving the UK a run for its money. According to Pharmexcil data, the country's exports to the US stood at ₹26,345 crore for the year ended March 2015, followed by the UK at ₹3,320 crore and South Africa at ₹3,126 crore. And in the EU, Germany is a key market for many companies, he said, adding that the UK and other markets followed. Industry-hands point out that the UK offers the lowest pharma prices in the region, and so a good part of the exports go to the other countries besides the UK.

7. [A law that needs much more than a cosmetic change?](#) – The Hindu Business Line

An authored article by S Srinivasan, from LOCOST, Vadodara, the article highlights that as the government re-visits the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the watchword should be safety and quality more than 'ease of doing business'. He further said that remedies with tall claims and high prices are not confined to modern medicine practitioners; it is prevalent in the pharma industry, too. The pharma market is rife with irrational, unscientific and/or hazardous medicines in the form of Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs), accounting for at least 40 per cent of the ₹1-lakh crore domestic market.

8. [Brexit to have limited impact on pharma industry: ICRA](#) – The Indian Express

Britain's decision to exit the European Union will have a "limited" impact on India's pharma industry, ratings agency ICRA said on Friday. "The European markets account for 10-13 per cent of total revenues with US being the largest export destination. Accordingly, the impact of GBP and Euro depreciation is likely to be limited," ICRA Ltd Senior VP, Co-head Corporate Sector ratings Subrata Ray said in a statement.

9. [Coming soon: bar coding of drugs](#) – The Hindu

Bar coding for medicines, training for drug manufacturers and an integrated approach toward zero tolerance for sub-standard medicines in the country is on the anvil. All this has been planned and is to be implemented with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) claiming to be hard at work along with the Union Health Ministry, manufactures and its inspectors to ensure that the drugs made available to the common man has 100 per cent potency and isn't sub-standard.

10. [Government introduces injectable polio vaccine in Tamil Nadu](#) – The Times of India

Six months after the union health ministry ushered in injectable polio vaccine, Tamil Nadu has introduced it in its routine immunization. Since Monday, close to 20,000 infants across the state have been administered an injection with inactivated polio vaccine (IPV). The injection, which

produces antibodies in the blood to fight all three types of polio virus, is given in addition to the first and third dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV).

11. [Central funds for health infrastructure](#) – The Telegraph

Union health minister J.P. Nadda today announced Rs 189 crore each for the upgrade of five district hospitals, including two in north Bengal, to medical colleges and Rs 150 crore each for infrastructure improvement at three existing medical colleges. The Union health minister said North Bengal Medical College and Hospital in Siliguri and medical colleges in Malda and Bankura would get infrastructure boost. "Five district hospitals in Birbhum, Cooch Behar, Purulia, North Dinajpur and South 24 Parganas will be upgraded to medical colleges very shortly. The central government is providing Rs 189 crore for each hospital. Apart from that, we will also provide Rs 150 crore each for the upgrade of three medical colleges in Siliguri, Bankura and Malda," said Nadda.

12. [Brexit will disrupt EU and UK drug regulation](#) – The Asian Age

Britain's vote to leave the EU spells regulatory uncertainty for drug companies, with the London-based European Medicines Agency (EMA), which approves treatments for all EU countries, expected to have to relocate. The association of Germany's pharmaceuticals industry said on June 24 that Europe's equivalent of the US Food and Drug Administration would need to move to a city within the EU, bringing administrative headaches for companies. Britain's biggest drugmaker, GlaxoSmithKline, said the exit vote "creates uncertainty and potentially complexity for us in the future", though the impact on its global business would be small, while the UK pharma trade association warned of challenges to future investment, research and jobs.

13. [Just a step in the right direction](#) – The Asian Age

In an editorial, journalist Megha Bahree highlights that if you carefully parse all the announcements, you'll see a common theme emerge —encourage companies across sectors to manufacture in India, and let's try to make it a little easier for them to get to that point (although the latter has a lot left to be desired to really make it easy to do business in India.) Talking of the impact on pharmaceutical sector, she said that foreign investors can now buy up to 74% without any government approvals. The reason this is relevant is because India's pharmaceutical sector has been a favourite of private equity players, most of whom have only sought a minority stake. But even for that, up until now, they had to get government approval. Post this reform, it removes that hassle and makes it easier for them to get on with their business.

14. [Data sciences can save India and here is why](#) – YourStory.com

There is production data from pharmaceutical companies, and there is medicine-administered data in hospitals along with data pertaining to insurance paid. Bringing this ecosystem together is considered the most difficult process. But, a policy making it mandatory to get these institutions to create a consortium is a necessity. Such a platform would be like an automobile standard for connected vehicles (which is collection of all world's leading automobile companies) or in this case this would be a connected healthcare platform to understand the incidence of the disease by region or a suburb. Registered stakeholders upload the data of medicine produced and consumed, diseases treated and the insurance paid on a daily basis. The customer data is irrelevant here, but the macro data can generate patterns that can become actionable.

15. [CDSCO renews WC certificate to API units to ease export to EU countries](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has started renewing the written confirmation (WC) certificate to active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) manufacturers for exporting APIs to European Union (EU). The certificate was made mandatory by EU in 2013 which confirms the compliance of good manufacturing practice (GMP) as per EU standards with the validity period of 3 years. Most of the companies have completed the validity terms and approached CDSCO for renewal. Approximately 30 companies have received the renewed written confirmation certificate to export APIs to the EU countries. The EU mandated the

written confirmation certificate to prevent falsified medicinal products from entering EU from other countries.

16. [DCGI should lay down specific norms for online pharmacies or frame rules with no delay: Dr BR Jagashetty – Pharmabiz.com](#)

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) needs to formulate a set of dedicated rules for online pharmacy as the issue is turning murkier by the day. This is because the current D&C Act and Rules do provide a guidance and the regulatory authority has an option to re-examine the same and permit online pharmacy business model with any specified restrictions, said Dr BR Jagashetty, former national adviser (drugs control) to Union health ministry and former Karnataka Drugs Controller. The present D&C Act and Rules clearly indicate that drugs specially Schedule H, H1 and X are to be sold by a licensed outlet under supervision of an approved pharmacist present to vend the same via doctor's prescription. In such a case, there should be no problem for online pharmacy players to operate in the country, he added.