

1. [Drug price control decision only after industry discussion: Hansraj Gangaram Ahir](#) – The Economic times

Government will not take any decision on drug price control without holding discussions with the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said today.

"We take every step very carefully when it comes to the issue of drug price control as we do not want to take even a single step without holding discussions with the industry," Ahir said at an Assocham conference here.

Also appeared in [NDTV](#), [The Hindu](#)

2. [Generics: India may take EU to WTO](#) – Mint

India may challenge the European Union over stricter trademark rules that could stop exports of some generic drugs via the bloc to markets such as Latin America, people with knowledge of the matter said.

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2. [Generics: India may take EU to WTO](#) – Mint
3. [High level panel suggests putting a cap on trade margins of drugs](#) – Mint
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11. [NASSCOM Foundation rallies corporates to join TB-Free India campaign](#) – The Financial Express

The nation is considering taking the EU to the World Trade Organization if talks over the regulations fail, the people said, asking not to be identified as the plan isn't public. The rules from this month allow owners of EU trademarks to prevent the transshipment of goods, including medicines, that use those logos or designs without authorization.

"Drug shipments going to Latin America, some African markets and North America will be impacted," said D. G. Shah, secretary general of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance in Mumbai. "Anything can be construed as trademark violation — packaging, sign, logo, shape or colour. The industry is concerned anything even remotely similar may attract the new regulation."

3. [High level panel suggests putting a cap on trade margins of drugs](#) – Mint

A committee formed last year and headed by Joint Secretary in DoP, in order to bring down drug prices has recommended putting a cap on trade margins to control exorbitant trade margins which fleece consumers. The committee which also included members from leading industry bodies, NGOs, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and the Competition Commission of India, recommended capping the trade margins at 35 percent on all the drugs with Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of above Rs 50. For drugs priced between Rs 20-50, the panel has proposal to cap the margin at 40 percent and recommended capping the margin at 50 percent for the drugs priced from Rs 2-20. However, the panel proposed no capping of trading margin on the medicine priced up to Rs 2.

4. [Bhupesh Bhandari: The rot in drug regulation](#) – Business Standard

Dinesh Thakur, the whistleblower whose intervention led Ranbaxy to admit that it had falsified data while seeking the approval of the United States Food and Drug Administration, and pay penalty of \$500 million to close the case, has taken the Indian drug regulators to court, accusing them of failing to enforce drug safety rules.

Mr Thakur spent much of 2015 to file more than 100 public information requests on how the central and state authorities had responded to cases where the rules had been broken. The responses showed that they had not adequately investigated the issues, which made him take the health ministry, Drugs Consultative Committee and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation to the Supreme Court. The matter is listed for Friday on the Supreme Court cause list. The suit would not result in penalties but clear the way for a framework for recalls and a commission to enquire improper approvals.

5. [Pharma industry to be considered on drug price control: ASSOCHAM](#) – Business Standard

The government will not take any decision on drug price control without holding discussions with the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders, Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said at an ASSOCHAM event in Delhi.

"We take every step very carefully when it comes to the issue of drug price control as we do not want to take even a single step without holding discussions with the industry," said Ahir while inaugurating 'MEDCON 2016,' organized by ASSOCHAM.

6. [Industry opposes import duty hike on medical devices](#) – The Economic Times

Medical devices industry has strongly opposed the government's proposal to increase the import duty, saying it will increase healthcare costs for patients and hurt the Rs 50,000-crore industry.

"Customs duty on all medical devices has been increased by around 7.3 per cent. It should have been lowered because majority of the medical devices (75 per cent) are imported.

7. [Medical Council of India in need of complete reformation: Parliament panel report](#) – The Economic Times

The Medical Council of India (MCI) is in need of a complete reformation, as corruption and lack of accountability threatens the medical education of the country, if unchecked this will lead to great social, financial and political cost to the country, according to parliamentary standing committee report on health.

There are three areas where the committee has recommended drastic changes to MCI — the setup of MCI as a regulatory body, the governance of medical colleges and corruption. The committee, to begin with, wants to bring diverse stakeholders in the governing body.

8. [Sanofi, Bayer have Mallya as chairman, in India](#) – Indian Express

Vijay Mallya, chairman of the UB Group, may have left the country, leaving a string of banks, regulators and the judiciary in hot pursuit but the Indian subsidiaries of two large multinational corporations, French pharma major Sanofi and German chemicals conglomerate Bayer, continue to have him as the chairman on their board of directors. Mallya is the chairman of Bayer Crop Science Ltd and Sanofi India Ltd, both listed on Indian stock exchanges. The spokesperson for Sanofi India Limited said: "We have been advised that Dr. Mallya has not been disqualified under the Indian Companies Act, to hold a Board position in our Company or any other company. The legal cases do not relate to Sanofi India Limited and hence we have no further comments on this subject."

9. [1st generic-drugs store a hit with consumers in Mumbai](#) – Hindustan Times

The city's first medicine shop that sells only generic drugs, at Ghatkopar, is proving a hit with consumers. Jan Aushadhi is a chain of medical stores launched by the government of India to make available generic, low-cost versions of various medicines to people.

All medicines sold at these stores are obtained from the Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings, which coordinates the marketing and supply of generic drugs. Jan Aushadhi stores currently stock 400 medicines used to treat a variety of ailments, including cancer, diabetes, heart diseases and hypertension. The government aims to increase the number of medicines to 577 and the number of stores to 3,000 by 2017. A list of the medicines available at Jan Aushadhi stores is available online at janaushadhi.gov.in.

10. [Doctors' body asks govt to check menace of spurious drugs](#) – Business Standard

A doctors' body in Jammu and Kashmir has sought the state government's intervention to check the menace of spurious drugs in the Valley, claiming that no serious efforts were being made to curb it.

A delegation of Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) led by its president Nisar-ul-Hassan called on Governor's Advisor Pervez Dewan here yesterday, an official spokesman said today.

The delegation informed the Advisor that the drug market was unchecked and unregulated and no serious efforts were being made to curb the menace, he said.

11. [NASSCOM Foundation rallies corporates to join TB-Free India campaign](#) – The Financial Express

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) Foundation in New Delhi organised a conference recently to pledge support to the Government of India's Call to Action for a TB-Free India national campaign. Reportedly, it was attended by the corporate social responsibility (CSR) heads of India's leading companies.

Anshu Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Dr Sunil Khaparde, Deputy Director General, TB, Central TB Division, Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP); Xerses Sidhwa, Director, Health Office, US Agency for International Development (USAID); and Kavita Ayyagiri, Project Director, The Union South-East Asia, were present at the event to discuss various ways by which the corporate leaders can support the campaign, including launching TB awareness programmes among employees and communities, infection control measures in the workforce, and community screening drives.