

1. [Misuse of top antibiotics gives rise to superbugs: WHO report](#) – The Times of India

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published its first ever list of antibiotic-resistant 'priority pathogens' — a catalogue of 12 families of bacteria that pose the greatest threat to human health. This is bad news for India as most of these 12 superbugs have presence in the country. The list was drawn up to promote research and development of new antibiotics, the global health agency said, adding that the move was part of efforts to address the problem of growing global resistance to antimicrobial medicines. "Antibiotic resistance is growing and we are fast running out of treatment options. If we leave it to market forces alone, the new antibiotics we urgently need are not going to be developed in time," said Dr Marie-Paule Kieny, WHO's assistant director-general for health systems and innovation.

CDC Atlanta, which houses one of world's most advanced laboratories, conducted tests on the woman's wound specimen later and confirmed the presence of New Delhi Metallo-Beta-Lactamase (NDM) — a superbug that makes bacteria resistant to antibiotics. The misuse of high-end antibiotics for treatment of common health conditions gives rise to these bacteria. AIIMS trauma centre doctors said at least eight patients had been identified with colistin-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* at their hospital recently.

1. [Misuse of top antibiotics gives rise to superbugs: WHO report](#) – The Times of India
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2. [Battling superbugs with Big Data](#) – Mint

Antibiotics that once cured ailments across the spectrum are now turning into a potential source of prolonged illness, disability and death. The world is transitioning to a post-antibiotic era where common infections and minor injuries will begin to kill, thanks to increasing antibiotic resistance (ABR). In 2015, such resistance was identified as the cause for about 23,000 deaths annually in the US and about 25,000 such deaths in Europe. While accurate data on the incidence of antibiotic resistance in India is unavailable, the highest number of deaths caused by resistant pathogens passed on to newly born babies from mothers or the environment—approximately 58,000—was in our region. Though ABR in certain cases occurs through the natural evolution of resistance in bacterial pathogens, the rising consumption of antibiotics is a major contributor. Topping this, the New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM) enzyme, which makes bacteria resistant to beta-lactam antibiotics, is now present globally.

3. [Whistleblower Reports Unfair Price-Fixing of Diabetes Drug to NPPA](#) – Scroll.in

The government recently released the report of a survey, which revealed that 20 percent of Indians are suffering from diabetes. An anti-diabetic drugs market of almost Rs 10,000-crore, it caters to this shocking proportion of the population. In a move that may shake up this market in the country, a whistleblower has written to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), alleging that four leading pharmaceutical companies are colluding to set the price of anti-diabetic drug Vildagliptin at artificial levels, reports The Economic Times. The report says the government agency will look into the allegations that these companies have gone against fair trade practices by keeping the prices of various brands of Vildagliptin at unfair levels. When The Quint contacted NPPA chairman Bhupendra Singh regarding the news, he refused to react to media reports, but added that they take note of any development in the field.

4. [Pharma group IPA hits out at local drug regulators](#) – Moneycontrol.com

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance – a powerful grouping of twenty leading Indian drug companies – has written to Arvind Panagariya, vice chairman of the National Institution for Transforming India or NITI Aayog, expressing concerns over the recent decisions of the government. In the letter, the IPA made a few scathing remarks noting that the decisions had the industry “perplexed by the propriety, not just legality” and were indicative of a trust deficit between the industry and the regulatory machinery. Taking a critical view of the local drug regulatory machinery, the Feb. 27 IPA letter signed by DG Shah, secretary general of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, said while the policy framework was correct, problems cropped up in the Indian industry due to “imaginative and arbitrary” implementation of the pricing policy. It alleged that an “unbridled turf war” between the department of pharmaceuticals and NPPA resulted in unwarranted price fixation and open defiance of the government’s corrective orders. The group also suggested a host of measures to promote the sector pointing to the challenges to exports of generics to the US such as uncertainties from the Trump Administration and the pressure to change India’s intellectual property laws.

5. [US investors still concerned over compulsory licensing in India](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The acrimony between India and the US over the issue of intellectual property rights (IPR) and patents, as well as compulsory licensing in the pharmaceuticals sector, is far from over. “Section 3(d) (of Indian Patents Act) and compulsory licensing continue to remain significant concerns for the American investors,” said Patrick Kilbride, Executive Director (International IP) of US Chamber of Commerce’s Global Intellectual Property Centre (GIPC). “India still lacks an innovation-driven model, despite having a National IPR Policy in place.” In an interview to BusinessLine, he said even though the government had rolled out the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy last year, IP-intensive American firms continue to face severe challenges in the Indian market concerning Section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act. Section 3(d) of the Patents Act prevents ever-greening of patents unless it differs significantly in properties with regard to efficacy. The GIPC, in its annual IPR report, had ranked India in the bottom three for having a weak IPR and patents regime.

6. [Roche not looking at manufacturing in India at the moment: MD](#) – Mint

Shravan Subramanyam, managing director of Roche Diagnostics India Pvt. Ltd, is optimistic about the growth of diagnostics industry in India, with the market evolving and concepts of preventive healthcare and monitoring gaining importance. He expects the gap between innovation globally and its availability in India to close fast as the market is maturing and appetite for high-tech products is increasing. The Indian diagnostics supplier industry is valued at \$700-800 million, growing at about 15% annually. The good thing is that the gap between innovation globally and when it’s available in India is fast closing. And that’s for various reasons. The Indian market is evolving, maturing and Indian appetite for some of these high-tech products is also increasing. In cancer specifically, sequencing is a major trend. In India, it has largely been restricted to academic and research type organizations, but it is rapidly entering the clinical space as well. The other thing that I see probably more in future not so much now is the influence of technology or IT in diagnostics. The industry is moving from being a pure play hardware driven business to a technology-enabled business. The use

of clinical algorithms and IT algorithms to look at treatment decisions is picking up. It's a bit abstract at the moment but I expect that to be more a part of how diagnosis is driven in future.

7. [Sanofi, Boehringer Ingelheim close business swap in India](#) – [The Economic Times](#)

Global healthcare leader Sanofi- Synthelabo (India) and German pharmaceutical firm Boehringer Ingelheim today said they have closed business swap which involves an exchange of over 80 brands between the two companies in India. The closing of swap deal was for the exchange of Sanofi's animal health business and Boehringer Ingelheim's consumer healthcare (CHC) business in the country, a release said here. It involves an exchange of over 80 brands between the two companies in India. "With the successful closure of the swap deal in India, both companies have achieved a major landmark. This swap of the consumer healthcare business of Boehringer Ingelheim and Sanofi's Animal Health business will facilitate both companies to pursue their respective strategic aspirations," said Sanofi India Managing Director and Vice- President - South Asia, Shailesh Ayyangar. Sanofi, he said, is excited to embrace the incoming CHC brands and people associated with this business, as this is in line with the company's stated objective of boosting its presence in consumer healthcare in India.

8. [Health care sector may grow by 12-14% over next 5 years: ICRA](#) – [ETHealthworld](#)

The health care sector is expected to witness an annual revenue growth of 12-14 per cent over the next five years due increasing medical tourism and higher health insurance penetration, rating agency ICRA said today. "India has seen an increase in inflow of international patients, mostly from developing countries in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Most commonly availed treatments by foreign patients visiting India are complex and high value procedures. For the large hospital chains the revenue from international patients has grown at the rate of more than 20 per cent over the last three years," ICRA said. ICRA expects annual revenue growth of 12-14 per cent over the next five years in the health care sector, in line with the trend in the last three years. "India has significant cost advantages in medical tourism as treatments here can be done at 60-90 per cent of the cost of such procedures in the US. The medical tourism sector has been growing at the rate of more than 20 per cent and is expected to continue to grow at the same rate, thus doubling in size by 2021," said ICRA Senior Vice-President and Group-Head, Corporate Ratings, K Ravichandran.

9. [Patients with rare, genetic disorders appeal for support](#) – [Pharmabiz.com](#)

On the occasion of the 8th International Rare Disease Day in India, the Lysosomal Storage Disorders Support Society, India (LSDSS), in association with the Paediatric Department of Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), brought together experts, patients and their families to spread awareness on rare, genetic disorders known as Lysosomal Storage Disorders and their impact on individual lives. Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs) are a group of over 50 rare, life threatening, chronically debilitating diseases that occur due to the deficiency of specific enzymes in the body. LSDs mostly occur in children, who often die within a few months or years of birth, after much suffering. These disorders affect multiple organs and cause progressive physical deformity. The symptoms of LSDs vary from mild to severe, depending on the disorder and variables like the age of onset. These can include developmental delay, movement disorders, seizures, dementia, deafness and blindness, enlarged liver (hepatomegaly) and enlarged spleen (splenomegaly), pulmonary and cardiac problems, and abnormal bone growth.

10. [Ministry of Pharma & Devices](#) – [Pharmabiz.com](#)

The Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Ananth Kumar last week stated in Bengaluru that the Central government is seriously considering forming a dedicated ministry for pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The minister had indicated about the move first in 2015 and has been under discussion with different stakeholders. Now the matter has been already brought to the notice of the Prime Minister's Office and the PMO is also reported to have convinced of such a need in the context of huge potential for growth in these two industry segments in the coming years. India's pharmaceutical industry has grown into a major sector over the last 30 years having an annual

production in excess of Rs. 2 lakh crore with as much as 50 per cent of that being exported to over 150 countries including to most of the developed nations. The country has over 10,000 pharmaceutical units and 7 lakh trading establishments in the retail and wholesale segments. And over the years, India has earned the name as the only major supplier of quality generic drugs at lower prices to the world. This is certainly a great achievement for a sector which was dominated by the multinational drug companies until seventies.