

1. [India's overall business environment has improved: US trade group](#) – The Economic Times

India's overall business environment has improved and the country is also taking a hard look at its IP-related competitiveness, an American business advocacy group has told the US government.

"India's overall business environment has improved and likewise India is taking a hard look at its IP-related competitiveness," the US Chamber of Commerce said in a submission to the US Trade Representative in its hearing on Special 301 Submission.

2. [Govt's intervention in SEP issues counter-productive: Assocham](#) – Business Standard

Industry body Assocham today said any government's intervention in the issues related with standard essential patents (SEPs) will be "counter-productive" to market-driven inter-company licensing regime.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the chamber said that any guideline related with SEPs on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms should not appear in the forthcoming National IPR Policy.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry has floated a discussion paper on SEPs and their availability on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms.

The objective of the paper is to invite views and suggestions from the public at large to develop a suitable policy framework to define the obligations of essential patent holders and their licencees.

3. [India, US hold dialogue on collaboration in traditional medicines](#) – ET Health

Taking forward the Indo-US dialogue on collaboration in traditional medicines, researchers from India and US today started discussions to review and cooperate on methods to reduce morbidity due to cancer using AYUSH interventions.

The two-day India-US workshop on traditional medicine was inaugurated by AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik in the presence of US Ambassador to India Richard Verma and Assistant Secretary of Global Affairs Health and Human Services (HHS) Ambassador Jimmy Kolker.

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14. [Healthcare Sabha to kickstart in Hyderabad](#) – The Financial Express

4. [US becomes loan guarantor for India's primary healthcare expansion](#) – The Times of India
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Thursday issued a loan guarantee to RBL Bank Limited providing loans totaling \$9 million to Wellspring Healthcare Private Limited (Healthspring). This is the first loan guarantee that USAID will provide in the country's health sector.

Healthspring operates a network of primary healthcare centers that provide medical services, including 24x7 emergency response, diagnostics, etc. The money will be utilized to expand into new regions and cover over 3million people.

"Improving access to quality, essential primary healthcare services is one of USAID's most important goals in India. This loan guarantee will expand affordable, quality healthcare services in urban areas through an innovative integrated private primary care network in Mumbai and other major cities," said Ambassador Jonathan Addleton, USAID Mission Director to India.

5. [Pricing pressures weigh on drug industry growth - Moody's](#) – Reuters
The pharmaceutical industry faces growing pressure on prices and is struggling to get some new products adopted by cost-conscious healthcare providers, pointing to slower profit growth for the sector.

That's the verdict of Moody's Investors Service, which said on Thursday it expected annual growth of 3-4 percent in earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) for the next 12-18 months, down from 4-5 percent seen previously.

Drug prices, which have long been under pressure in Europe and Japan, are becoming a hot political topic in the United States, the industry's biggest and most profitable market, in the run-up to November's presidential election.

6. [Affordable dialysis](#) – The Hindu Business Line
Doctors are not surprised that the Government picked end-stage kidney disease as something that needed targeted support, since high blood pressure and diabetes are pretty much part of daily conversations in homes across the country. Both these health conditions are among the common causes that affect the kidneys, and it's no secret that India holds the dubious distinction of being among the top two countries with diabetes. What is key now is how the Government intends to roll out the 'National Dialysis Services Programme' proposed this Budget.

So making dialysis more affordable to improve its frequency and access, especially in semi-urban and rural areas is welcome. But it will also require training more medical staff to run centres in district hospitals or outside. The Government will have to keep an eye that quality service is offered. With the demand gap being huge — about 2.2 lakh new patients with end stage renal disease added every year, creating an additional demand for 3.4 crore dialysis sessions, when the country has only about 4,950 dialysis centres — the scheme should not become an avenue for fly-by-night operators.

7. ['Growing drug resistance a cause for concern'](#) – The Hindu
Growing antibiotic resistance in India is of great concern, opined healthcare experts while expressing fear over increasing incidence of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is estimated to kill about 2.15 lakh to three lakh people annually in the country with a global burden of half million deaths. The disease is prevalent in all parts of the country and is said to be worsening due to growing drug resistance. Sowmya Swaminathan, Director General of ICMR, expressed concern over growing antibiotic resistance in the disease causing bacteria - Mycobacterium tuberculosis. She said such cases account for about five per cent of the cases and a slight lower percentage of deaths.

8. [Here's how India can fight rising antibiotic resistance](#) – DNA

Antibiotic resistance is a problem worldwide, but is particularly worrying in India, where hospital standards are inconsistent and antibiotics are readily available over the counter at pharmacies. Now, a recent study suggests a range of interventions that could help.

A mix of poor public health systems, high rates of infectious disease, inexpensive antibiotics and rising incomes are coming together to increase prevalence of resistant pathogens and is increasing the burden of untreatable neonatal sepsis and health-care-associated infections.

9. [Submit Chandrapur GMC inspection report](#) – The Times of India

The Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court, on Thursday, asked Medical Council of India (MCI) to submit its inspection report regarding Government Medical College (GMC) in Chandrapur, within two weeks. The apex body for medical education had rejected the college's demand for approval for its new batch citing various deficiencies.

Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court granted last chance to 'Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)' to inform about action taken to ban 87 drug combinations, which the experts believed has irreversible and adverse effects on vital organs of human body. The list of these 87 drugs was prepared by a court appointed expert panel headed by the Department of Pharmacology, Government Medical College in city, in 2010. IMA, which filed an intervention, had earlier pointed out that majority of these combinations were prohibited in many countries. Earlier, the DCGI sought three months, but the court asked it to complete formalities within two months.

The court's directives came while hearing a suo Motu PIL (No 18/2010) on a media report over sale of spurious drugs in Nagpur district highlighting sorry state of affairs in health care sector.

10. [Healthcare: Digital adoption to drive growth](#) – Mint

Technology will play an increasing role in healthcare consultation, patient care and medicine delivery, according to the sixth edition of consulting firm Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd's 2016 predictions for the technology, media and telecommunications sector in India.

In the coming years, the Deloitte report expects significant adoption of e-commerce in the retail medicine sales market, which is expected to reach \$55 billion in 2020. Medicine e-commerce is likely to see high growth as more firms enter the segment with innovative business models, backed by global investors. These firms would look to take advantage of the inefficient distribution system leading to non-availability of medicines and the issue of counterfeit drugs, which currently plague the existing physical pharmacy business. Once the regulatory bodies provide guidelines for online sales of medicines, the researchers expect the sector to get a further boost. Deloitte estimates the market for pharma e-commerce will grow 10 times to \$400 million in 2017.

11. [State AYUSH policy unveiled](#) – The Hindu

Kerala AYUSH Health Policy 2016, which aims at making the State the preferred AYUSH destination on the global map and harnessing the potential of the traditional systems of medicine for improving primary and preventive health care, has come into force.

The policy was unveiled by Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala on Thursday in the presence of Health Minister V.S. Sivakumar.

The AYUSH policy, while aiming at strengthening and improving the performance of traditional systems of medicines, also recognises that mainstreaming and integrating AYUSH systems into the public health system will involve nurturing the individual systems of medicine through the development of infrastructure facilities, teaching institutions, research, and improving the quality of drugs. The policy aims at establishing AYUSH systems of medicine as the preferred choice of treatment in primary health care and to establish Ayurveda and homoeopathic treatment facilities in all local bodies in the State.

12. [Restore duty cut on life-saving drugs: CPI\(M\)](#) – The Hindu
The Communist Party of India (Marxist) Polit Bureau on Thursday, expressed “deep concern” over withdrawal of customs duty exemption for over 76 life saving drugs.

In a release, the CPI (M) said, “This gazette notification by the government has made these drugs more expensive. These drugs include anti-cancer, anti-AIDS drugs and drugs for haemophilia patients.”

13. [India gets its first 'weekly' injectible drug for Type 2 diabetes](#) – The Times of India
Diabetes is one of the most haunting diseases to prevail in the world. In India, the number of patients suffering from the same is increasing day by day. Out of the two types of diabetes, it is believed that Type 2 diabetes occurs in 80% to 90% of the patients worldwide.

Diabetes is also known to have a negative affect on kidneys where in patients are advised to undergo dialysis, which again is a painful, time consuming and money spending process. Eli Lilly and Company (India) Pvt. Ltd. announced today the launch of its recently approved diabetes treatment Trulicity (dulaglutide) in India. Trulicity is the first once-weekly, injectable medication designed to improve blood sugar control in adults with type 2 diabetes.

India is among the first few countries in the world and only third in Asia (after UAE and Japan) to launch Trulicity. It received US FDA approval in September 2014 and EU approval in November 2014.

14. [Healthcare Sabha to kickstart in Hyderabad](#) – The Financial Express
For the first time in India, this conference will bring together an interdisciplinary group of professionals working in public healthcare on the same platform to discuss on cohesive, unified and innovative ways to achieve the vision of The National Health Mission which is ‘Universal Access to Equitable, Affordable and Quality Healthcare Services’. The conference is being supported by the National Health Mission, Ministry of Healthcare and Family Welfare, GOI.