

Access to Healthcare

AIIMS to get Rs 1,500 crore facelift in next three years, [The Times of India](#)

NEW DELHI: The health ministry has drawn up a major plan for massive upgradation of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) by injecting nearly Rs 1500 crore over the next three years to expand and improve the infrastructure as well as services at the country's premier health institute. The detailed plan, chalked out by the health ministry, include making all patient-related services online. Starting from the registration process to seeking appointments for consultation with doctors and even prescription and appointments for diagnostics will be made online. Besides, the blueprint outlines major expansion of the institute's physical infrastructure.

Plea seeks uninterrupted supply of HIV test kits for LGBTs, [Business Standard](#)

A petition was on Wednesday filed before the Delhi High Court seeking uninterrupted supply of HIV testing kits at government hospitals for the benefit of the LGBT community and sex workers. A division bench of Chief Justice G. Rohini and Justice R.S. Endlaw sought responses from the union health ministry, Delhi government's health department and the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) on the petition which also sought an inquiry into the disruption in supply of testing kits. The high court posted the matter for July 22.

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[Yahoo! India](#)

[The Statesman](#)

[The New Indian Express](#)

[Zee News](#)

Maharashtra govt takes proactive measures to prevent swine flu, [Hindustan Times](#)

In a first, the Maharashtra government has formed a special technical committee to exclusively look at tackling and preventing the spread of communicable diseases. While the group, created by a government resolution (GR) last month, has taken up H1N1 as its primary challenge, it will also look at vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. The Maharashtra Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Technical Committee (MCDPCTC), under the ministry of health, has been entrusted with the responsibility of drafting guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOP) and making recommendations for various communicable disease ranging from H1N1 to tuberculosis.

State sees spike in H1N1 cases, [The Hindu](#)

Influenza A (H1N1) has been slowly claiming more lives in the State than usual, even though the infection normally peaks during monsoon. The cumulative figures for H1N1 for the year shows that over 315 cases and 23 deaths, including six ante and post natal cases, have been reported. Public health experts say that when a virus becomes established in the community, it is not unusual to find influenza activity spiking every other year and that it is the robustness of the health system's surveillance and monitoring activities which actually makes all the difference between "cases" becoming "deaths."

India's mission to fight child mortality, [IBN Live](#)

Earlier in the month of April 2015, our country accomplished a formidable feat. In the first round of Mission Indradhanush, an initiative launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, more than 50 lakh doses of vaccines were administered, free of cost, to nearly 20 lakh children and 6 lakh

pregnant women. To put numbers into perspective, in a span of 7 days, more children were vaccinated in our country than our born annually in the United States of America. How did we achieve this feat?

Jan Aushadhi stores to be relaunched with drugs for lifestyle diseases from June, Pharmabiz.com

In an initiative to make generic drugs available at affordable prices to the common man, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) is planning to make generic drugs available under the new Jan Aushadhi stores likely to be relaunched in six states on a pilot basis across the country from June onwards. These drugs would range from antibiotics, anti-cardiac, anti-diabetic, anti-infective and gastro-intestinal drugs in six therapeutic segments. The scheme, first launched in 2008, was meant to make medicines affordable to all. Though noble, the scheme did not really take off well with only 98 stores out of the 178 functional now.

Medical & Regulatory

Mega parks would give boost to drug manufacturing: Hansraj Ahir, The Economic Times

MUMBAI: The government will provide a fresh focus on the bulk drug manufacturing, which is likely to get a boost with the development of mega parks, Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Hansraj Ahir said here today. The pharma industry will give boost to GDP growth as it is currently exporting to over 200 countries, Ahir said, after inaugurating an industry exhibition promoted by the Pharmaceutical Exports Promotion Council here. The thrust to bulk drug manufacturing was in line with NDA government's Make-in-India campaign, he said.

Similar reports have appeared in:

Business Standard

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Many fixed-dose drug combos in India lack approval: study, Business Standard

India needs to ban the sale of many fixed-dose drug combinations - used to treat diseases such as HIV and TB - which have not received regulatory approval but are sold in huge numbers in the country, scientists say, citing concerns over their safety and efficacy. Many fixed-dose drug combinations (FDCs), which include two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients combined in a single dosage form, have not received central regulatory approval but are sold in substantial numbers in India, researchers said. FDCs are used as effective treatments for many conditions, including Parkinson's disease, HIV, malaria and tuberculosis.

Similar reports have appeared in:

Yahoo! India

Wrong prescription, The Hindu Business Line

E-tailers need to behave more responsibly. When the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ordered the registration of an FIR against Snapdeal's CEO Kunal Bahl and other directors for selling prescription drugs online without a licence, Snapdeal said in its defence: "Upon being notified of any such products, we delist the products and take appropriate action against such seller. In this case, upon receiving the notice, we have delisted the products and provided all information to the FDA team." But does that wash?

CRI gives clean chit to pentavac vaccine, The Tribune

Tribune News Service Kasauli/Chandigarh, May 13 Two weeks after a two-month-old baby boy from Mani Majra died within a few hours of administering the pentavac vaccine, the Central

Research Institute, Kasauli, today gave a clean chit to the vaccine. Sources in the lab told Chandigarh Tribune that various bi-safety-level tests and physical examination conducted in the past fortnight had found nothing abnormal with the vaccine samples. "The development now poses a question mark over the handling of the vaccine by the healthcare staff and the seller," said a senior official in UT Health Department.

Boosting APIs and exports take top priority at 3rd iPhex 2015, [Express Pharma](#)

Govt officials promote India as "Healthcare provider to the world"™ The third edition of iPhex2015, promoted by the Pharmaceutical Exports Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt of India, kicked off successfully today in Mumbai. The show has attracted global drug regulators, pharmaceutical as well as machinery manufacturers. Explaining the rationale and focus of the event, Rajeev Kher, Secretary, Department of Commerce said that this year there is a concerted effort to promote India not just as the "Pharmacy of the world"™ but as the "Healthcare provider to the world"™.

NPPA notifies prices of 30 more drugs including antibiotics, anti bacterials, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), recently notified the new price ceilings of 30 medicines including antibiotics and those used in treatment of diabetes, tuberculosis and malaria. In its latest order, the NPPA said that if any medicine is priced lower than the ceiling fixed by the regulator, then companies selling such drugs should maintain the existing or lower retail price. The regulator has fixed the cap after arriving at the average price being charged by medicines in a particular segment which have a minimum one per cent market share.

iPhex 2015 brings together pharmaceutical and healthcare industry under one roof, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

Government of India has renewed focus on bulk drug manufacturing which is likely to get a boost with the developments of mega parks in the near future. These things are aligned with Prime Minister's vision of 'Make in India' programme said Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizer Hansraj Gangaram Ahir during the inaugural address on the third edition of iPhEX2015 promoted by The Pharmaceuticals Exports Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), which commenced today in Mumbai and will be on till May 15, 2015.

Union government mandates restriction on advertisement of drugs coming under Schedule H, H1 and X ca, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

Union government has now restricted on advertisement of drugs coming under Schedule H, H1 and X drugs. In a notification issued vide GSR 289, April 2015, the government has amended the Rules 74, 74 A, 74 B, 78 and 78 A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 after inviting objections and suggestions from all stakeholders as required under Section 12 read with Section 33 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 vide GSR No 176 (E) dated March 11, 2014.

Other News on Pharma

Killer mutant malaria strain creeps into India, [India Today](#)

| Mail Today | New Delhi, May 14, 2015 | UPDATED 07:10 IST Patients Around 80 per cent of malaria reported in the country is confined to areas consisting 20% of population residing in tribal, hilly, difficult and inaccessible areas. (Picture for representation) Now this is another deadly bite to worry about, more so because the antimalarial drugs available in India may soon lose their teeth against the vectorborne disease, like in Myanmar and Cambodia. In the first research report on drug resistant malaria from India, scientists at the National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR) have traced a mutation in the disease-causing parasite.