

1. [Quintiles, IMS Health to merge in \\$9-billion deal](#)

– Economic Times

IMS Health Holdings Inc will merge with Quintiles Transnational Holdings Inc in an all-stock transaction with an equity value of about \$9 billion, bringing together two of the biggest providers of data about the pharmaceutical industry. The combination is expected to create an expanded pool of information drugmakers can buy to improve their businesses.

2. [National Committee on Trade Facilitation soon: Nirmala Sitharaman](#)

– Economic Times

India is setting up a national panel that will cut red-tape for the export-import industry while also ensuring

faster clearances of merchandise, in line with the commitment to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Through the TFA, member-countries would seek to simplify trade procedures and help promote cross-border trade and the overall climate for trade and investment. The implementation of the TFA has the potential to increase global merchandise exports by up to \$1 trillion per year, according to the WTO's 2015 flagship World Trade Report.

3. [Why Make In India When You Can Fake In India](#) – Economic Times

Brand Equity brings an in-depth analysis of the scale of counterfeit products in consumer good categories, and what brands and the government need to do (and are doing) to control their mushrooming. India is one the biggest markets for drug counterfeiting, says Zaheer Khan, chairman of EIPR (Enforcers of Intellectual Property Rights) an anti-piracy wing that specializes in conducting raids to bust these rackets . Khan and his team conduct two to three raids every day, across the country. In one of these, they found life saving drugs being produced in a cement mixer. “The level of hygiene was deplorable. Later we found the drug had salt at 100 times its recommended value.

4. [Government mulling conducting all eye operations through phaco surgery](#) – Economic Times

The move is being undertaken so that everyone, especially the poor, benefit from free eye surgeries being conducted in government hospitals. The Minister also stressed that states should come forward in implementing the Clinical Establishments Act to avoid overcharging of

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5. [Efforts to integrate traditional medicines with allopathy: Government](#) – Economic Times
6. [Every Indian must have access to affordable care, says Paras Healthcare MD](#) – Business Standard
7. [Panel on restructuring MCI to submit report by May-end: Nadda](#) – Business Standard
8. [India needs more tie-ups to boost pharma sector](#) – Financial Express
9. [Govts Must Ensure Quality Healthcare](#) – The New Indian Express
10. [Cervical cancer back as top killer among women](#) – Times of India
11. [Azad asks about status of health schemes launched by UPA](#) - Times of India
12. [WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement: Govt to set up panel on trade facilitation](#) – Business Today
13. [AIOCD urges NPPA to mandate cos to recall stock from trade for correction in MRPs](#) – Pharmabiz.com

patients and lamented that only 10 states have so far implemented the Act. He said government was making efforts to sensitise the public against abuse of alcohol, drug overuse and water contamination which is the primary reason for viral hepatitis. Nadda also said "no directions" have been issued by his Ministry to states regarding specific medicines for jaundice patients.

5. [**Efforts to integrate traditional medicines with allopathy: Government**](#) – Economic Times
Efforts are on for integration of traditional medicines like Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani with allopathy for providing better treatment to patients and a pilot project is underway in six districts in as many states in the country. Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ayush Ministry Shripad Yesso Naik said that Indian and US scientists are jointly working on cancer medicine research and an MoU would be signed soon. He said a team of 15 American scientists had come to India and are jointly working in evolving cancer research medicines. He said a new building of Central Ayurveda Research Institute for Cancer research is soon coming up at Worli in Mumbai.
6. [**Every Indian must have access to affordable care, says Paras Healthcare MD**](#) – Business Standard
Supporting every Indian's right to healthcare and keen to introduce and promote fresh models of healthcare delivery, Dr. Dharminder Nagar, Managing Director of Paras Healthcare, says he has always been guided by a mission to provide "accessible and affordable medical assistance to every strata of society. Dr. Nagar says he is guided by realistic and good aspirations, which in turn allow him to offer affordable excellent schemes with the right intent and desire to execute. The icing would be a level-playing field in Indian healthcare.
7. [**Panel on restructuring MCI to submit report by May-end: Nadda**](#) – Business Standard
The committee formed by the government to look into the functioning of the Medical Council of India (MCI) will submit its report by month-end, Health Minister J P Nadda informed Rajya Sabha today. The government had formed a four-member committee, headed by NITI Aayog vice chairman Arvind Pangariya, to suggest an implementation framework for restructuring of MCI and bring an improvement in its functioning. "The Supreme Court has given its judgement. We had one and a half months ago formed a committee to look into the activities of MCI and suggest measures for improvement and what needs to be done there. The committee has to give its report by May-end," Nadda said.
8. [**India needs more tie-ups to boost pharma sector**](#) – Financial Express
The government is due to announce a major reform of intellectual property laws, which it sees as crucial for developing modern, high-technology industries. Meanwhile, the Make-in-India campaign and the previous government Budget created a number of tax incentives and research & development (R&D) initiatives aimed at increasing private and public sector research investment. If the pharmaceutical sector is to help propel the country towards the next stage of economic development, it needs to be generating much more value, and that means creating medicines instead of just manufacturing copies of those invented elsewhere. Another challenge is to provide a domestic market for local innovations. For instance, other innovative countries tend to cover new drugs and technologies in their healthcare systems, which also improves the quality of care and health outcomes.
9. [**Govts Must Ensure Quality Healthcare**](#) – The New Indian Express
Government hospitals across the board are plagued by a variety of problems. They are frequently understaffed and existing staff is overworked, resulting in a less than optimal level of patient care, sometimes neglect and often corruption. As these facilities are the only source of healthcare for crores of people, for whom a single health crisis may be enough to plunge them into poverty, it is imperative that authorities seriously inquire into whether these facilities meet the minimum standards of infrastructure and care framed by the government itself.

10. [Cervical cancer back as top killer among women](#) – Times of India

Over 62,000 women died of cervical cancer in 2015, accounting for 24% of the total cancer-related deaths of women in India, latest estimates by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) show. Data from Census 2011 showed breast cancer upstaging cervical cancer. However, trends have changed again with the latest ICMR report, tabled by health minister J P Nadda in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, indicating the comeback of cervical cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among Indian women.

11. [Azad asks about status of health schemes launched by UPA](#) - Times of India

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday sought to know from Health Minister J.P. Nadda the status of all the health schemes started during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule, including initiatives for mother and child and free drugs. Azad also sought to know from the minister the status of schemes started by UPA 1 and UPA 2. He stressed on the initiatives for mother and child and free drugs. He also raised issues pertaining to National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), an initiative started by the UPA government. He also said there were complaints with regard to incentives for the ASHA community health workers.

Similar news in DNA: [Make healthcare affordable, improve facilities: MPs to govt](#)

12. [WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement: Govt to set up panel on trade facilitation](#) – Business Today

Government will set up a trade facilitation panel for implementing a WTO pact which aims at easing customs norms for faster clearance of goods to boost exports. India formally ratified WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) last month, a move which would supplement the ongoing reforms to bring in simplification and enhanced transparency in cross border trade in goods.

13. [AIOCD urges NPPA to mandate cos to recall stock from trade for correction in MRPs](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) has urged the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to mandate all the manufacturers of drugs, whose ceiling prices were recently reduced with the reduction in WPI for some of the formulations under NLEM, to circulate supplementary price list to the retailers or else call back the stock for correction in MRPs. The organisation has demanded to allow at least 90 days to sell the stock available with the retailer or wholesalers so that the retailers and wholesalers do not face the practical difficulties as some of the manufacturers has not issued supplementary price list to traders.