

1. [Govt likely to repeal three pharma Acts](#) – Mint

The government is likely to introduce legislation in the winter session of Parliament to repeal three pharmaceutical-related laws. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has written to the department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) seeking its views and asked it to prepare for the introduction of the Bill to repeal the three Acts: the Pharmacy (Amendment) Act, 1959 (24 of 1959), the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Educational and Research (Amendment) Act, 2002 (28 of 2002), and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Educational and Research (Amendment) Act, 2007 (19 of 2007), according to a 6 November PMO letter reviewed by Mint.

"(The legislative department is)... seeking your comments/concurrence... to facilitate introduction of a Bill to for repeal of the identified Acts in the next session of Parliament," the PMO said in the letter. DoP has also been asked to send its response and decision to the legislative department and the PMO by this week.

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2. [Spurious drugs imported from China raises red flag for pharma regulator](#) – The Economic Times

China is on the "radar" of the Indian government after a few instances of import of spurious and sub-standard drugs from the country were reported, said officials of a regulatory body for pharmaceuticals. "Active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) estimated to be worth Rs 18,000 crore are imported in India annually and China is the main source of importing drugs in bulk. About 60 per cent of the API comes from China, while the rest comes from Italy, Japan, Europe and the USA.

"Also, it has come to notice that most of the cases of sub-standard drugs, drugs with dubious origin or suspected label are coming from China. To check such infiltration, we have put China on the radar," said an official of the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) on condition of anonymity.

3. [Prices of key drugs down 35%](#) - The Times of India
The drug price regulator has slashed prices of 43 commonly used essential medicines by up to 35%, a move expected to benefit patients suffering from several critical diseases and who need expensive medicines. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority reduced prices of drugs used in treatment of ailments like diabetes, cancer, asthma, cardiovascular diseases, mental disorders and kidney failure. Prices have been revised under three different categories. While some new drugs have been brought under price control, the regulator has also further slashed prices of around 30 drugs which were already under price control. The regulator has also allowed a slight increase in prices of two medicines based on review order issued by the pharmaceuticals department.
4. [Drug regulator fixes prices of 45 formulations](#) – Business Standard
Drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has undertaken an exercise to fix and revise ceiling prices of 45 new formulations, including commonly used antibiotic rifampicin, oral paracetamol and asthmatic medicine salbutamol. The authority said it has notified ceiling prices of nine scheduled formulations, while revising the ceiling price of 36 scheduled formulations which are under price control. Moreover, NPPA said it has fixed the retail prices of 11 formulations under DPCO, 2013. These include diabetes drugs Teneligliptin and Metformin HCl Tablet manufactured by Glenmark Pharmaceuticals and Macleods Pharmaceuticals Ltd among others.
5. [More essential medicines to become cheaper with NPPA's latest notification](#) – The Economic Times
Drug pricing watchdog National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has slashed prices of more than 40 medicines, including those to treat cancer, HIV and blood clots, in its latest price notification. This round of price caps has resulted in a reduction of Rs 20 crore, according to the body. NPPA has capped prices of nine scheduled drugs and revised the prices of 34. It has also fixed the prices of 11 retail formulations, including Zydus Cadila's Zyrop injections. For instance, the price of Zyrop 20000—used to treat anemia due to chemotherapy and anemia due to chronic kidney disease—is fixed at Rs4, 925.59 for a pack.
6. [NPPA brings 540 drugs under price control; revises prices of 40](#) – Business Standard
The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revised prices of 40-odd drugs including some eye drops, paracetamol oralliquids, HIV drugs, cancer drug, non-steroidal fertility medicines, Asthma drugs, drugs to cure tuberculosis. With this inclusion, the NPPA has brought 540 drugs under price control from 10 th of March 2016. According to latest estimates by ICRA, approximately 17% of the Indian pharmaceutical market is under the DPCO. The DPCO segment has grown by 1.1% during the first quarter of 2016-17. ICRA expects the DPCO segment to grow at 1-3% in 2016-17 while the overall market will grow at 10-12%.

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7. [Drug regulator orders crackdown on sale of medicines on e-pharmacies](#) – Hindustan Times
The country's top drug regulator has asked state drug controllers to crack down on e-pharmacies selling prescription drugs because they are not allowed to do so under the law. "We are working to bring about a new e-pharmacy law. However, until that happens, the online sale of prescription drugs will be illegal," said Dr GN Singh, the drug controller general of India (DCGI). Dr Singh said there was no provision in the present Drugs and Cosmetics Act for such enterprises. "We are not against e-pharmas per se, but in the current scenario, there are no checks and balances in place. This can promote self-medication and sale of fake drugs," he added.

8. [‘India should increase public health spend’](#) – The Times of India
National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog member Vijay Kumar Saraswat said about 60 million Indians are estimated to sink below the poverty line each year due to unaffordable health care expenditure. Speaking at the seventh annual convocation of JSS University on Friday, Vijay said India's public financing of health, at 1.04% of GDP, is among the lowest in the world. "Also, at 0.9 hospital bed per 1,000 populations, India is well below the global norm of 3 per 1000", he said. He said three million people in the country are taking treatment for HIV. "Foreign universities have developed drugs that suppress HIV/AIDS virus. Indian students should strive to develop low cost medicines," he said.
9. [India, US lock horns over intellectual property at WTO](#) – The Hindu Business Line
India and the US have locked horns yet again on the issue of intellectual property rights and the right-to-protect access to cheap life saving medicines — this time at the World Trade Organisation. New Delhi has teamed up with Brazil, China and South Africa to initiate a discussion on a recent report by a high level UN panel on access to medicines that stresses on the importance of using flexibilities in the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) pact to achieve the objective. The US, which has been bilaterally pushing India to tighten its IPR regime, has said that it was disappointed by the report which “distracts from rather than benefits” the objective of achieving universal health.
10. [Drug manufacturers see new opportunities in U.S.](#)– The Hindu
Admitting a few uncertainties for them as Republican candidate Donald Trump steps into the White House, the pharmaceutical units based in Andhra Pradesh are exuding confidence that new opportunities will emerge in the USA post-elections. America has remained the largest market for Indian drug manufacturers as drugs made there are very expensive. Throughout the heated campaign, Mr. Trump had laid emphasis on removing entry barriers to provide easy access and make healthcare affordable.

Before bifurcation itself, Visakhapatnam emerged a major pharma hub after Hyderabad in the undivided Andhra Pradesh due to heavy concentration of bulk drug units all over North Andhra region. Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City (JNPC) developed at Parawada near here has 72 units with an estimated turnover of Rs.8,000 crore to Rs.10,000 crore. Leading units located at various parts of Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, and Vizianagaram include Aurobindo Pharma, Divi’s, Reddy’s Lab and Hetero with their combined turnover estimated at around Rs.10,000 crore. Almost 60 to 70 per cent drugs mostly for treatment of life threatening diseases are exported to the United States.
11. [More regulations on e-pharmacies endangers their disruptive potential](#) – The Financial Express
Although the government seems committed to a Digital India vision, is it doing enough to nourish a digital-first ecosystem? According to a Business Standard report, e-pharmacies may be headed towards an aggressive regulatory watch that could rob them of their disruptive edge. The report says that a consultative committee has recommended that e-pharmacies be allowed to sell only low-risk medicines like cough-syrups till such time they can prove that high-risk drugs can be sold safely online. This, when most of their business comes from prescription drugs.

Though online pharmacies are still at a nascent stage, they have invited scrutiny from authorities due to their growing popularity. Earlier this year, Maharashtra FDA raided the offices of Pharmeasy, an online pharma which relies on traditional stores for supply of medicines, while authorities had also sent warnings to Netmeds, another e-pharma company. The government, in targetting these, is committing the same fallacy as it did with e-commerce portals—of equating them with sellers, when they are just operating as a marketplace.

12. [Centre committed towards AYUSH system in health care](#) – The Indian Express
The Centre is giving thrust on providing affordable health care facilities to all sections of society, Union Minister Shripad Yesso Naik said today. Naik, while addressing the inaugural session of a two-day national seminar on “Ethno-Medicinal Practices in Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Scope, Limitation & Prospective”, said: “I want to assure the gathering that we are working to meet the vision of the Prime Minister and moving forward with dedication to improve health facilities in the country”. The Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) said the Centre is committed to propagating AYUSH system in the field of health care and treatment and moving in the right direction to achieve the goal. “It’s a matter of great pride that our country occupies a special place in the traditional system of medicine in the world. India is one among the 17 countries in the world having rich biodiversity where different kinds of medicinal plants exist,” he said.
13. [‘Master plan for Pharma City ready soon’](#) – The Hindu
The master plan for the proposed Pharma City will be completed soon and steps are being taken to complete land acquisition for the project, Minister for Industries K. Taraka Rama Rao said. At a review meeting held here on Saturday on the preparation of Pharma City master plan, the Minister said it would have a special airstrip and also linked to road and rail. The Pharma City being planned with world standards on the outskirts of Hyderabad would also be provided connectivity with State and National Highways and outer and regional ring roads. Executives of Surbana Jurong, a Singapore-based infrastructure development consultancy that has been given the task of preparing the master plan, explained to the Minister the details of their proposals. Chairman of Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) G. Balamallu, Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar, Managing Director of TSIIC E.V. Narsimha Reddy and others attended.
14. [India at WTO: Takes strong stand to save generic drugs industry, calls for transparent health assessment](#) – Firstpost.com
Governments engaged in bilateral and regional trade investments should ensure that these agreements do not include provisions that impinge on the right to health, and as a first step should undertake public health assessments "that are transparent and made publicly available", India said in a strong statement delivered at the WTO highlighting a longstanding fight by India to sustain its generic drugs industry.

“These impact assessments should verify that the increased trade and economic benefits are not endangering or impeding the human rights and public health obligations of a nation and its people before entering into commitments," India said on 9 November at a discussion on the report of the UN Secretary-General's (SG) High-Level Panel on access to medicines at the WTO's Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council.
15. [DoP rejects Sanofi's plea for withdrawal of NPPA order fixing ceiling price of amiodarone tablet 200 mg](#) – Pharmabiz.com
The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has rejected Sanofi-Synthelabo (India) Pvt. Ltd's plea for withdrawal of NPPA's order fixing of ceiling price of amiodarone tablet 200 mg. The NPPA had earlier fixed the ceiling price of “Amiodarone tablet 200 mg.” vide its order No. S.O. 1816(E) dated 18.05.2016 under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO 2013). Aggrieved by the NPPA notification, Sanofi-Synthelabo (India) Pvt. Ltd filed a review application with the DoP, under paragraph 31 of DPCO, 2013.