

1. [Govt tells RBI to examine foreign investments in medical devices sector](#)

– Mint

The finance ministry's financial intelligence unit (FIU) has asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine all foreign investments made in the medical devices sector under the automatic route after January 2015, when the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy for the sector was laid out. A procedural oversight in the FDI policy governing investments in the sector as well as the definition of medical devices has prompted the move.

According to the policy, 100% foreign investment was allowed through the automatic route for manufacturing medical devices in both greenfield and brownfield sectors. However, the definition of medical devices in the policy is based on what was proposed in the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2013, which was withdrawn from Parliament in June 2016.

Interestingly, the need for a separate legislation for the medical devices sector was one of the reasons for the withdrawal of the draft legislation since there is no clear definition governing medical devices in the existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

2. [Increasing the period of surveillance data may delay entry of generic drugs: Commerce secretary Rita Teotia](#) – The Indian Express

In opposition from within the government to a proposal that the period for which surveillance data needs to be submitted to the Indian drug controller for a new drug be increased from four years to ten, commerce secretary Rita Teotia has written to the health ministry saying that the move will delay the entry of generic drugs in the Indian market. A team at the office of the Drug Controller General of India is currently working on a proposal mooted by a committee of secretaries to change Rule 122E of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, "a new drug shall continue to be considered a new drug for a period of four years from the date of its first approval". While industry has been up in arms against the move following apprehensions that this may be used as a precedent to grant data exclusivity to patent holder companies, Teotia in her letter has echoed those concerns.

1. [Govt tells RBI to examine foreign investments in medical devices sector](#) – Mint
2. [Increasing the period of surveillance data may delay entry of generic drugs: Commerce secretary Rita Teotia](#) – The Indian Express
3. [China under scanner over poor quality drugs](#) – Deccan Herald
4. [Government to establish 4,000 dialysis centres across the country, says J P Nadda](#) – Business Standard
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6. [Bayer gets over compulsory licence](#) – The Economic Times
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8. [5 Reasons not to delay purchase of health insurance cover](#) – The Financial Express
9. [Health ministry directs state drug regulators to keep vigil on online pharmacies](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. [AIOCD likely to postpone one day national strike scheduled for Nov 23](#) – Pharmabiz.com

3. [China under scanner over poor quality drugs](#) – Deccan Herald

All bulk drug consignments from China are under the scanner of the Drugs Controller General of India because of their poor quality and invalid documents. Last week, the health ministry changed its rules to allow import of drugs through two new sea ports — Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Hazira port in Gujarat as well as handling the material at Khohdiyar inland container depot in Gandhinagar — following the recommendations of an expert panel. The move would increase the work load of Central Drug Standards and Control Organisation (CDSCO), which is keeping a close eye on the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), also known as bulk drugs, imported from China. Out of 2,000 types of API imported in India, more than 60% are from China. “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 a CDSCO official seeking anonymity.

4. [Government to establish 4,000 dialysis centres across the country, says J P Nadda](#) – Business Standard

The Union health minister J P Nadda said that 4,000 dialysis centres across the country would be established. Dialysis is the clinical purification of blood, as a substitute for the normal function of the kidney. The minister also mentioned that the government was working to provide free dialysis for those below the poverty line. This comes at a time when the government is working on a national health policy. The subsidy will be provided by the central government. The government is working on a national health policy, where free basic health care for those below the poverty line will be the focus. Some states have already invited bids to open dialysis centres in their states. The state health department has stirred up a hornet's nest with its recent decision inviting bids to start dialysis centres in 14 state run rural hospitals in eight districts under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Andhra Pradesh too has been one of the states. NephroPlus will be providing dialysis in 13 towns.

5. [Government likely to lift ban on online sale of medicines](#) – The Times of India

The government is likely to lift the temporary ban on online sale of medicines following an expert committee's recommendations that keeping prescription drugs out of the online platform may be unfair to consumers in present times. Clearing the roadmap for resuming online sale of medicines that had been banned around a year ago, the Drugs Consultative Committee has submitted its report to the drug regulator -Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). "We are in the process of adding our comments to the report and will forward it to the health ministry in the next few days," a senior official in the DCGI's office told TOI. However, the committee has suggested a number of safeguards, including a legal framework and maintenance of prescription record, while allowing sale of medicines online, the official said while indicating the general consensus in the government as well as among regulators to allow sale of medicines through e-commerce platforms.

6. [Bayer gets over compulsory licence](#) – The Economic Times

German chemicals and life sciences company Bayer has gotten over its brush with India's intellectual property rights policy and is now looking for a bigger slice of the market, according to a senior executive of the company. India's patent office allowed compulsory licensing of Bayer's anti-cancer drug Nexavar, opening it up to generic competition in 2012. The issue generated pressure on the Indian government to change the country's IP laws. “India is a large market and we will get through the challenges that are there. It is never easy but we also see huge potential in the Indian market which we cannot ignore,” said Richard van der Merwe, managing director, Bayer South Asia. “We have had setbacks but we are positive and confident about the future.” The life sciences business, which contributes to 7% of the total, has not taken a back seat, Merwe said. It has launched three patented products in India and is awaiting a patent for eye care product Eylea, which has already been launched.

7. [Gujarat govt launches 52 Jan Aushadhi Kendra](#) – The Hindu Business Line

In order to make drugs and medicines affordable to the needy in the state, the Gujarat government on Monday launched 52 generic medicine stores, named Deendayal Pradhanmantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra. The state health minister Shankar Chaudhary stated that the government will launch 500 more such stores across the state in the second phase. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched the first store at Ahmedabad civil hospital. According to the state government statement, the needy will get drug and medical material at 40 to 80 per cent lesser cost through Jan Aushadhi stores. These stores will make about 1500 to 2000 life-saving drugs available to the common man.

8. [5 Reasons not to delay purchase of health insurance cover](#) – The Financial Express

Let's face it – medical treatment is expensive. In this age of escalating medical inflation, health scares have become reality. In fact, opting for a health insurance has become imperative now. While health industry as a whole has undergone a massive transformation, most consumers are opting for medical insurance plans with the sole motive to cover the high cost of medical treatment that encompass expenses related to pre and post hospitalization, day care and the ambulance charges. Without a medical cover, people end up losing their earnings and assets to cover the treatment cost for themselves and their loved ones. Most Indians reel under financial pressure and a trip to the hospital only enhances their financial burden. If you are one of those who is still not convinced on a health plan, here're a few reasons why you should buy a health cover with no further delay.

9. [Health ministry directs state drug regulators to keep vigil on online pharmacies](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Health ministry has asked the state drug controllers to keep a check on online pharmacies selling prescription drugs until a clear cut guideline on regulating online pharmacy is framed based on a recent meet at Central Drug Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) office in Delhi. This comes close on the heels of recommendations on online pharmacy being submitted by a DCGI appointed sub-committee to the CDSCO for further review. Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has also maintained that online pharmacies are not allowed to do so under the current provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

10. [AIOCD likely to postpone one day national strike scheduled for Nov 23](#) – Pharmabiz.com

All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) is likely to postpone the 'one day all India pharmacy strike', scheduled for November 23 since the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has called the office-bearers of the national trade body for a meeting to discuss their issues. The meeting will be held at the DCGI office either on Tuesday, or on Wednesday in New Delhi, said Suresh Gupta, general secretary of AIOCD. According to him, the organisation will firm up its stand, either to go with one-day strike or regular bandh, after the office-bearers' discussion with the government. He said the scheduled meeting is a follow up of the meeting held with the government on November 7 by a team led by him. They met the Union health secretary, DCGI, CDSCO and the president of the Pharmacy Council of India and discussed various issues affecting pharmacy trade and profession in the national level. But, no positive step was taken by the government on the decisions of the meeting.