

1. **[Indian Medical Device Industry seeks Government's attention on upcoming Medical Device Rules 2016](#) – Business Standard**

As Industry associations prepare to submit a detailed representation of Medical Device Industry to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare it has been a winding exercise for last six months involving all stakeholders through consultations over meetings, sharing of industry inputs and waiting for the final draft which was notified on 17 October 2016.

'The Medical device draft rules 2016 though broadly well drafted and aligned with global regulatory practices still leave few critical gaps on issues which were well discussed and deliberated upon but haven't been incorporated in the draft' said Chairman FICCI Medical Device Forum, Probir Das.

Indian Med Tech Industry currently traversing the inflexion point of growth and value creation through

Make in India, needs a scientifically well thought regulatory regime which embodies the essence of Industry growth and Patient safety in equal measure.

2. **[Not consulted on scrapping drug pricing agency: Chairman](#) – The Hindu**

Days after it was revealed that the Centre is likely to dismantle the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Agency (NPPA), its chairman said the decision was 'rushed' and the agency was not consulted. "There were two meetings and the NPPA was not a party to them. Both meetings were held at short notice. This has been a rushed decision. For any policy change, there needs to be consultation. I understand the file is currently with the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers for approval," said Mr. Bhupender Singh. Meanwhile, secretaries of three Ministries — health, chemicals & fertilizers, and commerce — along with Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) have been served with a legal notice by a civil society organisation, the All India Drug Action network, which is the petitioner in the Supreme Court case that resulted in lifesaving drugs being placed under price control. At a meeting on October 19, the four officials decided that the NPPA would be "wound up and deployed in the Department of Pharmaceuticals and the right to regulate prices should be vested with the government".

1. [Indian Medical Device Industry seeks Government's attention on upcoming Medical Device Rules 2016](#) – Business Standard
2. [Not consulted on scrapping drug pricing agency: Chairman](#) – The Hindu
3. [200 out of 500 combinations examined have been found irrational: govt sources](#) – Business Standard
4. [Pharma research approval system to be put on fast track](#) – The Economic Times
5. [Indian Medical Association protests against proposal to dissolve Medical Council of India](#) – The Hindu
6. [No air to breathe: India beat China in air pollution deaths last year](#) – Hindustan Times
7. [Over 24 nations agree to reduce 12.6 m annual pollution deaths](#) – ETHealthworld.com
8. [200 Million Indians Suffer From High Blood Pressure: Global Study](#) – Ndtv.com
9. [AIOCD likely to postpone one day national strike scheduled for Nov 23](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. [BDC&DA urges PM to extend legal tender of Rs.500 & Rs 1000 till Nov 24 to chemists & hospitals in private sector too](#) – Pharmabiz.com

3. [200 out of 500 combinations examined have been found irrational: govt sources](#) – **Business Standard**

As India's central drug sets the ball rolling towards banning the second set of Fixed Dose Combinations, 200 combinations have been spotted by the Central Drug Standards Control Organisation as irrational, as pointed out by senior government officials in the know of the matter. In the latest examination where 300-odd companies were sent letters for around 500 combinations, 200 turned out to be irrational.

The CDSCO had come out with the list of companies that had been issued letters- irrationality, no-objection certificates for continued manufacturing and distribution, and some for conducting phase IV trials. The central drug safety regulator has given the pharmaceutical industry 90 days to get back with their comments. This is part of the government's plan to ban Fixed Dose Combinations as recommended by the Chandrakant Kokate committee report. Earlier this year, the government banned 344 Fixed Dose Combinations calling them irrational as recommended by the Kokate Committee. Fixed dose combinations are two separate drugs combined into a single dose. The concept is widely accepted in global markets due to the advantages of lower cost and patient convenience.

4. [Pharma research approval system to be put on fast track](#) – **The Economic Times**

The BJP-led NDA government will set up a single window approval system that will clear in 30 days what four different committees took 3-4 years in a major boost to innovation in medical research and will help improve India's sagging reputation in the area of ease of doing business. The government think-tank Niti Aayog has written to Health Ministry to restructure the entire approval process for innovation in medical research as part of the government's move to make India a hub for innovation and manufacturing. "There is a need to encourage and support innovators on approval procedures and regulatory requirements. I would appreciate your convening a meeting and restructuring the entire approval process," said Niti Aayog in a letter written by CEO Amitabh Kant.

5. [Indian Medical Association protests against proposal to dissolve Medical Council of India](#) – **The Hindu**

Doctors affiliated with the Indian Medical Association (IMA), on Wednesday held a protest nationwide against the government's proposal to dissolve the Medical Council of India (MCI) and replace it with National Medical Commission. Around 2.7 lakh IMA members held dharnas — 'Stop National Medical Commission IMA Satyagraha' — in over 500 cities simultaneously between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Wednesday. The IMA has opposed the proposed National Medical Commission Bill 2016, citing concern that the NMC will have non-elected members nominated by the government. In a letter to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, IMA members said they were in support of suitable amendments in the existing IMC Act, but is against scrapping it totally and making it a non-autonomous body.

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- [Doctors protest Centre's proposal to set up medical council](#) – The Times of India
- [Medical professionals' Satyagraha to stress on their demands](#) – The Times of India
- [IMA Pune joins protest against National Medical Commission](#) – The Indian Express

6. [No air to breathe: India beat China in air pollution deaths last year](#) – **Hindustan Times**

More people died of air pollution in India than China last year, a Greenpeace study released on Wednesday said, adding to the worries of millions of Indians facing serious health hazards due to toxic air in major cities including Delhi. The study said outdoor air pollution killed 3,283 people every day in India in 2015, compared to 3,233 in China. The study found a direct relation between exposure to outdoor air pollution — ozone and particulate matter with diameter less than 2.5 micrometers and 10 micrometers — and premature deaths. The new findings come days after Delhi faced one of the worst spikes in air pollution that left the city of an estimated 16 million people blanketed in thick smog for more than a week since Diwali on October 30.

7. [Over 24 nations agree to reduce 12.6 m annual pollution deaths – ETHealthworld.com](#)

Health and environment officials from over 24 countries have committed to reducing the annual 12.6 million deaths due to pollution, the World Health Organisation and United Nations Environment Programme have said. On the sidelines of the ongoing 22nd session of the Conference of Parties (COP22) here, the officials on Tuesday signed up to the declaration for health, environment and climate change. The goal is to reduce pollution-related deaths through a new global initiative to promote better management of environmental and climate related risks to health. According to WHO, around 12.6 million deaths a year are associated with environmental pollution. Of these, an estimated 6.5 million deaths (11.6 per cent) are due to air pollution.

8. [200 Million Indians Suffer From High Blood Pressure: Global Study – Ndtv.com](#)

The number of people with high blood pressure has almost doubled in 40 years to over 1.1 billion worldwide, scientists said, with the burden of the condition shifting from the rich to the poor. In the largest study of its kind analyzing blood pressure in every nation between 1975 and 2015, the scientists said that it has dropped sharply in wealthy countries – possibly due to healthier diets and lifestyles – but risen in poorer ones. The increases are especially significant in Africa and South Asia, the researchers said, and could be partly due to poor nutrition in childhood. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, puts extra strain on the blood vessels and major organs such as the heart, brain and kidneys. It is the world's top cause of cardiovascular disease, which leads to strokes and heart attacks, and is estimated to cause 7.5 million deaths a year worldwide.

9. [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.

10. [BDC&DA urges PM to extend legal tender of Rs.500 & Rs 1000 till Nov 24 to chemists & hospitals in private sector too – Pharmabiz.com](#)

The Bangalore District Chemists & Druggists Association (BDC&DA) has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to modify the notification on demonetisation to include transactions of Rs.500 and Rs 1000 as legal tender until November 24, 2016 to patients accessing chemists, hospitals, nursing homes, blood banks and diagnostic centres in the private sector also. As per the government notification vide 'SO 340 8(E) (a) enforced from November 8, 2016 midnight, this facility is permitted only for government hospitals for medical treatment and pharmacies in government hospitals for buying medicines with doctor's prescription. This according to the Association has inconvenienced patients as it prevents them to purchase medicines from any easily accessible pharmacy outlets and seek medical attention at any private hospitals using the old currencies.