

1. [No Indian Pharma company in world Access to Medicine Index](#) – Business Standard

A recent study undertaken by the Netherlands-based Access to Medicine Foundation, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UK government and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has revealed that not even a single Indian pharmaceutical company features in the list of top 20 companies that have attempted at making medicines affordable for those in low and middle income countries. The Access to Medicine Index lists the top-20 companies in the world on the basis of working towards making available essential drugs in low- and middle-income countries. This report is revealed at a time when India is reworking the structure and nature of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), which is supposed to ensure price parity with Indian conditions, and ironically the campaign for affordable medicines to all in India is in full swing.

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The list is topped by UK-headquartered GlaxoSmithkline. Johnson and Johnson, Novartis, Merck, Sanofi, Astrazeneca, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer Inc, Japanese drug maker Daiichi Sankyo are others who have featured in the top-20 list. The index focuses on 22 diseases, with major on malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis. Some of the parameters used by the report are pricing, R&D, capacity building, actual performance vs. intent and innovation.

2. [India's response to the global health challenges](#) – Mint

Traditionally, the World Health Organization has been the leader in global public health issues but a funding crunch has tied its hands for many years now. Steadily, the US' CDC (among a few other organizations) is rising to the challenge. A good example here is the US government-funded HIV prevention programme, the world's largest state-sponsored global health programme. Notably, India too has played its part in the global fight against HIV by providing cheap antiretroviral treatment. This is just one small indication of the role that India can and should play in dealing with the health challenges emerging, simultaneously, at home and across the world.

Of course, given how the country's public healthcare system is currently struggling to provide even basic primary care to all its citizens, this may seem like pie in the sky for now. But there is enough scope to convert this enormous burden of disease into an opportunity for innovation and global leadership.

3. [Wockhardt, Taro named in US lawsuits over drug prices](#) – Mint

As the generic drug industry braces for charges from a two-year US justice department antitrust investigation, a union representing the sergeants of the New York Police Department (NYPD) is attempting to hit some companies with civil penalties as well. A pair of lawsuits filed by the Sergeants Benevolent Association Health and Welfare Fund against two groups of drugmakers, which include Switzerland-based Novartis AG's generic drug unit, along with Ireland-based Perrigo Co., India's Wockhardt Ltd and Taro Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, allege the companies colluded to raise prices on two dermatological creams as much as 1,000% starting in 2013. Taro is the Israeli subsidiary of India's largest drugmaker, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

4. [Red tape delays stent price fixing](#) – Deccan Herald

The Department of Pharmaceuticals has been sitting on the health ministry's recommendations for over 90 days and in the absence of a pharmaceutical department order, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) could not start the price fixation process to include this medical device in the National List of Essential Medicine (NLEM), sources told DH.

Coronary stents are currently sold at hugely inflated price, thus keeping them out of reach for a large number of people requiring angioplasty and compelling many others who received them to spend much more than their paying capacity, an NPPA report stated. The manufacturing and importing companies enjoy large trade margins.

5. [HP sends drugs & cosmetics amendment Bill to Prez for assent](#) – The Economic Times

The Drugs and Cosmetics (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2016, passed by the Assembly during the Monsoon session in August, has been sent to the President for assent, Chief Secretary V C Pharka said today.

The amendment is aimed at taking stringent measures against drug menace.

It provides for "sealing" of any premises, wherein any drug or cosmetic is being manufactured or sold or stocked or exhibited or offered for sale or distributed in contravention of provisions of the Act, the Chief Secretary said.

6. [Himachal Pradesh has emerged as hub of drug manufacturing: State Industries Minister](#) – The Indian Express

Himachal Pradesh has emerged as a hub of drug manufacturing units and meets 35 per cent of demand of pharma products in Asia, State Industries Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said on Saturday. Addressing the 45th conference of the Federation of Corrugated Box Manufacturers of India at Zirakpur, the minister said this sector had played a vital role in development of pharma industry in the state. The three-day conference is being attended by over 600 delegates from 10 countries. He said the 'Invest Himachal Summit' would be organised in February next year and appealed to industrialists to participate in the meet. He assured the business community that the government would not only clear all industrial units within a month but also provide other incentives and concessions.

7. [A Central Regulatory Structure for AYUSH drugs being set up as a part of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization: AYUSH Minister](#) – Business Standard

Government has considered for setting up a central regulatory structure for AYUSH drugs. In this regard, it has been decided to have a vertical structure for AYUSH as a part of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) to enforce the provisions for Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs in coordination with the State regulatory authorities. Procedural steps for setting up this structure have been initiated but the actual timeframe for its operationalisation has not been specified at this stage. Presently, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder

having exclusive provisions for AYUSH drugs are enforced by the State Governments and there is no separate central agency for regulation of AYUSH medicines. However, Ministry of AYUSH has notified creation of 12 posts of Deputy Drugs Controllers, Assistant Drugs Controllers and Inspectors of Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy and the matter of vertical structure for AYUSH drugs in CDSCO is followed up regularly with the Department of Health & Family Welfare.

8. [Drug regulators inspect 76 pharma units as per new criteria in Delhi](#) – The Indian Express

The central drug regulator, along with various state drug regulators, have carried out inspections at 76 pharmaceutical manufacturing units in last six months as per the new “risk-based inspection criteria”, which was issued in May this year. While the probe reports, which points out various deficiencies at these manufacturing facilities, have been shared with respective pharmaceutical companies, the regulators have already planned a re-inspection of these units from January next year to check what improvements have they done. “While no feedback has so far been received from the state regulators about the action taken to rectify deficiencies, it is planned to carry out follow up inspections by different teams to gauge the extent of improvements made by the manufacturers. The process will begin in the month of January, 2017. The details of the programme will be sent to the individual (manufacturing) units in due course of time. Accordingly, all units are requested to ensure that the deficiencies noticed may be removed at the earliest possible,” said G N Singh, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), in a notice dated November 9, 2016.