

1. [Generics vs big pharma, reloaded](#) – **The Hindu**

The proposal to extend the time limit for State-level drug regulatory approvals from four to 10 years could hit the generics market

In a scathing letter to the Government of India, the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) took issue with what it considered to be a backdoor extension for data exclusivity norms in the country. It pointed to the recent government proposal to change the four-year time limit for State-level drug regulatory approvals to 10 years, arguing that this effectively results in a long and damaging data exclusivity.

2. [Cap on essential drug prices helped consumers save ₹5,000 cr: govt](#) – **The Hindu Business Line**

The government fixing prices of essential medicines had helped consumers save ₹5,060.3 crore, said Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh L Mandaviya in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

This is despite the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) catching overcharging cases worth over ₹4,950 crore.

However, despite such massive benefits to the public, it is believed that the government is considering a proposal to disband the NPPA, and delink price control from the list of essential medicines. The National List of Essential Medicine 2015 contains 377 drugs for which prices are controlled.

Also appeared in [The Economic Times](#)

3. [Parliament panel for procurement & distribution of generic drugs](#) – **The Times of India**

In an attempt to highlight the inefficiency of drug procurement and distribution system under the Central Government Health Scheme, a parliamentary panel on Tuesday asked the health ministry to take immediate measures for complete shift towards procurement and distribution of generic drugs under CGHS.

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2. [Cap on essential drug prices helped consumers save ₹5,000 cr: govt](#) – The Hindu Business Line
3. [Parliament panel for procurement & distribution of generic drugs](#) – The Times of India
4. [Make drug plant scrutiny reports public: Body](#) – Business Standard
5. [Vietnam Bans 39 Indian Drug Cos for Violating Quality Standards](#) – The Economic Times
6. [21 decisions on a day](#) – New Indian Express
7. [Government has Adopted Various Measures to Make the AYUSH Systems of Medicines People Friendly](#) – Business Standard
8. [Mental Healthcare Bill to come up for consideration in Lok Sabha today](#) – Business Standard
9. [Daily medicine regimen for TB patients from January](#) – The Times of India
10. [Inclusion of medication costs in health insurance schemes](#) – Business Standard

The panel asked the ministry to make "earnest" efforts for finalisation of rates of proposed 1165 drugs for inclusion in the generic formulary.

4. [Make drug plant scrutiny reports public: Body](#) – Business Standard

Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance wants central government to make plant inspection reports public to bring about transparency in the sector.

5. [Vietnam Bans 39 Indian Drug Cos for Violating Quality Standards](#) – The Economic Times

Aurobindo Pharma, Cadila, Macleods Pharmaceuticals are among the 39 Indian drug companies that have been blacklisted by Vietnam for quality standard violations. The Vietnamese drug regulator has also banned companies in Bangladesh and South Korea. The regulator has listed the names of blacklisted companies on its website without specifying in detail the reason behind the ban.

Antibiotics made by Aurobindo and Macleods, and Cadila's anti-rabies vaccine Lyssavac are some of the drugs that have been banned. Lyssavac vaccine was also banned by World Health Organisation (WHO) in January this year. A representative of a pharma company that has been banned said, the Vietnamese regulator took samples from retail stores, which did not follow proper storage methods. "Our sales to Vietnam is just around \$1 million in a year and hence does not matter much. Regulatory authorities have introduced additional steps for testing before the release of the batch," said an investor relation spokesperson for Aurobindo Pharma to ET's email query.

6. [21 decisions on a day](#) – New Indian Express

The Cabinet approved the healthcare investment promotion policy to ensure improved access and affordability of secondary and tertiary healthcare services in Odisha. Chief Secretary AP Padhi said the policy aims to provide impetus to growth of private healthcare investment and make the system more effective, efficient, rational, safe, affordable and ethical.

The Cabinet finalised the Odisha Pharmaceutical Policy-2016 with an aim to promote specialised pharma parks with best infrastructure and technology and encourage environment-friendly manufacturing practice. The policy announces grant of 50 per cent of the total cost with a ceiling of Rs 10 crore, whichever is less, for development/upgradation of greenfield pharmaceutical clusters/parks, environmental protection infrastructure subsidy of 50 per cent with a limit of Rs 2 crore, fiscal and non-fiscal incentives as per IPR-2015.

7. [Government has Adopted Various Measures to Make the AYUSH Systems of Medicines People Friendly](#) – Business Standard

Government has Adopted Various Measures to Make the AYUSH Systems of Medicines People Friendly

The Ministry of AYUSH has adopted various measures to make the AYUSH systems of medicines people friendly through various Central Sector Schemes viz. Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Public Health Initiative (PHI), Centre of Excellence (COE), Research Councils, National Institutes etc. and Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. National AYUSH Mission (NAM).

8. [Mental Healthcare Bill to come up for consideration in Lok Sabha today](#) – Business Standard

The Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016 will come up for consideration and passage in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, where Union Health Minister JP Nadda will move the Bill to provide for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and protect, promote and fulfill the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services.

In the Rajya Sabha, The Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016 will come up for consideration and passage.

9. [Daily medicine regimen for TB patients from January](#) – The Times of India

The district tuberculosis department has decided to initiate a daily regimen of medication for TB patients from January, training for which has already been imparted to medical officers, nurses and Asha workers.

There are over 1,745 TB patients in Nashik, who are undergoing treatment currently.

District tuberculosis officer Yuvraj Deore said, "While the training programme of administering new medicines has been imparted to the medical staff across the district, they were only awaiting the arrival of medicines to be provided to the patients."

10. [Inclusion of medication costs in health insurance schemes](#) – Business Standard

As per the information furnished by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Insurance products generally cover hospitalization expenses including expenses on medicines and drugs during hospitalization in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective products. Further, where product features allow coverage of pre-hospitalization and post-hospitalization expenses, medication costs are generally allowed under these benefits upto a specified period as per the policy terms and conditions. Few products also offer coverage of out-patient expenses on medicines as per the policy terms and conditions.