

1. [IMA pitches for monitoring use of antibiotics](#) – PTI

To tackle antibiotic resistance, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) today pitched for monitoring the use of antibiotics to curb over-prescription by doctors.

"Antibiotic resistance is a global concern. We stand at the edge of an imminent 'post-antibiotic' era where resistant bacteria can render precious lifesaving drugs obsolete.

"Medical science is heavily dependent on antibiotics, from treating simple tetanus wounds to complex surgical procedures. If this over-usage continues, even simple infections will have the potential to be fatal. It is important that both medical and patient communities become more aware about the judicious and just use of these precious drugs," Dr K K Aggarwal, national president-elect, IMA, said.

2. [Odisha's new health policy to woo private investment](#) – The New Indian Express

In a bid to provide quality healthcare services and attract investment in the sector in the priority districts, the State Government has formulated a new investment promotion policy.

The Odisha Healthcare Investment Promotion Policy-2016 envisages promotion of private sector investment in the healthcare sector through strategic partnerships besides policy interventions. The policy aims at ensuring improved access and affordability of secondary and tertiary healthcare services. It will provide impetus for growth of private sector healthcare investments to ensure alignment with public health goals and enable making healthcare systems more effective, efficient, rational, safe and ethical.

3. [New regulations for health supplements bring clarity: IDSA](#) – The Economic Times

Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA) has said the formulation of new standards for health supplements and nutraceuticals by food regulator FSSAI would help bring clarity about the products being sold to consumers and also encourage member companies to launch new products.

Last week, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) operationalised with immediate effect new standards for eight categories of products, including health supplements and nutraceuticals.

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2. [Odisha's new health policy to woo private investment](#) – The New Indian Express
3. [New regulations for health supplements bring clarity: IDSA](#) – The Economic Times
4. [India Inc suggests measures to ease pain from demonetisation](#) – The Economic Times
5. [Maharashtra aims to become top medical tourism destination](#) – The Economic Times
6. [Rural poor in Tamil Nadu distrust government healthcare facilities](#) – The Times of India
7. [Final study on spurious drugs survey to be tabled in winter session of parliament for further deliberations](#) – Pharmabiz.com
8. [Experts call for fair vaccine pricing, not "random acts of charity"](#) – Pharmabiz.com
9. [Panel prescribes national portal to keep an eye on online pharmacies](#) – The Economic Times

4. [India Inc suggests measures to ease pain from demonetisation](#) – **The Economic Times**

Industry has suggested a slew of measures to mitigate the inconvenience post demonetisation, while indicating that 'there will be some impact felt' on its performance during the transition period.

The recommendations from industry members of Ficci were shared today with the Prime Minister's Office, Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Secretary Ramesh Abhishek, a release said.

Among the recommendations are that the allowance given to Government hospitals and healthcare providers of accepting old high denomination notes should be extended to private healthcare providers. Mobile banking vans should also be set up by banks at private hospitals.

5. [Maharashtra aims to become top medical tourism destination](#) – **The Economic Times**

Maharashtra is aiming to emerge as the top destination for medical tourism through health care facilities, well-trained medical professionals and low cost of delivery, a senior official said today.

"The state aims to be the number one destination for medical tourism through state-of-the-art health care facilities, well-trained medical professionals and low cost of delivery compared to Tamil Nadu and Delhi," Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Valsa Nair said at Medical Tourism Conclave here.

6. [Rural poor in Tamil Nadu distrust government healthcare facilities](#) – **The Times of India**

More than 60% of the rural poor in Krishnagiri do not trust government medical facilities, citing poor treatment, lack of resources and corruption, a study covering 26 clusters in the district has found.

Although the state scores high on most health indices, the study published in peer-reviewed journal Social Science and Medicine found that government facilities are not well perceived by people at the grassroots: 68% of the respondents said they would not consider seeking state healthcare services as they were "inappropriate" and "corrupt". Around 48% mentioned long queues, insufficient staff and lack of resources as reason for the same. Private hospitals, the alternative, were not a favourite either: 93% reported high treatment cost at these facilities.

7. [Final study on spurious drugs survey to be tabled in winter session of parliament for further deliberations](#) – **Pharmabiz.com**

Sampled field data to the tune of 48,000 samples as part of national drugs survey compiled in the form of around 400 pages of well documented evidence based study submitted to the health ministry recently will be tabled in the winter session of parliament soon.

Done at an estimated cost of Rs.8.5 crore, the Union health ministry had entrusted the job of National Drugs Survey in July 28, 2014 to Noida based National Institute of Biologicals (NIB) to accomplish for the first time complete testing of NSQ drugs as per Indian pharmacopoeia and other pharmacopoeias.

NIB had further sent the data online to 10 drug testing labs across the country for final analysis and testing. This is for the first time that complete testing of NSQ drugs was done as per Indian pharmacopoeia and other pharmacopoeias. Only 10 per cent of the samples were tested during the pan-India study done in 2009.

8. [Experts call for fair vaccine pricing, not “random acts of charity”](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Drug companies should stop using donations to atone those who cannot afford expensive vaccines and instead lower prices, argue experts in The BMJ recently.

It follows a recent decision by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to refuse a donation of one million doses of Pfizer’s pneumonia vaccine for children caught in humanitarian emergencies. MSF judged it more important to press the company to lower the price that is the main obstacle to access.

Pfizer has since announced a special price for the vaccine to humanitarian organisations, in line with GSK, the other producer of this type of vaccine.

9. [Panel prescribes national portal to keep an eye on online pharmacies](#) – The Economic Times

A high-level government committee, which was constituted last year by the Drug Consultative Committee under the health ministry to regulate the sale of medicines through online pharmacies, has recommended the creation of a national portal that will act as a nodal platform for monitoring sale of drugs via internet. Online pharmacies will need to mandatorily display the portal link on their homepage for authenticity verification by patients or consumers.

The committee, that submitted its report to the central drug regulator recently, stated that only e-prescriptions or electronically generated and digitally-signed prescriptions should be considered by online pharmacies to check misuse.