

1. [Against excessive drug price control](#) – **The Economic Times (Blogs)**

The reported move of the Centre to revamp drug price control and shore up the ease of doing business in the high-potential pharmaceuticals sector needs to be welcomed. Rigorous price controls of 'essential drugs', currently numbering over 450, can actually discourage production and supply, and can often defeat the very purpose of easier access.

The idea that all medicines, as soon as they are included in the essential list, need to be under stringent price controls lacks sense. Instead, it would make better sense to rationally regulate prices of particular drugs as and when required.

2. [US polls, pricing pressure may hit Indian pharma cos](#) – **The Times of India**

Domestic pharma companies like Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, Lupin and Zydus — with substantial US exposure — may face erosion in margins and a slower growth over the next few months due to pricing pressure and an uncertain regulatory environment in the US. This comes even as some generic companies are already facing trouble on account of an anti-trust investigation by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) over generic drug pricing.

Certain companies have already been facing the heat over the last few weeks, while global and domestic generics' stocks went for a free fall on November 4 following news that the DoJ investigation is likely to result in charges being filed before the year-end. (Among domestic companies involved are Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, Zydus, and Taro, though the scope could likely be expanded to include other companies as well).

3. [Hillary Clinton win may pose pricing challenges for Indian pharma companies](#) – **The Economic Times**

A win for Hillary Clinton in the US presidential election may spell the end of a dream run for Indian pharmaceutical companies due to a possible overhaul in drug pricing, brokerage firm Kotak Securities said in a report. The report, which pointed to the 'Black Friday' of November 4 in the Indian stock market, said it was a reminder that price increase led growth for pharma companies is coming to an end in the US.

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However, the brokerage firm said a Democrat sweep across Houses could pose even greater pricing challenges for the industry and pave the way for tighter pricing regulations for both branded and generic drugs. “Both US presidential candidates have argued in favour of allowing the US government’s Medicare programme, which accounts for over 20% of total US drug spend, to directly negotiate drug prices with manufacturers,” Chirag Talati and Kumar Gaurav said in the analyst note published on Monday. “The Democrats are also proposing a pricing cap on Medicare that is similar to Medicaid, mirroring an upcoming referendum in California that proposes to give powers to the state to cap drug pricing at a level similar to veterans contracts,” they said.

*Similar report –*

- [What would a Hillary Clinton win mean for Indian Pharma?](#) – Zeebiz.com

**4. [US probe against generic drugs overblown: Experts](#) – The Economic Times**

A comprehensive probe by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) against a dozen generic pharmaceutical companies over fixing prices in “collusion” may not come as a big setback for Indian drug makers, say experts. Although a few others fear penalties may be imposed if strong evidence is built and the scope of the investigation widens to more companies. Last week, Bloomberg named Teva, Mylan, Mayne, Allergan, Sun Pharma and Taro among a bunch of 12 firms as part of an anti-trust investigation kicked off two years ago.

The charges may be filed by the end of the year, the report said. The DoJ has in the past probed multinational drug companies for inappropriate marketing practices but the scale of investigations against the generic drug makers is significant. Some market experts believe the standard of evidence to indict companies and prove charges of “active collusion” may be tough, especially in the US generic drugs market that has boomed on competitive price and demand, according to a senior analyst tracking the industry. As part of the probe, investigators had called for documents and mail records with competitors that may have been used to jack up prices. Shares of most top Indian drug companies like Sun Pharma, Dr. Reddy’s and Lupin took a beating last week on the news.

**5. [Access to medicines a problem in India: Annaswamy Vaideesh, GSK India MD](#) – Business Standard**

Glaxo SmithKline’s India managing director and vice-president of the company’s South Asia business Anna Swamy Vaideesh, who’s participating in the India UK Tech Summit, tells Veena Mani that the real problem is not capping of drug prices, but in the method adopted in revising prices. He says the US will remain an important market even if the Department of Justice decides to investigate the company.

Price capping is required in a market like India. I don’t have a problem with that. The problem lies in the way in which it is being done. A drug may be available at Rs 10. The same drug might be available at higher prices as well. At Rs 10, that person who cannot afford to pay a hefty price can buy the drug. In that case, why bring the cost of drug manufactured by everyone to one rate?

**6. [Don’t do away with drug price authority: NGOs](#) – The Times of India**

At a meeting of NGOs and civil society groups to mull over inputs for the state budget on Monday, Dr Narendra Gupta of Prayas spoke of the need to mobilize support against the proposed move to do away with the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). According to a report in Economic Times earlier this month, a meeting in New Delhi last month attended by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, Pharmaceutical Secretary Jai Priye Prakash, Union health secretary CK Mishra and others mulled over doing away with NPPA, so the government could directly administer pharmaceutical price control. That meeting also discussed a new policy to delink price control from essential medicines. At present, all medicines listed as essential are subject to price control.

7. [Controlling tobacco use in India big challenge, says health minister JP Nadda](#) – The Times of India

Calling the challenge of tobacco control "formidable", health minister JP Nadda said on Monday that the country needed a multipronged approach as well as measures to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases like cancer, besides stopping children from getting addicted to such products.

"We cannot do this alone. Along with national will and resources, we also need the strength of international collaboration to mitigate the rising burden of health, social and economic costs of tobacco," Nadda said while addressing the largest global anti-tobacco conference — the seventh Conference of Parties (COP7) for WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) here.

"We have a long way to go in terms of preventing the million deaths caused by tobacco, both in India and other parts of the world. There is a huge economic burden on people due to tobacco use, which needs to be prevented," he said.

8. [Monthly cost of providing key drugs could be \\$1-2 per person: experts](#) – Reuters.com

Essential medicines could be provided for as little as \$1-\$2 a month per person in developing countries, experts said on Monday as they called on governments to boost efforts to ensure everyone can access basic healthcare. Although global spending on medicines is about eight times this amount, one in five countries spends less than \$1 per month per person, according to the first analysis of the cost of providing key drugs by The Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines. The commission, comprising 21 international experts, said lack of access to affordable, quality medicines was threatening progress towards universal health coverage, one of the targets under the new global development goals adopted by world leaders at a U.N. summit last year.