

1. [What's killing Indians?](#) – Mint

Over 22,000 Indians die every day. In the 60s, communicable diseases were the main cause, accounting for about half the deaths. Since the 90s, it's non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, respiratory diseases and diabetes. But all-India data doesn't give the complete picture, as India is a diverse country. Economic and social conditions, and public health infrastructure, differ from state to state, region to region.

Besides, incidence of disease also varies depending on age group and gender. Granular data on the cause of deaths helps design better policies and solutions, and monitor public health.

2. [Govt asks NPPA to re-fix ceiling prices of three essential drugs](#) – The Indian Express

The government has asked the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to re-fix the ceiling prices of three important drugs — Phenytoin, Propanolol and Cefotaxime — that are under government price control.

Phenytoin is an anti-epilepsy medicine, which works by slowing down impulses in the brain that causes seizures. Propanolol is used to treat high blood pressure, irregular heartbeats, shaking (tremors), and other conditions. It is also used after a heart attack to improve the chance of survival. Cefotaxime is an antibiotic drug. After much deliberation, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) passed the orders on these three drugs on October 6. The NPPA works under the DoP.

3. [India ranked 97th of 118 in global hunger index](#) – The Times of India

India continues to have serious levels of widespread hunger forcing it to be ranked a lowly 97 among 118 developing countries for which the Global Hunger Index (GHI) was calculated this year. Countries worse than India include extremely poor African countries such as Niger, Chad, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone besides two of India's neighbours: Afghanistan and Pakistan. Other neighbours Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and China are all ranked above India.

The GHI is calculated by taking into account four key parameters: shares of undernourished population, wasted and stunted children aged under 5, and infant mortality rate of the same age group.

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10. [Biosimilars to boost growth of pharma sector in next 15 years: Assocham study](#) – Pharmabiz.com

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- [India ranked 97th of 118 in global hunger index](#) – ETHealthworld.com

4. [New nutrition policy draft within fortnight](#) – The Times of India

Following criticism from all quarters over the increase in the number of malnutrition cases in the state, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed all the departments to make a new nutrition policy in the next 15 days. Several departments like Health, women and child, tribal welfare, rural development and food and civil supplies are implementing different schemes related to malnutrition in the state, and after the High Court recently came down heavily on the government for its failure to curb this menace, the government has felt the need to relook at drawing a new policy.

Similar report –

- [Devendra Fadnavis seeks report on nutrition policy](#) – The Indian Express
- [Maharashtra CM wants nutrition policy in 15 days](#) – The Asian Age

5. [Sun Pharma Recalls 31,762 Bottles Of Antidepressant Drug In U.S.](#) – Bloomberg Quint

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries is recalling 31,762 bottles of bupropion hydrochloride extended-release tablets used for treatment of major depressive disorder in the US due to 'failed dissolution specifications'. The recall has been initiated by Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Inc for 31,762 bottles of bupropion hydrochloride extended-release tablets, USP (SR) in the strength of 150 mg, the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) said in its latest Enforcement Report. The tablets have been manufactured by Sun Pharma at its Halol plant.

Similar reports –

- [Sun will recall 31,762 bottles of anti-depressant](#) – Business Standard
- [Antidepressant drug: Sun Pharma recalls 31,762 bottles in US](#) – The Indian Express
- [Sun Pharma recalls 31,762 bottles of antidepressant drug in US](#) – Moneycontrol.com

6. [Cipla's Indore factory gets US FDA clearance](#) – Mint

The US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) has cleared Cipla Ltd's manufacturing facility at Indore's special economic zone (SEZ) of manufacturing practice violations that it had observed during an inspection in July-August 2015. "Cipla has received Establishment Inspection Report (EIR) from the US FDA for its Indore facility indicating formal closure of US FDA inspection conducted in July/August 2015," the company said in a stock exchange notice. The company's Goa units, however, came under the regulatory scanner on 30 September.

Similar reports –

- [Cipla's Indore plant cleared by FDA](#) – Business Standard
- [Cipla receives EIR Report from USFDA for Indore facility](#) – Moneycontrol.com

7. [Despite glitches, government plans to introduce Aadhaar authentication at health centers](#) – Scroll.in

After using Aadhaar on a national scale in the public distribution system at rations shops, the central government now plans to use the biometrics-based Unique Identity system at health facilities from next year. But the scheme has thrown up questions about whether it will create more barriers to access healthcare to those who need it most.

In a significant remodeling of the public health system, Aadhaar numbers will be used as unique patient identifiers in a new electronic health records system, said officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. National identification numbers will be created and assigned to all health facilities, beginning with public facilities.

8. [NEW JAN AUSHADHI TARGET – Pharmabiz.com](#)

Jan Aushadhi, an ambitious scheme launched by former Union chemicals minister Ramvilas Paswan in 2008 with the intention to make available quality generic drugs at affordable prices to the common man is yet to make an impact in the country after 8 years. The original plan was to set up at least one Jan Aushadhi store in each of the 630 districts of the country and opened the first Jan Aushadhi store at Amritsar in Punjab. As the programme dragged on over the years, this target was not achieved and government could open only 150 stores in 7 years and out of that only 85 were working until June last year. Under the programme, 319 essential drugs were identified to be supplied through these stores, but only 85 drugs belonging to 11 therapeutic groups were made available until last year. However, in June last year the Union minister of state for chemicals & fertilizers, Hansraj Ahir announced that 1000 more generic stores would be added to the programme. That target also remains unachieved so far. And the Department of Pharmaceuticals claims to have a total of 437 Jan Aushadhi stores operating in 26 States and Union Territories in the country as on September 20.

9. [DCGI issues guidance document for functions & responsibilities of zonal, sub-zonal and port offices of CDSCO – Pharmabiz.com](#)

In order to make the activities of all the subordinate offices under the control of the Drugs Controller General India (DCGI) uniform and all activities require to be implemented in a rational way so that the whole system functions transparently, the DCGI has issued guidance document detailing about functions & responsibilities of zonal, sub-zonal and port offices of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

10. [Biosimilars to boost growth of pharma sector in next 15 years: Assocham study – Pharmabiz.com](#)

With the government's new initiative of enabling ease of doing business in the country, the Indian pharma cos are expected to reap good benefits from the biosimilar sector in the next 15 years.

According to a study report released by Assocham, it is stated that the biosimilars would offer more than \$240 billion global opportunity for Indian pharmaceutical industry. The report pointed out that the Indian biosimilars industry had crossed \$300 million in the year 2015 of which the domestic sales reported at \$250 million while \$50 million are contributed from the export component. "India had witnessed a combined annual growth rate of 14 per cent both in domestic and export markets," revealed the Assocham report.