

1. [Health ministry considering to amend D&C Act to implement track & trace system for domestic products](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Union health ministry is actively considering amending the Drugs & Cosmetics Act to facilitate implementation of barcoding on domestic pharma products to curb counterfeiting.

The ministry has been holding parleys with key stakeholders including pharma companies and drug trade bodies for a long time with an aim to build consensus among them before introducing amendment to D&C Act to implement track and trace system for domestic market. A couple of months back, DGCI called a meeting of industry bodies **OPPI**, IDMA, IPA and trade body like AIOCD to discuss the implementation of domestic barcoding.

2. [Government targets 500 combination drugs, confrontation with pharma companies looming](#) – The Economic Times

After banning 344 combination drugs earlier this year, the government has turned its attention to another 500 such medicines, setting the stage possibly for another round of confrontation with the pharma industry.

According to a person familiar with the development, the central drug regulator has sent letters to nearly 300 companies, which have sought marketing approvals for fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs. Some of these firms have been issued show-cause notices and asked to conduct Phase IV trials — a post-marketing study — as evidence to show their products are safe and effective.

3. [Govt unlikely to put price cap on bioresorbable stent](#) – Mint

As the medical devices industry battles an impending price cap on stents and the reduced margins the move implies, the health ministry intends to keep one key category of products out of the ambit of a price ceiling—at least for the near future. This category comprises so-called bioresorbable vascular scaffolding, or bioabsorbable stents—stents that are absorbed by the body.

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2. [Government targets 500 combination drugs, confrontation with pharma companies looming](#) – The Economic Times
3. [Govt unlikely to put price cap on bioresorbable stent](#) – Mint
4. [MPs, doctors, tobacco victims, public health advocates GST regime](#) – Business Standard
5. [Epidemics among most pressing health security issues today: K. Vijay Raghavan](#) – Mint
6. [Delay in patents will slow down improvement in medicine](#) – The Hans India
7. ['Our ultimate goal is to improve access to healthcare'](#) – Mint
8. [Pfizer and IIT-Delhi announce their Innovation and IP Program for healthcare startups](#) – Yourstory.com
9. [Cooperation of pharma cos & law enforcement agencies key to tackle counterfeit drug menace: PSI](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. [Govt plans law to protect patients' health data](#) - ETHealthworld.com

Stents are surgically embedded in constricted or blocked coronary arteries (blood vessels that supply blood to the heart) and used to ease the pathway for flow of blood. The health ministry's intent behind the move, which has been conveyed to the government think tank NITI Aayog, prime minister's office and the office of the cabinet secretary is to foster competition in the manufacturing of the expensive bioresorbable stents and drive down prices, said two government officials.

4. [MPs, doctors, tobacco victims, public health advocates GST regime](#) – Business Standard

It is well known that tobacco and tobacco products are globally recognized as "sin goods" on account of their serious adverse impact on public health. Practically all major countries in the world subject tobacco products to high rates of consumption taxes with a view to garner additional revenue on one hand and discourage its use on the other. Higher taxes are particularly effective in reducing tobacco use among vulnerable populations, such as youth, pregnant women, low-income smokers and chewing tobacco users. MPs, doctors, victims of tobacco use and public health advocates have appealed to the GST council to recommend and accept a high tax rate of 40 percent under GST on all types of tobacco products including cigarettes, bidis and chewing tobacco to discourage their use and addiction amongst Indians.

5. [Epidemics among most pressing health security issues today: K. Vijay Raghavan](#) – Mint

India has had a checkered past in fighting against diseases and raising public health standards. In spite of this, the country could now emerge as a key player in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a collective set up to focus on vaccine preparedness for global epidemics. Guided by the World Health Organization (WHO)'s research and development blueprint, CEPI aims to focus on a few select diseases. K. Vijay Raghavan, chairperson of CEPI's interim board, and secretary, department of biotechnology (DBT), spoke in an interview about India's public health concerns, indigenous vaccine preparedness, raising funds for CEPI, and why the country may be primed to capitalize on a drug approval process overhaul.

6. [Delay in patents will slow down improvement in medicine](#) – The Hans India

Delay in the patents for various innovations can slow down the improvement in the field of medicine, said health experts. According to them, there is an inordinate delay in granting patents in India, which ranges from five to 10 years and in most cases the idea becomes obsolete. Although the government has started indulging in many schemes and provisions, patients are yet to reap benefits from them and hence many physicians themselves have indulged in creating innovative therapies or treatments that can be made available to patients at a very economical cost, experts said.

The doctors were attending a conference where they and experts revealed various innovations for the benefits of patients. Members from the Intellectual Property Rights were also present to discuss with the doctors how to protect their intellectual properties.

7. ['Our ultimate goal is to improve access to healthcare'](#) – Mint

Tata Trusts and GE Healthcare on Monday signed a partnership to train 10,000 young people over the next three years in various technical support areas of healthcare to bridge a skill gap in this area. GE will provide course content while Tata Trusts will provide loan scholarships. GE Healthcare Education Institute (GE HCI) will design, develop and execute the courses through a mix of both classroom training and interactive training exercises. The courses will help people graduate as X-ray, radiography, medical equipment, anaesthesia, operation theatre, cardiac care technicians and diabetic education counsellors.

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- [Tata Trusts, GE tie up to train healthcare staff](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [Tata, GE to train 10,000 in healthcare](#) – The Hindu
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- [Tata Trusts-GE Healthcare to train 10,000](#) – The Times of India
- [Tata Trusts, GE Healthcare join hands to train 10,000 grads](#) – The Economic Times

8. [Pfizer and IIT-Delhi announce their Innovation and IP Program for healthcare startups](#) – Yourstory.com

Healthcare is slowly becoming one of India's largest sectors, both in terms of revenue and employment. The healthcare sector in the country is growing at a brisk pace and is expected to reach \$280 billion by 2020, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22.9 percent. Given the talent, infrastructure, academic and research capabilities in the country today, this should come as no surprise. With the growing demand for healthcare solutions, cost-effective, easy-to-deploy and scalable innovations are the need of the hour. On the other hand, there has never been a better time to be an entrepreneur in this space, with the Indian Government's increased focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property rights.

9. [Cooperation of pharma cos & law enforcement agencies key to tackle counterfeit drug menace: PSI](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Expressing concern over the growing threat posed by counterfeit drugs in India and abroad, the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI), a not-for-profit corporation based in Washington engaged in protecting patient safety, sharing information on the counterfeiting of pharmaceuticals, initiating enforcement actions through the appropriate authorities, has stressed that pharma industries and law enforcement agencies need to jointly take proactive steps to check the spurious drug menace.

10. [Govt plans law to protect patients' health data](#) - ETHealthworld.com

In an attempt to safeguard patients' privacy, the health ministry plans to bring out a law to protect health data and medical information. The proposed law will have specific provisions for collection, storage and dissemination of individual health data.

While the ministry has roped in National Law School, Bengaluru, to put together the first draft of the law, it also plans to set up an e-health authority for standardization of such data and to ensure confidentiality. The proposed law will also have provisions for action against any breach of data, which is in huge demand mainly in the drug manufacturing industry.