

1. [Pharma pricing body's bid to get data from firms on medical devices hit a wall](#) – Mint

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's (NPPA) instructions to companies to provide data about medical devices—notified as 'Drugs' under the Drug Price Control Order, 2013—manufactured, imported or marketed by them has yielded only partial responses from a majority of the companies, according to the country's drug price regulator's recent notification. Most of the responses received from the companies either did not conform to the required format, or did not have the soft copy of the data sought, or had certain data missing from key segments.

In November last year, the drug price fixing organization had sought data from companies in a prescribed format. However, even after four subsequent reminders to provide the requisite data—like names of medical devices, price to distributor and annual price increase—most responses are inadequate.

2. [Nirmala Sitharaman calls for push to India's IPR activities](#) – The Financial Express

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that India's intellectual property rights (IPR)-related activities need great traction. Sitharaman was speaking at the launch of the logo of Cell for IPR Promotion & Management (CIPAM). The CIPAM has been created as a professional body under the aegis of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion to take forward the implementation of the National IPR Policy, which was approved by the government in May this year. The logo has been designed keeping in mind the slogan of the National IPR Policy: "Creative India, Innovative India", according to an official statement.

*Similar report –*

- [Centre unveils logo for cell promoting IPR policy](#) – The Hindu

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3. [Fadnavis revamps public health department](#) – **The Times of India**

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis revamped the public health department led by senior Shiv Sena leader Deepak Sawant on Wednesday. As per the new structure, senior IAS officer, Pradeep Vyas, will be the first Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare and the Director, National Health Mission. A senior bureaucrat said that directors Satish Pawar and Mohan Jadhav will be reporting to Vyas with immediate effect.

4. ['Clinical trials for Ayurveda dengue drug in advanced stages'](#) – **Business Standard**

Clinical trials for Ayurveda-based drug for dengue, jointly being carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Ministry of AYUSH, are in the "advanced stages" and presently its clinical safety and efficacy is being tested, senior officials today said. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), autonomous bodies under the Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR's regional research centre in Belgaum in Karnataka are carrying out the trials. "Clinical trials on dengue drug are in advanced stages. CCRAS and ICMR are conducting it in Belgaum to test the clinical safety and efficacy. The drug had earlier been standardised and after we got positive leads on it last year, we decided to go for the trials," Joint Secretary, AYUSH Ministry, A K Ganeriwala, said.

5. [MoU Signed between NICPR and All India Institute of Ayurveda for Cancer Prevention and Research](#) – **Business Standard**

A MoU was signed here today between the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR), an autonomous institute under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and AllIndia Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of AYUSH. The main objective of the MoU is to set up a Center of Integrative Oncology at NICPR-Noida as joint venture of Ministry of AYUSH and Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for collaboration in the areas of cancerprevention, research and Care. The MoU was signed by Prof. Abhimanyu Kumar, Director- AIIA and Prof. Ravi Mehrotra, Director- NICPR in the presence of Shri Ajit M. Sharan, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, and Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Secretary, Department of Health Research (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) & Director General, Indian Council for Medical Research. This MoU would pave the way to carry forward the ongoing bilateral dialogue and facilitate collaboration with National Cancer Institute, USA.

*Similar reports –*

- [NICPR, AYUSH join hands for cancer prevention](#) – The Hindu
- [NICPR, AYUSH join hands for cancer prevention, research](#) – Business Standard
- [Clinical trials for Ayurveda dengue drug in advanced stages](#) – India Today

6. [Centre to issue fresh fire safety guidelines in hospitals: JP Nadda](#) – **The Times of India**

In the wake of the Bhubaneswar hospital fire that killed 21 people, the central government will soon issue fresh guidelines to all states on fire safety, Union health minister JP Nadda said here on Wednesday. Describing as "very shocking" the SUM hospital fire, Nadda said taking a cue from this incident, certain safety issues need to re-revisited. "Fresh advisory will be given to all states so that such incidents don't reoccur," he said. The health minister was talking to the media after visiting survivors of the incident at various hospitals and visiting the tragedy site. The minister said though the fire safety and security issues come under the home departments of the states, his ministry would examine how more stringent provisions can be made in the Clinical Establishment Acts by the respective state governments.

*Similar reports –*

- [Hospital fire tragedy: Fresh advisory to states soon](#) – Business Standard
- [Health Ministry to issue fresh advisory on safety protocols](#) – The New Indian Express

7. [Heart attacks and lung diseases top causes of death in India](#) – **The Economic Times**  
Heart attacks, lung obstruction and strokes are the three top causes of death in India, accounting for over one-third of deaths. Along with diabetes and chronic kidney diseases, they make five non-communicable diseases that are part of the top ten causes of death. Communicable diseases in the top 10 include lower respiratory tract diseases like bronchitis and pneumonia, diarrhoea, TB and diseases occurring to prematurely born babies. Road injuries are the tenth most prevalent cause of death. Together, these 10 make up 60% of the 10.3 million deaths every year. The even mix of communicable diseases and non communicable ones caused by organs failing due to age or lifestyle choices puts India in the middle of a disease transition seen across the world.
  
8. [Women’s healthcare: Andhra Pradesh Govt leverages cloud, data analytics to give booster shot](#) – **The Financial Express**  
An ambitious initiative is under way in the tech-savvy, southern state of Andhra Pradesh to improve the healthcare system for women. The state government intends to make use of niche technologies such as cloud and data analytics solutions, for screening women above the age of 35 for non-communicable diseases. The programme, with technology support from Dell EMC, is being launched in more than 7,000 health sub-centres and would be used by 12,000 health workers to screen approximately nine million women in the next six months. The initiative is part of Mahila Master Health Checkup (MMHC) programme, which was inaugurated by chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu last month.
  
9. [Telangana seeks US investments in pharma, medical sectors](#) – **India Today**  
Highlighting the advantages of Hyderabad as an investment destination, Telangana Industries Minister K T Rama Rao today sought investments from US investors in pharma and medical-related sectors. Rao, who is on a visit to America, interacted with industry leaders from pharma, medical technology companies on the sidelines of Medical Technology Conference? AdvaMed 2016 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a Government release said here. Noting that Telangana ranked high in ease of doing business index and has implemented a business-friendly industry policy, he explained the "unmatched advantages Telangana offers in the fields of healthcare, pharma and medical technology devices". "The Minister drew the attention of the industry leaders, about a 100 in number; to the measures Telangana Government is taking to further strengthen the USD 50 billion extant life sciences industry in Hyderabad. Rama Rao mentioned the state-of-the-art Pharma City and Medical Devices Park that Telangana is setting up near Hyderabad," the release said.
  
10. [Sun Pharma and ICGEB to develop novel dengue vaccine](#) – **Mint**  
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) on Wednesday signed an agreement to develop a novel dengue vaccine targeted against all four serotypes of dengue virus (DENV). Developed by ICGEB, the tetravalent dengue vaccine is based on a specifically designed recombinant virus-like particle (VLP) which contains host-receptor binding domains of all the four DENV serotypes. According to the agreement, ICGEB will “disclose and make available to Sun Pharma all such existing ICGEB knowhow as well as effective completion of technology transfer by ICGEB to Sun Pharma within stipulated timeframe”. Sun Pharma, on the other hand, “will fund and support further development of the vaccine candidate and existing ICGEB know-how and patents.”

Similar reports –

- [Sun Pharma partners ICGEB to develop safer, cheaper dengue vaccine](#) – The Economic Times
- [Sun Pharma, ICGEB ink pact to develop dengue vaccine](#) – Business Standard

**11. [Maha FDA begins crackdown on govt-run hospital pharmacies across state to unearth violation of D&C Act](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) made a massive crackdown on government-run hospital pharmacies across Maharashtra and found that drugs were not stored as per label requirements. Following inspections, in all 14 samples were drawn for testing and analysis to be reported for compliance purpose and further action. Hospital pharmacies were inspected at Nagpur, Aurangabad, Thane, Nashik, Pune, Kalyan, Amravati and Bhiwandi. It was also found that some of the hospital pharmacies were operated in the absence of registered pharmacist and without proper records.

**12. [AIOCD to observe day-long nationwide bandh on Nov 23 to protest govt's failure in curbing illegal online pharmacy](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

The All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), a representative body of 8 lakh chemists in India, has decided to observe a day-long nationwide strike on November 23 to protest against government apathy towards reining in illegal online pharmacy in the country. The decision to call bandh was taken by AIOCD at its joint coordination meeting held in Mumbai on October 18. The meeting was attended by 150 representatives of state level chemists and druggists associations affiliated to AIOCD, said Suresh Gupta, AIOCD general secretary. Online pharmacy is posing a grave threat to patient safety in the country. We have repeatedly held discussions with the government authorities to convey our stand against illegal e-pharmacy causing hazard to public health. Despite several appeals, the government has not initiated steps to resolve online pharmacy issue, Gupta said.

**13. [Institute of Public Health appeals to GST council for highest tax on tobacco at above 40 per cent](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

Institute of Public Health (IPH) has appealed to the GST council to recommend a tax rate above 40 per cent on tobacco and classify it under the demerit category or sin products to attract maximum tax. "We are also pressing the government to levy the highest possible tax rate under GST on all types of tobacco including cigarettes, bidis, smokeless tobacco and pan masala to discourage their consumption and addiction amongst Indians and safeguard public health," Dr. Upendra Bhojani, assistant director, Institute of Public Health told Pharmabiz in a telecom. Even while GST is underway, the government should ensure that it retains the excise duty on all tobacco items. Therefore both GST and excise duty could result in a 70 per cent tax levy, he added.

**14. [IDMA seeks PM's intervention to exempt life-saving drugs and physician's sample from GST](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

The Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider its suggestions specific to pharmaceutical industries in the proposed GST law. The association has requested the Prime Minister that life saving drugs should be exempted from GST; physician's sample should be out of the purview of GST and GST should be applied at zero rate for all supplies to and from R & D facilities that are recognised by DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research). The association has recently submitted its suggestions to the Prime Minister and has requested that the incidence of tax should be kept lower than merit rates in order to benefit the patients, and pharma goods including medical equipment and active pharmaceutical ingredients should be categorised as essential goods. The higher tax incidence, apart from burdening the patients would adversely affect the competitiveness of the industry.