

1. Maharashtra has best health index:**IIM-A study – The Times of India**

Notwithstanding the malnutrition deaths in Mumbai's Palghar district last month, a survey from the prestigious Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), states that Maharashtra has the best health index among the country's big states. A statistical model worked out by IIM-A analyses that Maharashtra's health infrastructure as well as its health indicators are way ahead of the 20 other big states included in the study. The study was conducted on the behalf of the **Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)** and released on the occasion of OPPI's golden jubilee celebrations on Friday.

Similar reports –

- Indianexpress.com - [Maharashtra best performer in health index: IIM-A study](#)
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- Healthtechnology.in - [OPPI releases an IIM \(A\) study on the state health index at the 50th Annual General Meeting](#)
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- Pharmaliterati.in - [Government to announce pharma code soon to curb unethical practices](#)

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14. [Ayush ministry proposes to set up state level technical committee to advise govts on tech matters](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. Government to announce pharma code soon to curb unethical practices – The Times of India

The government will soon be announcing a marketing code for pharmaceutical companies to curb unethical practices, which will benefit the industry, a senior ministry official said. "The code will be

mandatory, and will be for the growth and development of industry", Sudhansh Pant joint secretary department of pharmaceuticals said at the annual general meeting of **Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)** here on Friday.

Concerned with unethical marketing practices and illegal promotions, the government had last year announced its intentions to announce a code which will be mandatory on the industry. At present, the code is voluntary, with certain companies having indulged in unethical practices like offering freebies, gifts, and exotic trips to doctors and healthcare professionals.

Similar report –

- [Government to announce pharma code soon to curb unethical practices](#) - ETHealthworld.com

3. [Supreme Court upholds centre's notification capping retail price of drugs](#) – Mint

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld a 1995 central government notification fixing the retail price of a drug formulation without first deciding the sale price of a bulk drug used in its manufacture. In doing so, a bench comprising justices Madan B. Lokur and R.K. Agarwal dismissed appeals filed by pharma companies, including Cipla Ltd and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, against a notification issued under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

"The notifications (issued since 1999) are valid and not issued mechanically or without any application of mind," the court said in its order. At least six pharma firms had moved various high courts which had stayed the notifications. The apex court transferred these cases to itself in 2005. The pharma companies had alleged that the notifications that capped retail prices of drugs without determining the norms for cost of packaging material were arbitrary and discriminatory.

Similar reports –

- [Supreme Court backs NPPA on capping drug prices](#) – The Economic Times
- [Centre can fix drug prices to check profiteering: SC](#) – The Times of India
- [Supreme Court rules against Cipla in drug price overcharging case](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [SC setback for pharma majors](#) – Business Standard

4. [Drug Price Control Order continues to drag growth of pharma industry](#) – Business Standard

The Centre's move to control prices of certain drugs under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) continues to affect the growth rate of pharmaceutical companies at large. According to latest estimates by ICRA, approximately 17 per cent of the Indian pharmaceutical market is under THE DPCO. The DPCO segment has grown by 1.1 per cent during the first quarter of 2016-17, which has dragged the overall growth of the Indian pharmaceutical market down to 6.4 per cent.

In 2015-16, the DPCO portfolio grew 7.7 per cent compared to 13.7 per cent for the non-DPCO portfolio. This reduced overall growth to 12.6 per cent in 2015-16. SV Veeramani, president of the Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA), said while the fixing of prices had not affected the demand of drugs, a price reduction by around 2.2 per cent this year based on the wholesale price index had hurt drug makers. "The big ones are able to make up the margins through volumes, but for smaller manufacturers, the problem is more acute," he said.

5. [Failure to comply with norms in pharma sector a big risk: Experts](#) – The Times of India

Members of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) and Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) officials called for proper practices and regulation to be in place for the pharma industry. "India of the biggest generic industries in the world and we need to ensure quality of medicines produced here. Currently, a majority of the pharma manufacturing industries do not even know the national or international ethics, which is one reason why sub-standard medicines are produced," said Sanjay Toshniwal, Aurangabad IPA secretary, speaking at a one-day seminar on Tuesday. Nandkumar Kagvate, president and founder of PharmaQual (Scientific & Techno Commercial

Consultant) said, good manufacturing practices (GMP) are a part of quality assurance that ensure that products are consistently produced and controlled to the quality standards appropriate to their intended use and as required by the marketing authorization.

6. [Manufacturers file plea against ban on PET bottles](#) – Mint

PET Containers Manufacturers Association on Thursday filed a plea before the green tribunal to dismiss an application brought by non-governmental organisation (NGO), Him Jagriti Uttaranchal Welfare Society, demanding a ban on the use of PET bottles for medicines and other consumables. The association alleged that Him Jagriti was a front of Kolkata-based Hindustan National Glass & Industries Ltd and was put up by the latter to “subserve its commercial interest”. It has also placed documents related to email exchanges between Him Jagriti and Hindustan National, alleging a nexus between them. The association has also questioned a report of National Test House under the ministry of commerce, upon which Him Jagriti had relied in its arguments. The NGO in its application has argued that the pet bottles were harmful and leached under Indian conditions.

7. [Govt to give a fresh push to Jan Aushadhi Scheme, plans to increase store count](#) – Business Standard

Aiming to provide a fresh boost to the Centre's Jan Aushadhi (Public Medicine) Scheme, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is making efforts to rope in Members of Parliament (MPs) for opening new stores in their constituencies. This move comes close on the heels of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) initiating talks with various state governments regarding the matter. The scheme, launched in 2008 under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, has not achieved its desired results so far. While introducing the budget this year, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced that the government would open 3000 stores by the year-end- an ambitious target given that there are only 500 open stores at present.

8. [Access to healthcare must for all: President Pranab Mukherjee](#) – The Times of India

Robust GDP figures and other statistical data would look just numbers if Indians don't have access to modern healthcare system, President Pranab Mukherjee said here on Sunday. "If we are sick, diseased, and hungry and are not skilled, then even good GDP figures and other statistical data will only look like a satisfaction and won't reflect the true picture," Mukherjee said after inaugurating the Sardar Patel multi-specialty and heart hospital in this industrial town.

Similar reports –

- [President Inaugurates Sevashram Hospital and Sardar Patel Hospital & Heart Institute in Gujarat](#) – Business Standard
- [I'm Gujarati at heart, says President Pranab Mukherjee](#) – The Indian Express
- [Need to ensure access for all to modern healthcare: Pranab Mukherjee](#) – Hindustan Times

9. [Equitable healthcare needs political will to make it a reality](#) – The Times of India (Blogs)

Indira Gandhi, while addressing the annual World Health Organization assembly in 1981 said that her idea of a better world was one in which there would be no profiteering from life or death. She had said this in the context of medicines and patents. This was no empty political grandstanding as she backed it with the political will to bring in laws to make it come true. Gandhi abolished patents on medicines through the Indian patent Act 1970. Along with the new patent act, her government also restricted the import of finished formulations, imposed tariff rates and introduced strict price control regulation. From being an import dependent market dominated by multinational corporations where drug prices were higher than those being charged in the US, India managed to nurture a strong domestic manufacturing sector for medicines. Consequently, the price of important drugs fell by as much as 90%.

10. [Sun Pharma completes divestment of 7 brands to RPG](#) – The Economic Times

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on Friday completed the divestment of its seven prescription brands in India to RPG Life Sciences. This has been done after receiving approval of the Competition Commission of India and completion of all the necessary formalities for closure of the transaction, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries said in a filing to BSE. On July 27, 2016 Sun Pharma had informed the bourses that it had signed an pact with RPG Life Sciences to divest seven brands in India, owned by the company and its subsidiary, for a consideration of Rs 41 crore.

Similar report –

- [Sun Pharma completes Rs675 crore share buyback](#) – Mint

11. [Biocon says first set of biosimilars to hit European market by early 2018](#) – Mint

Bio-pharmaceutical company Biocon Ltd on Friday said it expects to see its first set of biosimilar products hit the European market by early 2018. The company, in partnership with Mylan NV, is developing four biosimilars—pegfilgrastim, trastuzumab, adalimumab and insulin glargine—for regulated markets such as Europe and US. A biosimilar is a drug that has active properties similar to the original biological product. Two of Biocon's biosimilars—trastuzumab and pegfilgrastim—are under review by European drug regulator the European Medicines Agency (EMA). In the second quarter, EMA agreed to review Biocon's applications seeking permission for marketing authorization of pegfilgrastim and trastuzumab.

Similar reports –

- [Biosimilars boost Biocon net to ₹147 cr in September quarter](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [Branded Formulations Business Will See Muted Performance In FY17: Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar Shaw](#) – Bloomberg Quint

12. [NPPA price monitoring cell to come up at Maha FDA premises soon](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given its consent to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to set up a price monitoring cell in the state for effective detection of drug price violations. NPPA had discussed and proposed the plan with the state drug regulator to set up a dedicated administrative cell within its office last year. While the expenditure related to manpower, amenities and other infrastructural cost will be borne by the Centre; state government will have to provide the space for setting up the office within the state drug regulatory office, as per the plan. As per the provisions of the law, NPPA will give us certain monetary benefits to set up the cell and is in the process of allocating a budget on the same, said a senior FDA official.

13. [Centre issues National Treatment Guidelines for Antimicrobial Use in infectious diseases](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Union government has issued the National Treatment Guidelines for Antimicrobial Use in infectious diseases. With no new drug on the horizon, the government has felt the need to bring out the existing levels of reported resistance of these drugs in the country. It has devised a syndromic approach for empirical therapy of common infections. To contain further development of antimicrobial resistance, implementing hospital infection control practices, formation of active hospital infection control teams in each hospital working round the clock and monitoring and containing spread of infections are part of these norms. Preventing the acquisition of an infection by vaccination for different microbial infections will also help in reducing the need for prescription of antibiotics.

14. [Ayush ministry proposes to set up state level technical committee to advise govts on tech matters](#) – Pharmabiz.com

In line with the functioning of the Drugs Technical Advisory Committee under the ministry of Ayush, a state level technical committee is recommended to be constituted in every state to advise on technical matters related to licensing and quality control of ASU drugs. A proposal in this regard has

been made by the Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Drugs Technical Advisory Board (ASUDTAB) in the draft rules framed by the ministry for the amendment of D&C Rules. The draft rules to be inserted in the amendment of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 2016 proposes that all the state governments must constitute a 'State Technical Committee (STC- ASU) for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs' to advise the state government on technical matters related to licensing and quality control of ASU drugs.