

1. [OPPI releases IIM-A study on the state health index – Biospectrumindia.com](#)

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) concluded their golden jubilee celebrations. Mrs Meenakshi Lekhi (Member of Parliament and Supreme Court lawyer), Shri. Ravindra Chavan (Hon'ble Minister of State, Govt of Maharashtra), Shri. Sudhansh Pant (Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals), Shri. A N Roy (Former Director General of Police, Maharashtra) were present on the occasion of celebrating the '50 Years theme: Healthy India, Innovative India. The event witnessed participation from Government, thought leaders in healthcare - technology companies, medical devices companies, diagnostic companies, healthcare providers, healthcare financers, media and other stakeholders.

2. [SC backs govt on fixing drug prices outside of essential list – The Economic Times](#)

In a veritable setback to the Indian pharmaceutical industry, the Supreme Court has dismissed a special leave petition filed by the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance to block a government order notified two years ago to control prices of over a hundred drugs that were not part of the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance is a grouping of top Indian drug makers. A July 2014 notification by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had invoked Paragraph 19 of the Drug Price Control Order, citing extraordinary circumstances for a band of anti-diabetes and heart disease drugs and fixed their price caps in the 'public interest'.

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- [Here's how capping drug prices harms consumers](#) – The Financial Express

3. [Drug pricing: Supreme Court upholds capping of prices of 108 anti-diabetes, cardiovascular drugs – The Financial Express](#)

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's (NPPA's) 2014 notifications that fixed the maximum retail price of 108 anti-diabetic and cardiovascular drugs.

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4. [Domestic market revives, but US woes to hit pharma firms' earnings – Mint](#)
5. [Supreme Court to hear government's petitions to transfer drug ban cases – The Economic Times](#)
6. [Medical Council of India makes generic names mandatory – The Times of India](#)
7. [AMRIT for patients: Stents go cheap – The Times of India](#)
8. [Pharma companies increase investments for global biosimilar push – Business Standard](#)
9. [Drug companies step up global investments to tap biosimilars – Business Standard](#)
10. [Ray of hope to improve HIV drug therapies – The Indian Express](#)
11. [Detailed annual plan on spreading awareness about new IPR Policy soon: Controller General of Patents – Business Standard](#)
12. [CPhI Worldwide attracts over 42,000 attendees – Pharmabiz.com](#)

A bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur dismissed Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance's appeal against the Bombay High Court's September 26 order, which held that the government had not exceeded its powers when regulating the prices as "exploitative prices make medicines unaffordable". The Bombay HC had said "given the ever-increasing number of patients, these drugs which have to be taken throughout life... we do not feel government was exceeding its power in regulating". Alleging that the NPPA notifications issued in July last year were "arbitrary, unreasonable" and against the principle of natural justice, the alliance stated that the government had given a complete go-by to the essential criteria that is applicable only to schedule formulations. By including non-scheduled products, the government had basically done away with the classification of drugs on the 'essentially criteria', it said.

4. [Domestic market revives, but US woes to hit pharma firms' earnings](#) – Mint

The lucrative US drug market has become challenging for Indian companies because of regulatory issues, product pricing pressure and limited number of high-value drug approvals. Sluggish performance in the US and unfavourable currency movements in emerging markets are expected to weigh on the earnings of local drug makers in the September quarter. Analysts expect overall sales growth of 7-10% during the quarter, but profits are likely to be under pressure as higher spending on research and development and on remedial measures at manufacturing plants facing compliance issues has squeezed margins. Indian firms have stepped up investments in research and development to enhance their product pipeline, especially in the specialty drugs and complex generics space.

5. [Supreme Court to hear government's petitions to transfer drug ban cases](#) – The Economic Times

The Supreme Court is set to hear the government's petition to transfer all the cases against its ban on hundreds of fixed dose combination drugs alleged to be irrational, unsafe for patients and lacking scientific validation. Around nine transfer petitions filed by the government against companies contesting the ban are likely to be listed for hearing on November 7, according to the Supreme Court. This includes petitions to transfer cases not only filed by global pharmaceutical giants such as Pfizer Ltd and Abbott Healthcare, but also a drug retailers' association from Kerala.

In the hearing in November, the Supreme Court may either transfer all these petitions to it or to a high court, according to a senior government official, who spoke to ET on condition of anonymity. "Depending on what orders are given, we will either file (the rest of the petitions) in the Supreme Court or the high court that it designates for hearing all these cases," the official said.

6. [Medical Council of India makes generic names mandatory](#) – The Times of India

Physicians must mention only generic names of drugs on prescriptions, write them legibly and ensure rational recommendation of medicines, according to a fresh notification issued by the Medical Council of India (MCI). Issued under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, it queers the pitch for the medical fraternity in Kolkata that is yet to make the switch to generic prescriptions despite a state government order. While doctors across medical colleges in the city and state have stopped recommending drug brands, the vast majority of private practitioners and medics in private hospitals are yet to adopt the practice.

7. [AMRIT for patients: Stents go cheap](#) – The Times of India

Patients requiring long-term medicines for ailments and those requiring implants and emergency drugs can now look forward to get them at 20% to 90% discounted price. Thanks to Union government's Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) pharmacy. AMRIT, based out of AIIMS Bhopal, provides drugs at affordable price and is offering to provide on-call brand-name drugs and implants also. The drugs will however have to be collected by the patient or attendant, once arranged. According to AMRIT pharmacy representative, the new mechanism has

been offered after some patients demanded particular brand-name drugs, fearing a adverse reaction to similar make drugs.

**8. [Pharma companies increase investments for global biosimilar push](#) – Business Standard**

Stepping up investments to tap growing opportunities in biosimilars in Europe and emerging markets, Cipla is spending about Rs 600 crore to set up a manufacturing plant for biosimilars in South Africa. While Ahmedabad-based Intas is spending \$30 million (about Rs 200 crore) for research and development and trials. The interest of domestic pharma companies in this segment is evident as biologic drugs worth \$ 90 billion will go off patent in Europe and the US in the next five to ten years.

Biosimilars, which are copies of innovative biologic drugs, are also expected to receive a boost as governments in developed markets look to reduce their healthcare budgets. On the flipside, however, growing competition is leading to price erosion and margin pressure for companies.

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**10. [Ray of hope to improve HIV drug therapies](#) – The Indian Express**

A new research, through the use of nanotechnology, now aims to improve the administration and availability of drug therapies to HIV patients. The research, led by the University of Liverpool, examined the use of nanotechnology to improve the delivery of drugs to HIV patients. Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter on an atomic, molecular, and supramolecular scale. Nanomedicine is the application of nanotechnology to the prevention and treatment of disease in the human body. This evolving discipline has the potential to dramatically change medical science and is already having an impact in a number of clinically used therapies and diagnostics worldwide.

**11. [Detailed annual plan on spreading awareness about new IPR Policy soon: Controller General of Patents](#) – Business Standard**

The Indian Patent Office is soon going to put in place a detailed annual plan in consultation with all stakeholders to spread awareness about the new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy by conducting workshops, seminars in schools, universities and other such institutions, Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Mr O.P. Gupta said at an ASSOCHAM event. As part of awareness program, we as Indian Intellectual Property office are interacting with all possible stakeholders and working out a detailed programme so that we may conduct workshops in schools, colleges, universities, seminars together with industry and academia and specific programs for specific industries like SMEs and certain other specialised fields, said Mr Gupta.

**12. [CPhI Worldwide attracts over 42,000 attendees](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

CPhI Worldwide closed its 27th edition with pre-audit figures indicating a record-breaking attendance of over 42,000 and more than 2,550 exhibitors. Held in Barcelona from October 4 to 6, 2016 for the first time, the event saw participation from 156 countries, an expanded exhibition platform, a revamped industry awards, bespoke content programmes, vast networking opportunities, along with key industry analysis. The world's largest Pharma event is a mecca of new trends, industry deals and insights – over 80 per cent of attendance is international, with over 7,000

people travelling from China and India alone. This year, CPhI Worldwide delegates were in a confident mood, with growth looking strong in all segments of the industry. In particular, big pharma delegates emphasised the need to be first to market in order to maximise profit opportunities – now a key consideration when selecting a CMO. In generics and APIs, Western players reported undertaking high-margin products with complex chemistries, with India and China showing accelerated growth thanks to the continued rise in global use and universal healthcare systems.