

1. [Pharma: FDA Blues](#) – Business World

Indian pharma companies have had to pay a heavy cost for non-compliance with US FDA regulations and post-ban remedial measures using pricey foreign consultants unfamiliar with the country. Now, help is available locally and at a much cheaper cost. Not upgrading with changing manufacturing standards set by regulatory authorities in foreign markets is no doubt, the primary reason for such a setback. The absence of a culture of quality manufacturing in the Indian pharmaceutical industry too complicates remedial measures at times.

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2. [Government to consider extending shelf life of medical device after interim assessment of performance](#) – Business Standard

The recent draft of the medical devices regulation has drawn the industry's flak. These regulations have been disliked on many grounds. One of the reasons industry is unhappy with the government is the shelf life of medical devices as suggested in the draft.

The government has suggested a five year blanket on shelf life of all medical devices in the draft released on 19th October. When asked if the government could reconsider this proposal, a senior government official told Business Standard that they might consider interim audit and assessment of the equipment to decide whether an extension on the shelf life can be given. This official told Business Standard that the decision on extension will be done on a case-to-case basis.

3. [Health For All Demands Integrated Planning And Prioritisation](#) – Business World

Despite rapid strides in the arena of healthcare over the past two decades, the majority of Indians still lack access to doctors and medical treatments. Health for all remains an unrealized vision. A huge, 70 million people in the country suffer from rare diseases, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes contribute to 53 per cent of the overall disease burden in the country.

According to a 2010 World Bank report, premature deaths and preventable illnesses lead India to lose 6 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually. In Addition, tropical and vaccine preventable diseases (VCDs) continue to claim a disproportionate number of lives. According to industry estimates, 315 million of the 1 billion people impacted by tropical diseases worldwide are found in India alone. Tuberculosis and Malaria roughly cost India about \$24 billion and \$1.5 billion annually, which is compounded by the cost of other more rare tropical diseases like rabies and leprosy.

4. [Internet of things: Just what the doctor ordered](#) – The Times of India

From smart TVs, phones, cars and homes, now healthcare too is moving beyond the pill to 'smart' connected devices within the internet of things, as a new breed of 'digital' consumers emerge. Pharma companies are now leveraging smart, connected devices for diagnosis, and targeting therapy to not only engage with patients, but to also offer value-added services.

Across the world, healthcare companies are working with tech titans to deliver targeted medical aid and monitor chronic diseases, using high-tech devices that combine biology, software and hardware.

London-headquartered GlaxoSmithKline and California-based Google have teamed up to float a new company focused on bioelectronics, while Swiss Novartis is working with Google's parent Alphabet on a smart contact lens with an embedded glucose sensor to help monitor diabetes. France's Sanofi has tied up with Alphabet's life sciences arm Verily to bring innovative treatments for diabetics, and US' Proteus Digital Technology has joined forces with drugmakers on pills with embedded microchips to measure drug usage.

5. [Sun Pharma buys eye care specialist Ocular Tech for \\$40 million](#) – Mint

The country's largest pharma company Sun Pharma on Wednesday acquired 100% equity in the US-based eye care specialist Ocular Technologies Sarl, owned by the private equity firm Aven Therapeutics, for a front payment of \$40 million. Sun will also pay more contingent on meeting drug development and sales milestones as well as tiered royalty on sales of Seciera for the company for accelerated development of breakthrough therapeutic drugs.

Currently, Ocular is developing Seciera for treating dry eye disease, the city-based company, adding the drug is currently in a Phase-3 confirmatory clinical trials. "This acquisition signifies continued momentum in enhancing our global branded specialty portfolio," Dilip Shanghvi, managing director of Sun Pharma said in a late evening statement.

Similar report –

- [Sun Pharma buys eye care specialist Ocular Tech for \\$40m](#) – Business Standard

6. [Ayush units fear voluntary certification scheme for medicinal plants may fail with no support from cultivators](#) – Pharmabiz.com

With the National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) going ahead with its plan to implement Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCSMPP) with the Quality Council of India (QCI), the leading Ayush drugs manufacturing companies in north India are of opinion that the scheme is unlikely to be supported by the medicinal plant cultivators and growers of medicinal herbs.

Citing reason for the improbable non-compliance of norms of the scheme by the cultivators, the drug manufacturers have commented that the earlier scheme of voluntary certification, Ayush Marks, introduced by the previous Department of Ayush in 2010 was a failure and had caused huge financial loss to the manufacturers. So, the community of plant cultivators who is an inseparable part of the manufacturing industry has to think twice before going ahead with the scheme.

7. [CSIR's Prathama S. Mainkar bags OPPI Woman Scientist Award](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The OPPI Woman Scientist Award for 2016 has been awarded to Prathama S. Mainkar, Senior Principal Scientist of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. This recognition is for the contributions made to the pharmaceutical industry, both in early drug discovery and process development for generics by the scientist.

She had her schooling and professional training in Hyderabad. The OPPI Woman Scientist award carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, citation and a memento.

Prathama's contributions include identification of new chemical entities for treatment of cancer, tuberculosis and CNS-related diseases.