

1. [Govt forms committee to review drug pricing policy](#) – Business Standard

The government has formed an inter-ministerial committee to review the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013, following the Supreme Court verdict this year that termed the drug pricing policy as irrational and unreasonable.

According to sources, the committee will look into the drug pricing mechanism as there have been complaints that the companies are making significant profits which go up to few thousand per cent.

1. [Govt forms committee to review drug pricing policy](#) – Business Standard
2. [NPPA caps prices of 18 formulations packs](#) – Mint
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4. [Govt looks to regulate prices of medical devices](#) – Bloomberg
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2. [NPPA caps prices of 18 formulations packs](#) – Mint

Pharmaceutical pricing authority National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped prices of 18 formulations packs, including anti-diabetic Metformin HCl tablets, anti-bacterial Ceftriaxone Sodium injection packs and devices among others. The prices have also been fixed/revised for hormone releasing IUD, ondansetron HCl orally disintegrating strip, Metformin HCl tablets, Cefaclax injection pack among others.

The prices of the 18 formulation packs have been fixed/revised under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013, the NPPA said in a statement. Drug firms such as Cipla Ltd, Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Unichem Laboratories Ltd will be impacted by the government's move for prices fixation and revision. At present, the government caps prices of essential drugs based on the simple average of all medicines in a particular therapeutic segment with sales of more than 1%.

3. [Govt caps prices of new drugs to treat diabetes, hypertension](#) – The Times of India

New medicines for treatment of diabetes, hypertension and pneumonia are set to be cheaper from Diwali. Drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped prices of as many as 18 new brands of essential medicines, most of which are expected to be launched in the market within a fortnight.

4. [Govt looks to regulate prices of medical devices](#) – Bloomberg

After moving to cap trade margins of drugs, the government is taking a hard look at the differentiating prices of cardiac stents, implants and pacemakers where the margins are allegedly as high as 5,000 per cent over the cost.

Pharma Secretary VK Subbhuraj met top officials of medical devices makers such as Boston Scientific, Abbott and Zimmer Biomet to voice the concerns over the astronomical prices of stents that are now used increasingly to provide relief to patients.

Subbhuraj told Bloomberg TV India that companies need to reduce their prices by 50 per cent if they have kept their MRP with more than 100 per cent profit margin. "The intention is to regulate the medical device sector, where we are majorly dependent on imports. Until the medical device policy is created and new medical device pricing authority is set up we cannot regulate medical device through our drugs and cosmetic Act", he added.

5. [TRIPS flexibilities have proved to be a lifeline for the poor: Nadda](#) – The Times of India  
Sending a strong message to the developed world and multinational pharma companies, Union health minister JP Nadda said on Friday India will ensure the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities are fully harnessed to provide sustained and uninterrupted access to life-saving medicines to patients across the world.

"TRIPS flexibilities have proved to be a lifeline for the poor and we have a duty to ensure that this lifeline does not snap. I may point out that a common audit and common regulatory mechanism in Africa would facilitate this process considerably," Nadda said, while addressing an event, to discuss access to lifesaving medicines to end the AIDS epidemic, on the sidelines of the India--Africa Forum Summit.

6. [NITI Aayog seeks inputs on innovation panel report by November end](#) – Financial Express  
NITI Aayog has invited comments on recommendations of the expert committee on innovation and entrepreneurship under the Atal Innovation Mission by November 28. "NITI invites comments/suggestions on specific recommendations of the Expert Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship," NITI Aayog said in its latest tweet on its website.

7. [India's disproportionately tiny health budget: A national security concern?](#) - The Economic Times

The world's highest number of women dying in childbirth; the world's highest deaths of children under the age of five; a health system that ranks 112 among 190 countries; one doctor for 1,700 people; 21% of the world's burden of disease, worsened by poor basic health and sanitation. While India has the fastest growing population, and an ambitious growth aspiration, it has always had a disproportionately small health budget. In 2015, this shrank further to 1.2% of the GDP, one of the stingiest in the world.

British medical journal The Lancet is set to publish a report in December challenging the NDA government on service delivery and universal health care, one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's poll promises. The Lancet's editor-in-chief Richard Horton has told The Times of India that health seemed to have "completely vanished" from the NDA's agenda. The health ministry has rubbished Horton's comments and listed its latest schemes and missions.

8. ['FTAs weaken multilateral systems'](#) – The Hindu  
Taking a strong stand against free trade agreements Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), stated that bilateral agreements were weakening the multilateral arrangements that looked after the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

In an exclusive interview to The Hindu, Mr. Mwencha said: "these trade agreements pose one danger — the weakening of multilateral systems."

"The strong, currently, want a weak system, so they can dominate the game," he added talking about intellectual property rights (IPR) being used to curtail access to medicines in poorer countries. He was speaking at concluding session of India-Africa Summit, which was themed "End AIDS Epidemic by 2030."

9. [US wants faster pace of reforms in India, says Nirmala Sitharaman](#) – Business Standard

The US is appreciative of the series of reforms unleashed by the NDA government but feels that it is not happening at the pace it wants, according to Union Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"Reform is happening but it is happening much slower than they would want it to happen," she said after concluding the 9th round of US-India Trade Policy Forum meeting which she co-chaired along with US Trade Representative Mike Froman.

Sitharaman said the US now has a better understanding of India and its policies because the Indian government has actively engaged the American government and its private sector in various spheres related to their areas of concerns.

"We invited their active participation even as we were forming the policy. We invited them to ask any number of questions whether to patents or copyrights. We have not left even one question unanswered. So the readiness to talk, the readiness to answer question has actually helped to remove any apprehensions that they would have had in their minds," the minister said.

10. [Govt initiatives may boost pharma industry in near future](#) – Mint

Indian pharmaceutical industry, a major supplier of affordable generics to the world, is growing at very fast pace over the past few years and India is among the top six global pharmaceutical producers in the world. This industry has increased life spans and fostered hope to people who have given up on everything. The industry has witnessed terrific progress in terms of infrastructure development, technology base creation and a wide range of production. Even while undergoing restructuring, it has established its presence and determination to flourish in the changing environment. India is among the fastest-growing pharmaceutical markets in the world and has established itself as a global manufacturing and research hub. A large raw material base and the availability of a skilled workforce gives the industry a definite competitive advantage.

India produces 40-70 per cent of the WHO demand for DPT & BCG and 90 per cent of measles vaccine. Around 70 per cent of the patients in developing countries receive Indian medicines through NGOs like The Clinton Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Doctors without Borders, the UNCTAD etc.

11. [Indian pharma companies on US FDA lens](#) – ET Health

Increasing number of Indian pharmaceutical firms have come under the knife of US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) due to lack of trained staff and cleanliness at their manufacturing units, said industry experts here.

"India is the biggest exporter of drugs to the US, because of which US-FDA officials raise alarms whenever any violation of FDA guidelines is found. Many Indian firms have been notified under form 483 of FDA for violation of guidelines," said Sanjay Tiwari, director of Sun Pharma. Form 483 is used by FDA officials to document concerns found during their inspection of a factory. Experts at a seminar on 'US-FDA steps for sustained compliance' organized at Pharma Tech Expo 2015 said that repetitive violations of guidelines can lead to import alert and even blacklisting.