

1. **[Modi government planning a major overhaul of country's drug policy](#) – The Economic Times**

The government is planning a major overhaul of the country's drug policy that includes reducing the number of drugs under price control, doing away with the practice of periodic renewal of manufacturing licences, and making it easy to do medical and drug research in the country. The initiative is being backed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which wants India to emerge as a major hub both for manufacturing pharmaceuticals as well as innovation in medical research, a senior government official told ET.

The government is also looking to arrest further loss of business to China that has gobbled up India's share of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and intermediates.

2. **[Need to focus on better patient care: Mishra](#) – The Times of India**

A top Health Ministry official today underlined the need to focus on building a system for better care of patients and to remain globally competitive in the area of 'medical value travel'.

Union Health secretary C K Mishra said it is an "opportune" moment presently in the Indian healthcare sector to talk about 'medical value travel'. "We need to focus on quality, investment to build system for better patient care and continue to remain globally competitive in the area of medical value travel," a FICCI statement quoting Mishra said.

He said this after inaugurating the second edition of the 'Advantage Health Care India (AHCI) 2016' which is an initiative of the Commerce Ministry in association with FICCI and Service Export Promotion Council (SEPC).

3. **[Drug crisis in store if Sino-Indian ties worsen](#) – The Times of India**

The growing tension between India, Pakistan and China has triggered concerns over India's health security as well. Amid signs of China siding with Pakistan, authorities are evaluating options to ensure India's pharma industry, heavily dependent on raw material from China, is not impacted. India imports around 85% of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) used in medicine formulations from China. This poses a major risk of severe drug shortage if India's diplomatic relations with China worsen.

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4. [Life-saving medicine D-Penicillamine unavailable, jeopardising lives of many](#) – The Times of India
5. [Pushing Karnataka as Pharma destiny, KIA get India's 1st perishable cargo facility](#) – The Times of India
6. [Zika funding delay hurt effort to fight virus: US health officials](#) – The Financial Express
7. [Piramals, ex-CEO fined for insider trading in Abbott deal](#) – The Hindu Business Line
8. [New products, campaigns to boost Sun Pharma OTC sales](#) – Business Standard
9. [USFDA excludes Ceftriazone Sodium from import alert: Wockhardt](#) - The Financial Express
10. [AstraZeneca medical representatives threaten strike](#) – Business Standard

4. [Life-saving medicine D-Penicillamine unavailable, jeopardising lives of many](#) – **The Times of India**

A life-saving medicine D-Penicillamine, used in treatment of Wilson's disease, is unavailable across the country, jeopardising lives of many patients across the country. The shortage, primarily caused because of short supply of raw material used in the drug, prompted the drug regulator to call for an urgent meeting on Friday with five manufacturers of the drug. Wilson's diseases are a rare genetic disorder which prevents the body from getting rid of extra copper. The accumulation of copper may damage liver, brain, kidneys and eyes. D-Penicillamine is known to remove excess copper via urine.

5. [Pushing Karnataka as Pharma destiny, KIA get India's 1st perishable cargo facility](#) – **The Times of India**

India's first integrated on-airport perishable cargo handling centre has commenced trial operations at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) here. The Air India SATA Coolport, an initiative of the Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited, is spread across 11,000 sqm.

"The facility will meet the ever-increasing demands and handling requirements of temperature-sensitive cargo and will further enhance the Karnataka's status as the pharmaceutical and perishables hub of India," a release issued here said.

6. [Zika funding delay hurt effort to fight virus: US health officials](#) – **The Financial Express**

Top US health officials said on Monday the long delay in getting Congress to approve funding to fight the Zika virus came at a heavy cost in dealing with what they called a serious public health threat. They said the \$1.1 billion in newly approved funding for Zika would be used to expand mosquito control programs, accelerate vaccine development and begin important studies of its effect on babies and children born to mothers infected during pregnancy. President Barack Obama in February requested \$1.9 billion in emergency Zika funding. After months of political wrangling, Congress last week finally approved a little more than half of that to fight the virus.

*Similar report:*

- [WHO calls for stronger measures against Zika as Thailand confirms disease-related microcephaly](#)  
– ETHealthworld.com

7. [Piramals, ex-CEO fined for insider trading in Abbott deal](#) – **The Hindu Business Line**

The capital market regulator SEBI has fined Piramal Enterprises, Ajay Piramal and two family members and N Santhanam, former CEO, for violating insider trading rules just before the company's May 2010 deal to sell its domestic healthcare business to Abbott Laboratories. SEBI also found that Harinder Sikka, Director, Piramal Enterprises, did not obtain pre-clearance to trade in the company's stock during the UPSI period and traded on his stock options at the time, because the trading window had not been closed, even though there is no record of him having access to the UPSI.

8. [New products, campaigns to boost Sun Pharma OTC sales](#) – **Business Standard**

Sun Pharmaceuticals is strengthening its over-the-counter (OTC) business through new marketing campaigns, product enhancements and online sales. As a first step, the company has tied up with online beauty portal Nykaa.com to sell its sunscreen cream Suncros, and soon plans to sell its other OTC products on e-commerce platforms. Sun Pharmaceuticals' OTC segment includes top-selling brands such as health supplement Revital and painkiller Volini. These products became a part of Sun Pharmaceuticals' portfolio after it acquired Ranbaxy two years ago.

9. [USFDA excludes Ceftriazone Sodium from import alert: Wockhardt](#) - **The Financial Express**

Drug firm Wockhardt today said the US health regulator has excluded Ceftriazone Sodium from import alert issued earlier against its active pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturing facility at Ankleshwar. The United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) on September 30, 2016 has

posted on its website an update on the Import Alert 66-40 “regarding company’s API Unit at Ankleshwar” and excluded Ceftriazone Sodium from it, Wockhardt said in a filing to BSE.

**10. [AstraZeneca medical representatives threaten strike](#) – Business Standard**

After going on mass casual leave for a day, about 700 medical representatives (MRs) of the India unit of UK-based pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca have planned to go on a strike. They are protesting the termination of employment contracts of about 100 MRs in the past two months. This follows a restructuring in the company’s strategy that saw divestment of its antibiotics business to Pfizer in August. Near 50 of these 100 MRs were laid off on Friday. These employees are backed by the members of the Federation of Medical Representatives of India (FMRI), which includes medical representatives from Sun Pharmaceuticals and Lupin, among others.