

**1. [India's pharma competitiveness rank drops](#) – Mint**

India has been ranked No. 19 in a 28-nation survey of biomedical investment attractiveness of countries, with an overall score of 59 out of 100. The US, UK and Switzerland lead, with the US at No. 1 with a score of 86.

India's score slipped a point from a year ago.

The ranking is part of the third edition of the Biopharmaceutical Competitiveness Survey (BCI) commissioned by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and executed by the Pugatch Consilium. It looks at biomedical innovation and its influencers, like intellectual property protection for investments in the sector.

**2. [More stringent rules on drug safety](#) – Business Standard**

The government is in the process of changing the law to ensure drug manufacturers do not compromise on safety standards. There is a plan to give manufacturers long-term licences, to instill more accountability. Further, an official stated, the drugs controller will pull up companies for even small mistakes. Recall of drugs that come under safety alerts issued to manufacturers will become mandatory. At present, recall is voluntary. The source said eight committees had been formed to prepare the details. The final draft should be ready in about six weeks.

The Central Drugs Standard Controls Organization is putting the details of all its processes online. Software is also in the pipeline that will have details of all drugs that received safety alerts from the regulator.

**3. [First dengue vaccine gets approved in over 10 countries, but not in India yet](#) – Business Today**

Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines global business unit of Sanofi, on Tuesday, October 4, announced that its Dengvaxia dengue vaccine has now received its 11th marketing approval, four of which were granted from regulatory authorities recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO). To date the vaccine, it says, is approved in Mexico, Philippines, Brazil, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Guatemala, Peru, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.

It, however, does not say anything on the status on India. Business Today checked with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) and the Indian regulator's view is that the marketing approval to the vaccine has still not been granted in India because the regulator is keen to know the efficacy on the Indian population. However, since the company has sought a waiver on the need to conduct clinical trials in India, the matter is under scrutiny, according to the DCGI.

1. [India's pharma competitiveness rank drops](#) – Mint
2. [More stringent rules on drug safety](#) – Business Standard
3. [First dengue vaccine gets approved in over 10 countries, but not in India yet](#) – Business Today
4. [NCDs account for 53% of the disease burden in India: study](#) – The Hindu Business Line
5. [Online petition seeks revocation of ban on over-the-counter sale of emergency contraceptive pills in TN](#) – The Times of India
6. [Intas Pharma to buy Teva's UK, Ireland generics businesses](#) – Mint

4. [NCDs account for 53% of the disease burden in India: study](#) – The Hindu Business Line

Every fifth person in India suffers from a chronic disease and more than 6 out of 10 people die from non-communicable diseases (NCD), a new study by the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease released on Tuesday said. The advocacy paper — NCDs in the Development Agenda — which was done with technical support from the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) notes that NCDs account for 53 per cent of the disease burden. Worryingly, the incidences of heart diseases and cancer — two of the leading causes of mortality in the country — are on a sharp uptick. Between 1990 and 2010 premature deaths from cardiovascular diseases increased by 59 per cent to 37 million from 23.2 million, the study noted. Meanwhile, cancer cases are also likely to amplify by 25 per cent by 2020 from 1.4 million now to 1.7 million by 2020.

5. [Online petition seeks revocation of ban on over-the-counter sale of emergency contraceptive pills in TN](#) – The Times of India

Close to a decade after the Tamil Nadu government banned over-the-counter sale of emergency contraceptive pills (ECP), an online petition to revoke the move has gone viral on social networking sites. Slamming the government for violating the sexual rights of women, Jhataka, a Bengaluru-based organisation, started an online campaign to lift the ban, garnering around 1,500 signatures. The ban is not based on any legal ground but moral, according to the group.

6. [Intas Pharma to buy Teva's UK, Ireland generics businesses](#) – Mint

Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd agreed to buy Actavis UK Ltd and Actavis Ireland Ltd from Israeli generic drug maker Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd for an enterprise value of approximately £600 million (Rs5,083 crore) in an all-cash transaction. The transaction is expected to be completed in the next three months, Ahmedabad-based Intas said in a statement on Wednesday. The acquisition will expand Intas's UK manufacturing presence with the addition of the Barnstaple site in North Devon and more than doubles Intas's pan-European operations, with revenues exceeding \$500 million, the company said. The Barnstaple plant will become the company's fourth UK site.

*Similar reports:*

- [Intas buys Teva's UK & Ireland assets for \\$764 million to break into global top 20 generic players club](#) – The Economic Times
- [Intas to acquire UK & Ireland generics businesses from Teva for £603 million](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [Intas buys Teva assets for Rs 5,100 cr](#) – Business Standard