

1. [Artificial scarcity of thalassemia drug feared, govt urged to step in](#) – The Times of India

Life-saving drug Desepral, used by thalassemia patients, has been in short supply across the country for around a year, posing a potential risk to the lives of over one lakh patients, prompting several thalassemia societies and associations besides hematologists to write to health minister JP Nadda and many state governments for immediate intervention. Patients, doctors, health activists and drug wholesalers told TOI the shortage of the drug became acute in the last one month but following campaign in the social media, some stocks were restored in Delhi and Bangalore in the past week.

2. [Why healthcare access eludes India](#) – The Hindu

The importance of ensuring healthcare access cannot be overstated for a developing country like India. This is because apart from the straightforward thesis that links health care to the well-being of citizens, it also enhances the productive capacity of its population thereby enhancing economic growth of the country.

Part IV of the Constitution of India talks about the Directive Principles of State Policy. Article 47 under part IV lists the “Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health”. Despite the consensus among political and academic circles of living up to the principle, successive governments have failed to address India’s health-care needs for a vast majority of its population. This state of affairs has persisted for a number of varied reasons.

3. [‘Tie healthcare policies to social realities’](#) – The Hindu

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Soumya Swaminathan on Sunday called for a higher connect between policy formulation for healthcare and community-level research on disease prevalence. Delivering the keynote address on the second annual Research Day observed at JIPMER, Dr. Swaminathan said it was most important to look at how to prevent diseases for which lot of studies have to be carried out at the community level. Noting that research in particular was not given a high

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2. [Why healthcare access eludes India](#) – The Hindu
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4. [Alphabet, Sanofi to invest \\$500 million in diabetes joint venture](#) – Mint
5. [Taro Pharmaceutical Industries under anti-trust scanner for price hike](#) – The Economic Times
6. [Novo Nordisk searches for tablet to replace insulin shots](#) – The Economic Times
7. [Glenmark gets US FDA nod for Xylocaine ointment](#) – Business Standard
8. [Thermo Fisher opens clinical services facility in South Korea](#) – Business Standard
9. [FDA Staff Question Pfizer’s Psychiatric Data on Chantix](#) – Bloomberg Quint
10. [AIOCD demands amendment in DPCO 2013 to ensure hassle free implementation of price revision](#) – Pharmabiz.com
11. [ICMR issues consensus document for management of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma \(high grade\)](#) – Pharmabiz.com
12. [First patient counselling centre in India at KEM Hospital benefits 3,500 patients](#) – Pharmabiz.com

priority in India, Dr. Swaminathan felt that the reason for this was partly because most people do not understand and appreciate what research has done and what it can do for the prevention and treatment of diseases and in bringing down diseases.

4. [Alphabet, Sanofi to invest \\$500 million in diabetes joint venture](#) – Mint

Google parent Alphabet Inc. and French drugmaker Sanofi plan to invest about \$500 million in a joint venture to tackle diabetes amid forecasts for the number of people with the disease to surge. Sanofi is betting the partnership with Alphabet's Verily Life Sciences LLC will spur advancements in the way diabetes is monitored and treated and help it navigate an increasingly competitive market. The venture, Onduo, plans to combine devices, software and medicine, according to a statement Monday from Sanofi and Verily, previously known as Google Life Sciences.

5. [Taro Pharmaceutical Industries under anti-trust scanner for price hike](#) – The Economic Times

The uproar over high drug prices in the US has come to hit Indian drug companies as Sun Pharmaceutical Industries unit Taro Pharmaceutical Industries has been summoned by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) over its pricing policy. Taro, in a statement to the Securities Exchange Commission last week, said the antitrust division from the DOJ summoned two commercial executives of the company seeking documents relating to corporate and employee records, generic pharmaceutical products and pricing, communications with competitors and other related matters. "Taro intends to respond to the subpoena and otherwise cooperate with the Department of Justice investigation," Chief Executive Kalyanasundaram Subramanian said in the same statement.

6. [Novo Nordisk searches for tablet to replace insulin shots](#) – The Economic Times

For decades, a substitute for invasive insulin needles — tablets or insulin delivered via inhalable pumps — is seen as a holy grail but scientific endeavours have so far achieved limited success. But good news for millions of diabetes patients may be in sight. Danish drug maker Novo Nordisk, a dominant player in the global insulin market, is raving up for at least two oral products that it believes could give the company a clear breakthrough lead and potentially alter the treatment paradigm.

The company that reaped nearly 80% of its \$16 billion sales from insulin products last year is hopeful for a regulatory approval for its first time oral therapies, a GLP-1 receptor agonist for type-2 diabetes and insulin packed in a tablet form in three to four years. Once commercially launched the company said it could see steady growth and visible switch from the currently used needles.

7. [Glenmark gets US FDA nod for Xylocaine ointment](#) – Business Standard

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Monday announced receipt of final approval from US health regulator for its generic version of AstraZeneca's Xylocaine ointment. The approval given by the US Food & Drug Administration (USFDA) to Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc USA (Glenmark) is for Lidocaine Ointment USP, 5 per cent, the company said in a statement. Citing IMS Health sales data for the 12 month period ending July 2016, the company said Xylocaine Ointment, 5 per cent achieved annual sales of approximately \$373.0 million.

8. [Thermo Fisher opens clinical services facility in South Korea](#) – Business Standard

To address the growing global demand from healthcare and pharmaceutical companies, the lab equipment company Thermo Fisher Scientific has opened a clinical services facility in South Korea. Strategically located in Seoul, the new site will provide local, regional and global pharmaceutical and biotech companies with a one-stop service for clinical supplies - from cGMP storage, local labelling,

secondary packaging, comparator sourcing, handling and distribution of ambient and cold chain supplies to clinical site returns management.

Over the past few years, clinical trials have consistently grown in South Korea, and with an increased number of core clinical trial sites certified by the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), formerly known as the KFDA, South Korea boasts the second highest number of approved clinical trial sites globally, making it a leading emerging nation for clinical trial research in Asia.

9. [FDA Staff Question Pfizer's Psychiatric Data on Chantix](#) – Bloomberg Quint

Pfizer Inc.'s study of neuropsychiatric effects of its smoking cessation drug Chantix may not have adequately captured the number of adverse events, potentially biasing the research in favor of the drug, U.S. regulators said. The clinical trial, which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requested after a high rate of suicidal thoughts and suicides were linked to Chantix, also included GlaxoSmithKline Plc's Zyban, another drug used to help smokers quit. The FDA is weighing whether Pfizer can cut the boxed warning on Chantix regarding potential changes in behavior, depressed mood and suicidal thoughts. In a report released Monday, the FDA staff raised questions about a lack of consistency in how the company study recorded neuropsychiatric events. The agency posted the report ahead of a meeting of outside experts scheduled for Wednesday in Silver Spring, Maryland to advise the FDA on possible changes to the boxed warnings on Chantix and Zyban. Chantix brought in \$671 million in sales for New York-based Pfizer last year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

10. [AIOCD demands amendment in DPCO 2013 to ensure hassle free implementation of price revision](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Considering the impracticality in implementation of price revision notifications periodically issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) which should be implemented with immediate effect, the All India Organisation of Chemists & Druggists (AIOCD) has demanded amendment in Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 to ensure the hassle free implementation of NPPA's price revision notifications.

“At present chemists have to cease sale of drugs with immediate effect, once their prices have been revised by NPPA through notification under DPCO 2013. Drug retailers find it very difficult to implement price revision notification with immediate effect as it is not at all practical, and if forced to do so, then shops shall be closed for at least 10 to 15 days to weed out thousands of brands already bought by retailers of old higher prices. Question of availability of essential drugs should be seriously dealt with,” said J S Shinde – president, AIOCD at a function organised by NPPA to mark its 19th Foundation Day on August 29, 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

11. [ICMR issues consensus document for management of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma \(high grade\)](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued the consensus document for management of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (high grade) which will provide guidance to practicing doctors and researchers for the management of patients suffering from non- Hodgkin's lymphoma – high grade and also focusing their research efforts in Indian context. Lymphoma is a type of cancer that develops in the lymphatic system, the body's disease fighting network. It is estimated that around 1,000 people worldwide are diagnosed with lymphoma every day. Globally the incidence of disease is 385741 cases with mortality of 199650 cases. India accounts for 23801 cases with a mortality of 16597 cases.

12. [First patient counselling centre in India at KEM Hospital benefits 3,500 patients](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Jointly set up by KEM Hospital and Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council (MSPC), the first of its kind patient counselling centre (PCC) of India at KEM Hospital has been able to address the drug compliance requirements of around 3500 patients over the past nine months through rational usage of latest generation drugs. Due to this initiative, diabetes patients have been able to adhere to the rational usage of latest generation of drugs like Sitagliptin and Vildagliptin, according to officials associated with the development. The patients get the know-how about rational usage of scheduled drugs with help from a dedicated pharmacist appointed by the MSPC as a step towards emphasizing the role of pharmacists in patient safety at the point of care.