

1. [Ensure genuine innovation in drug patents: UN panel](#) – Mint

The United Nations High Level Panel on Access to Medicines (UNHLP) has urged governments to use “flexibilities” accorded to them in the World Trade Organization’s TRIPS agreement to ensure that patents for life-saving drugs are only awarded for “genuine innovation.” TRIPS flexibilities involve “the freedom to determine patentability criteria” and include concepts such as “novelty”, “incentive step” and “industrial applicability”.

2. [Pharma units in Gujarat look with high hopes on GST roll out](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The pharmaceutical industry in Gujarat looks at the roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) with high hopes. With the uniform tax structure in the country under GST regime, the industry in the State, looks to regain its lost share in the country's overall pharmaceutical business in the coming two years.

According to industry players, about a quarter of the total 200-odd units, which had shifted to states such as Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh due to tax advantage, may return to Gujarat after GST becomes the reality. The state's share in the overall pharmaceuticals turnover in the country had come down from about 42 per cent in 2007 to about 30 per cent now.

3. [Horizon Pharma buys Raptor Pharmaceutical for \\$ 800 million](#) – Business Standard

Irish biopharmaceutical company Horizon Pharma Plc has acquired the US-based Raptor Pharmaceutical Corp for \$800 million. Raptor Pharmaceutical is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialisation of transformative therapeutics for rare, debilitating and often fatal diseases.

"The proposed acquisition of Raptor furthers our commitment to helping people with rare diseases and is a significant step in advancing our strategy to expand our rare disease business. Along with the potential for accelerated revenue growth, the addition of Raptor strengthens our US orphan business and provides a platform to expand our orphan business in Europe and other key international markets," said Timothy Walbert, chairman, president and chief executive officer, Horizon Pharma Plc.

1. [Ensure genuine innovation in drug patents: UN panel](#) – Mint**2. [Pharma units in Gujarat look with high hopes on GST roll out](#) – The Hindu Business Line****3. [Horizon Pharma buys Raptor Pharmaceutical for \\$ 800 million](#) – Business Standard****4. [Supreme Court tells centre to take call on national health policy](#) – Mint****5. [Shri J P Nadda holds high level review meeting on Dengue and Chikungunya in Delhi & NCR Assures all support of Central Government](#) – Business Standard****6. [FDA norms punch a Rs 5 crore hole in Pharma Industry](#) – The Economic Times****7. [Taro drug pricing probe may widen to other generic drug makers](#) – The Economic Times****8. [Pharmacies cashing in on people's ignorance by pushing branded drugs](#) – The New Indian Express****9. [Two-week training at NIPER\(National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research\)](#) – The Times of India****10. [Disease in capital underlying India's poor health](#) – The Economic Times (Blogs)**

4. [Supreme Court tells centre to take call on national health policy](#) – Mint
The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the centre to take a call on framing a National Health Policy by 31 December. "In case the Union of India thinks it worthwhile to have a National Health Policy, it should take steps to announce it at the earliest and keep issues of gender equity in mind," a bench comprising justices Madan B. Lokur and U.U. Lalit said. Apart from this, the apex court gave at least 14 other directives to the centre in a case regarding the issue of conducting ethical sterilization of men and women in camps or accredited centres.
5. [Shri J P Nadda holds high level review meeting on Dengue and Chikungunya in Delhi & NCR Assures all support of Central Government](#) – Business Standard
Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare chaired a high level meeting to review the status of Dengue and Chikungunya in Indian with a special focus on Delhi and NCR, here today, with senior officers of the Union Health Ministry, officials from National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), Medical Superintendents of Central Government hospitals such as AIIMS, DR. RML Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Safdurjung, and officials from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Shri C K Mishra, Secretary (HFW), Shri K B Agarwal, AS (HFW) and senior officials were also present during the meeting.
6. [FDA norms punch a Rs 5 crore hole in Pharma Industry](#) – The Economic Times
For Indian pharmaceutical companies, compliance with US Food and Drug Administration norms has emerged as the most critical risk in the past few years. The most dramatic reflection of this is in the way legal and professional costs have surged. For 135 listed pharma companies, this has jumped threefold to Rs 5,071 crore in past five years, based on their annual reports. India's biggest drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries accounts for the lion's share of this for the year to March as the table makes clear. In FY16, the top five — Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, Lupin, Aurobindo and Cipla — ran up a total bill of Rs 3,497 crore in legal and professional costs.
7. [Taro drug pricing probe may widen to other generic drug makers](#) – The Economic Times
Indian drug makers, who thrived at the back of the booming generics market in the US, might be exposed to the risk of an uncertain future as the uproar over exorbitant prices of life-saving medicines gathers pace and threatens to spill over from innovators of medicines to makers of generic drugs. A probe kicked off last week by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) against Sun Pharma's subsidiary Taro seeking documents related to pricing of generic products is on expected lines, according to senior market analysts, who said the investigation may broaden to some other large Indian drug makers.
8. [Pharmacies cashing in on people's ignorance by pushing branded drugs](#) – The New Indian Express
At a time when the Andhra Pradesh government is preparing modalities to open Jan Aushadhi stores across the State to provide generic drugs to people at affordable prices, the common man is forced to shell out heavily on purchase of branded medicines owing to lack of strict norms to make generic drugs available to patients. The pharmacies, especially those set up by corporate pharma companies and the ones functioning on the premises of corporate hospitals, are cashing in on the lack of technical knowledge of the commoners on generic drug formulations and pushing branded medicines which costs substantially more than their generic formulations. Even, they sell the generic medicines at their Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) though they are supposed to be sold on subsidy.
9. [Two-week training at NIPER\(National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research\)](#) – The Times of India
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER) has organized a two-week training programme on "Pharmaceutical Quality by Design: A Risk Based Approach", from September 13 to September 23. This programme is sponsored by the ministry of external affairs under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP). 21 participants from 13 countries with background of drug regulatory, pharmacist and quality control, are attending this course. NIPER conducts such

training courses sponsored by ministry of external affairs for the past 15 years. About 21 participants from countries like Armenia, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Palestine, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Sudan are attending the workshop.

10. [Disease in capital underlying India's poor health](#) – The Economic Times (Blogs)

As the national capital reels from epidemics, the focus has been on whom to blame. What should get real attention is a set of numbers. For the world as a whole, total healthcare expenditure as a proportion of GDP is 9.94 per cent. In India, the figure is less than half that, at 4.7 per cent. Out of that healthcare expenditure, the global average for the state's share is 61 per cent.

In India, the figure is half that: 30 per cent. Which means that government spends a measly 1.4 per cent of GDP on healthcare. Another crucial measure, which determines the impact of a health emergency on a family's welfare is what proportion of health expenditure is borne out of pocket, as opposed to out of some pooling arrangement like insurance or state provided healthcare. In India, that figure is 62.4 per cent, against a world average of 18.2 per cent.