

1. [Prez calls on young doctors to improve healthcare system](#) – Press Trust of India

Concerned over the spurt in dengue and chikungunya cases, President Pranab Mukherjee today asked young doctors to strive for overcoming the deficiencies in the healthcare system so that such vector-borne diseases become a thing of the past.

Noting that the ratio of doctors in the country is far less in comparison to international standards especially in the rural areas, Mukherjee said the cooperation of the young doctors will help the government to build the health infrastructure in the country.

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- [Prez calls on young doctors to improve healthcare system](#) – The Times of India

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3. [Government may push Jan Aushadhi via big retail chains](#) – The Economic Times
4. [On new health index, India ranks 143/188](#) – The Indian Express
5. [Maharashtra FDA cracks down on online sale of medicines](#) – Business Standard
6. [300 fair price medical shops in State](#) – The Hindu
7. [Intas enters big league with \\$1-bn bid for Teva assets](#) – Business Standard
8. [Pharma industry told to exploit digital platforms to gain market access & remain competitive in the ensuing UCPMP era](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. [Government acting to overcome shortage of doctors: Nadda](#) – The Times of India

The central government is tackling the shortage of doctors by increasing the capacity for training undergraduates and postgraduates in medical colleges, Health Minister J.P. Nadda said on Wednesday. "India faces a crippling shortage of doctors. The government is tackling this by rapidly increasing the capacity for training undergraduates and postgraduates in existing medical colleges, and also by establishing new medical colleges," Nadda said while addressing the centenary convocation of Lady Hardinge Medical College here.

*Similar report-*

- [Country facing shortage of doctors: JP Nadda](#) – The Economic Times

3. [Government may push Jan Aushadhi via big retail chains](#) – The Economic Times

The next time you head to the supermarket, you may be able to add medicines to your shopping list. The government is said to have approached supermarket and hypermarket chains including Future Group's Big Bazaar and Aditya Birla Group's More to propel the countrywide expansion of its fair price 'Jan Aushadhi' shops by opening counters in their stores. With six months left to open thousands of these low-cost, generic medicine outlets and revive the scheme, the Department of Pharmaceuticals is aiming bigger with the planned tieups. "We are striving to start 3,000 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras by the end of this financial year. We are trying to reach out to all those who can participate...including organised retail chains," DoP joint secretary Sudhansh Pant told ET. He refused to share the names of retail chains.

4. [On new health index, India ranks 143/188](#) – **The Indian Express**

A new index developed to assess each country's achievement on a range of health indicators ranks India at 143 in a list of 188 countries, six places ahead of Pakistan and way behind countries like Sri Lanka (79), China (92), even war-torn Syria (117) and Iraq (128). The first global analysis that assesses countries on sustainable development goal (SDG) health performance was launched at a special event at the UN General Assembly Wednesday and published online in The Lancet.

On safe hygiene practices, India has 8 on the scale of 0-100. India's highest score has been 93 on the 'war' indicator front that assesses age-standardised death rate due to collective violence and legal intervention, per 100,000 population. Countries like Syria, Iraq, Libya and Pakistan have registered single digits.

5. [Maharashtra FDA cracks down on online sale of medicines](#) – **Business Standard**

The Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has launched a massive crackdown on the online sale of medicines, under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules. An officer, involved in the crackdown, told Business Standard, "The agency has so far filed seven first information reports (FIRs) against these suppliers and cancelled nine licences. Besides, show cause notices have been issued to four suppliers and referred five cases to other state drug controllers. FDA has also filed prosecution against a supplier as on date."

6. [300 fair price medical shops in State](#) – **The Hindu**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Kerala, a subsidiary of the Kerala State Pharmacy Council, will open 300 fair price medical shops across the State in hospitals in the next three years under the Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana. Quality generic equivalents for all branded drugs will be sold at prices which are at least 18-20 per cent lower than the MRP. The council is in the process of signing a memorandum of understanding with the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), under the Union Department of Pharmaceuticals, which is implementing the national Jan Aushadhi campaign across the country.

7. [Intas enters big league with \\$1-bn bid for Teva assets](#) – **Business Standard**

Private equity (PE)-backed Intas Pharmaceuticals has made a \$1-billion bid for acquiring Israeli generics giant Teva's UK and Irish assets. This indicates its entry into the big league of Indian pharma giants as it competes with domestic rival Aurobindo Pharma along with global biggies Mylan and Novartis. Teva is selling assets as part of a broader divestiture process to comply with the anti-trust regulations for its \$40.5-billion acquisition of Allergan Plc's generics business that was announced last year.

8. [Pharma industry told to exploit digital platforms to gain market access & remain competitive in the ensuing UCPMP era](#) – **Pharmabiz.com**

With the mandatory Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practice (UCPMP) expected to be released soon by the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), experts in the industry maintain that companies should turn to technologies like digital marketing platforms. Companies can take advantage of the competitive tariffs offered by telecom service providers, concurred experts at the recently concluded KDPMA –DOP workshop as they see the new rules to reshape the sales and marketing operations.