

1. **[Paracetamol, injections too, to cost as much as 35% less](#) – The Times of India**

The drug price regulator has slashed prices of all paracetamol medications, including injections, by up to 35% in wake of the flu outbreak across the country. While all brands of paracetamol tablets were already under price control, injections are more commonly used in cases of high fever from dengue and chikungunya. The price reduction was notified to companies by NPPA in the middle of September and will come in effect immediately.

Pharmaceutical sales estimates for the month of August shows, paracetamol market grew by 47.2%. Besides, the fever reducing drug is also sold in many other combination forms. The move is aimed at making the drug accessible and affordable to people across the country and to all sections of society, an official in the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said. NPPA is responsible for regulating prices of medicines in the country as well as ensuring their availability.

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2. **[Bombay High Court refuses to stay price cap on anti-diabetic drugs](#) – Daily News and Analysis**

The Bombay High Court (HC) on Monday upheld the notifications issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), fixing the maximum retail price for anti-diabetic and cardiovascular drugs.

A division bench of Justice S C Dharmadhikari and Justice B P Colabawala, while dismissing a challenge raised by the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, said: "Given the ever-increasing number of patients, these drugs, which have to be taken throughout life... we do not feel government was exceeding its power in regulating." The court also refused to stay its order for six weeks for the petitioners to appeal in the apex court, and vacated the interim relief of no coercive action against pharmaceutical companies for overcharging.

The Union government had strongly opposed the petition and also argued that it was in the larger public interest that the notification was issued. The bench noted: "Exploitative prices make medicines unaffordable. Moreover, member companies who are manufacturers have not filed individually. Some members have accepted the notification. Thus to make medicines available to all, prayer for staying or setting aside of guidelines/notifications, does not survive."

3. [India has a massive antibiotic resistance problem, and it's up to the states to solve it](#) – Scroll.in

On September 21, United Nations had a high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance, which required commitments from heads of state to address the causes of antimicrobial resistance. The declaration resulted from the meeting also requires countries to come up with a two-year plan to curb the use of antibiotics in humans, animals and agriculture. The pressure is on India, the world's largest consumer of antibiotics and where carelessness in antibiotic use and environmental antibiotic pollution has been documented. While the government drafted policy measures to tackle the problem, it has not been so forthcoming on the issue.

4. [Events to celebrate role of pharmacists](#) – The Times of India

Pharmacists across the city organised a series of events, including a rally in Waluj, to mark the World Pharmacists Day (WPD) on Sunday. This year the day was observed under the theme "Pharmacists: Caring for you" with the aim of updating the knowledge base of the dispensers while creating awareness among people regarding proper use of medicines. Sanjay Toshniwal, secretary Indian Pharmacists Association (IPA), Aurangabad, said, "Pharmacist community is one of the three main pillars of the healthcare system with doctors and nurses being the other two. The day aims to recognise the relentless efforts of pharmacists as healthcare providers."

5. [Tamil Nadu sees first pharmacy under Central scheme](#) – Deccan Chronicle

Makkal Marundhagam (People's Pharmacy), a medical store in Sivagangai district, that opened four days ago, has already received over 4,000 phone calls for orders. Started under 'Jan Aushadhi', a Central government scheme, the store sells medicines at extremely low prices to help those who cannot afford spending too much on medicine. Despite the country having developed in producing quality branded and generic medicines in most of the therapeutic categories, many are unable to afford the medicines in different parts of the country. With this in mind, the Central government had, in 2008, started the Jan Aushadhi scheme, to ensure availability of quality medicines at affordable prices to all.

6. [Pfizer won't split, ending years of speculation about drug giant](#) – Mint

The biggest break-up in drug industry history isn't happening. Pfizer Inc. won't split in half, after years of what the pharmaceutical giant called an "extensive evaluation." The decision follows the collapse of Pfizer's attempted \$160 billion merger with Allergan Plc this year, a deal that would have shifted the company's tax address overseas and bulked up units before a split. In recent months, New York-based Pfizer had signalled it might stay together.

"By operating two separate and autonomous units within Pfizer we are already accessing many of the potential benefits of a split—sharper focus, increased accountability, and a greater sense of urgency—while also retaining the operational strength, efficiency and financial flexibility of operating as a single company," chief executive officer Ian Read said in a statement.

Similar reports-

- [Pfizer says not to split into two](#) – The Economic Times
- [Pfizer decides against split-up; more deals seen likely](#) – Business Standard

7. [Pfizer concludes Rs 110cr deal with Piramal Enterprises](#) – The Hindu Business Line

Drug maker Pfizer today said it has completed the process of transferring four products to Mumbai-based Piramal Enterprises after getting necessary regulatory approvals. "Post completion of requisite formalities and receipt of necessary regulatory approvals for the transaction, the company has concluded the transaction. Accordingly, the aforementioned products stand transferred to Piramal Enterprises," Pfizer said in a regulatory filing.

8. [Suven gets 2 patents for molecules targeting CNS disorder](#) – ETHealthworld.com

Drug firm Suven Life Sciences has been granted two product patents, one each in India and Japan, for molecules to be developed for treatment of neuro-degenerative diseases. The company has been granted "one product patent from India and one from Japan corresponding to the new chemical entities (NCEs) for treatment of disorders associated with neuro-degenerative diseases..." Suven Life Sciences said in a filing to BSE. These patents are valid through 2026 and 2032, respectively, it added.

9. [NPPA warns TNCD A of legal action against violation of D&C Act and DPCO](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Coming down heavily on the violators of drug laws, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has warned the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) and its ally, the Tamil Nadu Chemists and Druggists Association (TNCD A), to refrain from any kind of violations of Drugs and Cosmetics Act & Rules and asked them to comply with the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO). The national drug price regulator has given admonition to the TNCD A against a reported allegation of violation of drug laws in a special meeting held in New Delhi last Friday. The allegation was that TNCD A was violating the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and indulged in anti-competitive activities. The drug price regulatory body has also expressed its discontent on the anti-competitive trade practices allegedly followed by the trade body in the state of Tamil Nadu.

10. [Docplexus to reach out to 2 lakh doctors by 2016](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Docplexus, a doctor networking platform providing medicos seamless access to clinical insights and empowering them for better clinical decision, has plans to get over 2,00,000 doctors onboard by the end of 2016. Apart from just connecting doctors, the healthcare start-up is also working on providing doctors courses (CMEs) from both nationally and internationally reputed medical institutes. Currently, Docplexus has over 1,50,000 doctors from 85 different specialties and super-specialties as members. "Every month we receive over 6,000 new membership requests from registered doctors. At the moment, we have over 11,000 cases shared by doctors on Docplexus. This is a huge resource for Indian doctors, who may not always share their patient cases but still can learn from cases shared by their peers," said Phanish Chandra, CEO, Docplexus.