

1. **[Rs 2,288 cr savings for consumers after NLEM 2015: Government](#)** – The Economic Times

Reduction in ceiling prices of 464 drug formulations after the introduction of National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)-2015 has led to savings of Rs 2,288 crore to consumers. "Ceiling prices of 464 formulations (amounting to nearly 7,000 different stock keeping units) have been fixed by the government after the announcement of NLEM, 2015 and revised Schedule-I," Chemicals and Fertilisers ministry said in a statement.

This has resulted in effective savings of Rs 2,288 crore to consumers by way of reduced prices, it added.

Similar reports-

- [Access to life saving medicines will be maintained: Govt](#) – The Economic Times
- [Rs 2,288 cr savings for consumers after NLEM 2015: Govt](#) – The Financial Express
- [Ceiling prices of 464 formulation fixed after announcement of NLEM, 2015 and Revised Schedule-I, resulting in savings of Rs 2288 crore for consumers](#) – Business Standard
- [Consumers save Rs 2,288 cr after govt reduced ceiling prices of 464 drugs](#) – Firstpost
- [Rs 2,288 cr savings for consumers after NLEM 2015: Govt](#) – ETHealthworld.com
- [Consumers save Rs. 2,288 crore as NPPA fixes ceiling prices of 464 formulations since NLEM-2015](#) – Pharmabiz.com

1. [Rs 2,288 cr savings for consumers after NLEM 2015: Government](#) – The Economic Times
2. [Fix India's fragmented drug regulation](#) – The Economic Times (Blogs)
3. [States have to dev capacity for utilising central funds: Nadda](#) – Business Standard
4. [Affordable drugs: India stand justified](#) – Deccan Herald
5. [More than 90% of the world breathing bad air: WHO](#) – Hindustan Times
6. [Sanofi to get \\$ 43.2 mn from US HHS to fund Zika vaccine research](#) – Business Standard
7. [Drugmaker Pfizer decides not to break up business](#) – Press Trust of India
8. [Mylan, Lupin said to weigh bids for Bayer dermatology business](#) – Mint
9. [Health ministry jt secretary KL Sharma to deliver keynote address on anti-counterfeiting plan at UNIQUITY India Meet](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. [Associations of regd pharmacists in TN observe Sept 25 as 'Black Day' to protest against govt's apathy towards their demands](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. **[Fix India's fragmented drug regulation](#)** – The Economic Times (Blogs)

India's approval and regulatory system for drugs and pharmaceuticals is dysfunctional. A recent report by Dinesh Thakur, Ranbaxy whistle-blower and health activist, points out shortcomings and glaring anomalies in our oversight system for drugs and pharma, which need to be promptly rectified. We have a hugely fragmented drug regulatory framework, with as many as 36 state and Union territory licensing authorities, whereby a pharma manufacturer can garner a licence in one state and distribute its product nationally. It follows that any laxity, say, a batch of Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) drug anywhere can have national and even international repercussions. The report cites studies which show that substandard and NSQ drugs can be as high as a fifth or more of all medicines procured locally. The Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the state

authorities are supposed to carry out routine testing of drug samples, but the report finds the statistical methodology followed to be “vague” and mostly nontransparent. This cannot continue.

3. [States have to dev capacity for utilising central funds: Nadda](#) – Business Standard

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda today asked the North Eastern states including Meghalaya to increase their capacity of utilising the central funds. "The states will have to develop capacity building support for utilising central funds," Nadda told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Parliamentary consultative committee on health at NEIGRIHMS here. He assured that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare would also extend its support to the states on capacity building.

In order to improve health sector parameters in NE region at a faster pace, the Union Minister said the meeting of the committee has further decided to rope in public representatives for cooperation of public on health related issues.

4. [Affordable drugs: India stand justified](#) – Deccan Herald

Just about two years ago, when the Supreme Court had rejected the claims of Bayer against grant of compulsory licence by India Patent Office to the Hyderabad-based Natco Pharma for manufacture and sale of cancer fighting drug Sorafenib at Rs 8,800 per person per year against Rs 33.60 lakh by the multi-national firm, an impression was sought to be created by the global firms as if India was disincentivising research and development (R&D). Such a campaign had solicited help even from the officials from the US or other western nations suggesting India was transgressing the multilateral rules. This was far from truth, because what the India Patent Office had done was well within the rights given by the World Trade Organisation under the TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights) agreement reached at the landmark Doha Round in 2001 with a pivotal role by India's then commerce minister late Murasoli Maran. At that WTO Ministerial Meeting, India had fought as a champion of the third world and the developing countries in favour of affordable medicine.

5. [More than 90% of the world breathing bad air: WHO](#) – Hindustan Times

Nine out of 10 people globally are breathing poor quality air, the World Health Organization said today, calling for dramatic action against pollution that is blamed for more than six million deaths a year. New data in a report from the UN's global health body "is enough to make all of us extremely concerned," Maria Neira, the head of the WHO's department of public health and environment, told reporters. The problem is most acute in cities, but air in rural areas is worse than many think, WHO experts said. Poorer countries have much dirtier air than the developed world, according to the report, but pollution "affects practically all countries in the world and all parts of society", Neira said in a statement.

Similar reports-

- [Invisible foe in air kills 600,000 in a year](#) – The Hindu
- [WHO confirms 92 per cent of people live in places with unhealthy air exceeding pollution levels](#) – The Indian Express
- [92% of people live in places with unhealthy air, says UN agency](#) – Business Standard
- [Over 90% Of World Breathing Bad Air: World Health Organisation](#) – NDTV

6. [Sanofi to get \\$ 43.2 mn from US HHS to fund Zika vaccine research](#) – Business Standard

The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will provide \$ 43.2 million to Sanofi for developing vaccines against Zika virus. The funds will be used for phase II development and manufacturing of an inactivated Zika vaccine. The company's vaccines global business unit Sanofi Pasteur committed to researching and developing a vaccine to prevent Zika in February, shortly after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared an emergency.

7. [Drugmaker Pfizer decides not to break up business](#) – Press Trust of India

Drug giant Pfizer says it won't split into two publicly traded companies, despite pressure from investors frustrated by its lagging stock price, ending years of Wall Street speculation over its strategy and future. The biggest US-based drugmaker said Monday it believes it is best positioned to maximize shareholder value in its current form, but it reserves the right to split in the future if the situation changes. For several years, the maker of Viagra and the pain treatment Lyrica has been under growing pressure from analysts and investors who argued that by splitting up, the resulting two companies might grow faster than one.

8. [Mylan, Lupin said to weigh bids for Bayer dermatology business](#) – Mint

Drugmakers including Mylan NV and Lupin Ltd are considering bids for Bayer AG's dermatology business as the German company sells assets ahead of its \$66 billion acquisition of Monsanto Co. Leo Pharma A/S, Cadila Healthcare Ltd and Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd are also weighing offers, people familiar with the matter said on conditions of anonymity. Non-binding bids for Bayer's dermatology unit, which could fetch more than €1 billion (\$1.1 billion), may be due as soon as this week, they said. No final decisions have been made, and the companies may decide against making an offer, they said.

Similar report-

- [Lupin, Torrent zero in on Bayer's biz](#) – Business Standard

9. [Health ministry jt secretary KL Sharma to deliver keynote address on anti-counterfeiting plan at UNIQUITY India Meet](#) – Pharmabiz.com

India's joint secretary, ministry of health & family welfare, KL Sharma, will be the guest of honour and keynote speaker at UNIQUITY India 2016, where he will discuss the unfolding framework for an anti-counterfeiting plan concerning the Indian domestic drug supply. The event is hosted by Systech International, the global leader in serialization, track-and-trace, and regulatory compliance. Systech's one day conference will provide customers, industry leaders, and equipment manufacturers with a firm understanding of the many complex regulatory mandates that are quickly unfolding in India and around the world, as well as effective technologies to meet those demands. The event will take place October 6, 2016 at the ITC Maratha Hotel in Mumbai.

10. [Associations of regd pharmacists in TN observe Sept 25 as 'Black Day' to protest against govt's apathy towards their demands](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Even as the pharmacy institutions and IPA state branch in Tamil Nadu celebrated the Pharmacist Day on September 25, two associations of registered pharmacists headquartered in Chennai and Thanjavur districts observed the Day as 'Black Day' registering a protest against the government's apathy to consider their demands. The pharmacists belong to the organisations, TN Pharmacist Awareness Organisation (TNPAO) and Tamil Nadu Pharmacists Association (TPA), wore black badges from morning to evening during their work and the office-bearers hoisted black flags in their pharmacies. The office-bearers of the organisations informed that they avoided staging dharnas in front of government offices because the date fell on Sunday. However, TPA had given a letter to the ADC office in Thanjavur informing the assistant drugs controller of staging dharna in front of his office, which was cancelled later, said Thanjore Patten Raj, general secretary of TPA.