

1. [Govt planning penal provisions to deter pharma companies from bribing docs with freebies](#) – **The Times of India**

The promised mandatory marketing code for pharma companies, which is to replace the voluntary code in operation since January last year, will have strong penal provisions to deter them from bribing doctors with freebies to prescribe their drugs. The voluntary code, initially applicable till June 2015, has been given four extensions despite the department repeatedly admitting it wasn't working. A senior official in the chemicals and fertilisers ministry explained that the delay in the mandatory code was because, instead of merely converting the toothless voluntary code to a mandatory one, the ministry was reworking it to ensure it included penal provisions.

2. [Pharma firms get time to adopt uniform marketing code](#) – **Business Standard**

The Department of Pharmaceutical has issued a notification to the pharma sector, extending the period for voluntary adoption of the uniform marketing code. No fresh date has been given for compliance, but it is learnt that the department is working on a pharma marketing policy before making the uniform code mandatory for the sector.

1. [Govt planning penal provisions to deter pharma companies from bribing docs with freebies](#) – The Times of India
2. [Pharma firms get time to adopt uniform marketing code](#) – Business Standard
3. [Price overcharge: One-time settlement likely for pharma firms](#) – Business Standard
4. [Panel to investigate pharma firms red-listed by Vietnam](#) – Mint
5. ['Medical regulation needs urgent reform but proposed new Medical Commission of India Bill is deeply flawed'](#) – The Times of India (Blog)
6. [LDF govt to draft new health policy for state](#) – The Times of India
7. [Leveraging primary care](#) – The Hindu
8. [Story in numbers: Bitter Pill](#) – Business Standard
9. [Cash-strapped ICMR wants budget doubled](#) – The Hindu Business Line
10. [GST may shut down local intellectual property firms](#) - The Hindu
11. [Stakeholders flag challenges to IPR-led innovation growth](#) – Business Standard
12. [India grappling with shortage of health workforce: Nadda](#) – Business Standard
13. [TPP to have serious implications for pharma industry: Study](#) – Business Standard
14. [Union health minister J P Nadda to lead yoga session at WHO conference](#) – The Times of India
15. [Support generic drugs](#) – The Hans India
16. [Healthy India = Prosperous India. Your ideas can make a difference](#) – ETHealthworld.com
17. [DCGI soon to ban several FDCs approved by SLAs before Oct 1, 2012 as cos failed to submit phase IV trial protocols](#) – Pharmabiz.com
18. [Pharmasafe India to be held in Mumbai from September 22 to 23](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The idea behind a uniform code is to ensure fair marketing in the sector. Medical device makers, too, will have to comply with the norms. The government is giving itself time to make a substantial policy on mandatory fair marketing practices to be followed by drug manufacturers and device manufacturers, an official said.

3. [Price overcharge: One-time settlement likely for pharma firms](#) – Business Standard

The drug price controller has formulated the draft of a "one-time settlement plan" for pharmaceutical companies that admit to over-charging. According to the proposal, the department of pharmaceuticals and the finance ministry will work together on the quantum of waiver on interest payment.

As of June, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was to recover a total of Rs 4,567 crore, including interest, from pharma companies for overcharging. The amount is subject to ongoing litigation, with cases being so contested in the courts being Rs 3,720 crore, it had said. The amount in question for overcharging cases still under process is Rs 772 crore.

4. [Panel to investigate pharma firms red-listed by Vietnam](#) – Mint

Close on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Vietnam to "strengthen bilateral ties, including defence, security and trade", the ministry of commerce and industries is planning to set up a committee, along with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), to inspect Indian pharmaceutical companies which have been banned from Vietnam for exporting sub-standard drugs.

CDSCO plans to rope in state drug control organizations to look into the issues raised by Vietnam over the quality of drugs from India. Manufacturing practices of over 50 pharma companies are potentially suspect as they were "red-listed" for regulatory non-compliance by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Vietnam in 2014.

5. ['Medical regulation needs urgent reform but proposed new Medical Commission of India Bill is deeply flawed'](#) – The Times of India (Blog)

The Niti Aayog has invited state health secretaries to discuss its draft of a new Medical Commission of India Bill 2016, which seeks to reform medical regulation in India. K Sujatha Rao, former union health secretary and author of the forthcoming 'Do We Care: India's Health System', talked about why the draft bill is problematic and why this matters.

6. [LDF govt to draft new health policy for state](#) – The Times of India

The LDF government has constituted a 17-member panel headed by planning board member and former Kerala University vice-chancellor Dr B Ekbal to draft a fresh health policy for the state. Incidentally, the draft health policy prepared by the previous UDF government is gathering dust in the shelves of the state health department. In 2013, the then health minister V S Sivakumar had appointed a committee headed by former director of medical education M Balaraman Nair to draft the policy. The report was prepared after a series of discussions, convened by the government.

7. [Leveraging primary care](#) – The Hindu

Noncommunicable diseases (NCD) such as diabetes, respiratory diseases, cancer and heart diseases are taking a severe toll on public health across the WHO South-East Asia Region. Approximately 8.5 million lives, many of them premature, are lost each year due to NCDs, making them the region's leading cause of death and a key source of public health expenditure. With the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCD) expected to rise in coming years, due largely to rapid development and associated lifestyle changes in the WHO South-East Asia Region, countries have taken steps to arrest the problem: multisectoral plans are being

developed; health promotion campaigns are being carried out; exposure to NCD risk factors such as alcohol and tobacco are being curtailed.

8. [Story in numbers: Bitter Pill](#) – Business Standard

Medicines continue to be out of reach of the poor, despite government promises that it would make the drugs cheaper. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government told Parliament it would open 3,000 medical stores for the poor in eight months but only a 10th of that number have opened over the past eight years, according to an analysis of government data.

9. [Cash-strapped ICMR wants budget doubled](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the country's top medical research agency tasked with developing new medicines, vaccines, firming up rules around clinical trials, and others. The agency has also been working on some crucial innovations, such as a vaccine against tuberculosis — which is at a late stage of development — and one against HIV. In a conversation with BusinessLine, Soumya Swaminathan, Director-General of the ICMR and Secretary of the Department of Health Research, talks about how ICMR is hamstrung by low budget and why it is struggling with a lag in translation of its work into real-life tools.

10. [GST may shut down local intellectual property firms](#) - The Hindu

The whole country was delighted to receive the news of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill getting passed in the Rajya Sabha recently. One aspect that the reams of paper and hours of discussion around the GST regime seem to have ignored is the area of Intellectual Property. GST should help foster the minuscule IP ecosystem in the country. India has to produce world-class commercial and strategic IP. In the absence of such IP, India becomes just a market and a cheap-labour destination. India is dependent on foreign technology for excellence in sectors that are strategic, including in defence, security, space programme, atomic energy and the like.

11. [Stakeholders flag challenges to IPR-led innovation growth](#) – Business Standard

Even as the government pushes towards intellectual property rights (IPR)-enabled innovation growth in a big way, industry stakeholders have warned of lingering issues that could slow it down. They raised the issue in a recent meeting between the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and industry bodies such as Nasscom, Confederation of Indian Industry and Ficci. The IPR policy, approved by the Cabinet in May, aims to increase outreach, speed up approvals, enhance commercialisation, and enforce norms. A large part of this depends on popularising registration of intellectual property. While DIPP has held roadshows across 18 states this year to create awareness, experts pointed out the need for systematically engaging small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs).

12. [India grappling with shortage of health workforce: Nadda](#) – Business Standard

India is "grappling" with shortage of health workforce while high rates of tobacco use is contributing to the rise in non-communicable diseases, Health Minister J P Nadda today said while asserting that the country is "alive" to these challenges and committed to addressing them. "India's large and diverse population is a formidable challenge. We know that many countries of this region including India, as well as of the world, are grappling with challenge of shortage of health workforce.

13. [TPP to have serious implications for pharma industry: Study](#) – Business Standard

The mega trade deal TPP, which includes the US and 11 other countries, is likely to have "serious implications" on the growth of domestic pharma industry, particularly the generic market, a study said. According to the report 'Indian Pharmaceutical Industry: Challenges and Prospects', even as the domestic pharmaceutical industry has acquired a noteworthy position in the global

markets, there are various challenges faced with regard to the changing regulatory environment and slowdown in trade.

- 14. [Union health minister J P Nadda to lead yoga session at WHO conference](#) – The Times of India**
Taking cue from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote yoga on the global stage, Union health minister J P Nadda is set to lead a 45-minute yoga session on Wednesday at an international conference in Sri Lanka organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Health ministers, leaders and experts from at least 11 countries, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Thailand, will participate and do yoga during the session titled 'Be The Change'.
- 15. [Support generic drugs](#) – The Hans India**
The drug scenario in India consists of three types of drugs. First is patented drug. The Patent Act requires that the innovator of a new drug will have monopoly over sale of the drug for 20 years. During this period, the innovator company can charge any price that it wishes. Idea is that the high price charged in these 20 years compensates for the expenditure incurred in research and development of the drug. However, the government can issue compulsory license of a patented drug within these 20 years if the drug is necessary for maintenance of public health and the innovator is charging a high price.
- 16. [Healthy India = Prosperous India. Your ideas can make a difference](#) – ETHealthworld.com**
There is a strong correlation between health and a nation's economic performance. In fact, some like Nobel laureate Amartya Sen believe that, given that health is among the basic components of the value of life, the wealth of a nation should be measured by the health of its citizens. Further affirmation of this comes from the World Bank, which stated that 50% of the economic growth differential between developed and developing nations can be attributed to ill health and low life expectancy.
- 17. [DCGI soon to ban several FDCs approved by SLAs before Oct 1, 2012 as cos failed to submit phase IV trial protocols](#) – Pharmabiz.com**
The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) will soon initiate action to prohibit several fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs in the country which were approved before October 1, 2012 by the State Licencing Authorities (SLAs) without the permission of the DCGI. The DCGI's action in this regard comes in the backdrop of the fact that in spite of giving considerable amount of time and several reminders to the companies, hardly any firm has submitted phase-IV trial protocol of these controversial FDCs as was mandated by the DCGI way back in January 2013.
- 18. [Pharmasafe India to be held in Mumbai from September 22 to 23](#) – Pharmabiz.com**
Following the success of the launch edition of Pharmasafe India last year, the two-day conference will take place from September 22 – 23, 2016 at Holiday Inn, Mumbai. Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd continues its commitment to fighting the menace of counterfeit and spurious drugs and will draw attention to the latest developments in the field at the much-awaited second edition.