

1. [Dr Shailesh Ayyangar becomes OPPI president for 4th year in row](#) – Pharmabiz.com

At the recently held statutory annual general meeting of members of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), Dr Shailesh Ayyangar, managing director India and VP South Asia, Sanofi was unanimously elected as the president for the year 2016-17. Dr Ayyangar has held this position for the past three years.

At the same meeting, four vice-presidents were elected unanimously - Sudarshan Jain (managing director - Healthcare Solutions, Abbott Healthcare Pvt Ltd), Sharad Tyagi (managing director, Boehringer Ingelheim India Pvt Ltd), K. G. Ananthakrishnan (vice president & managing director, MSD India) and Sanjiv Navangul (managing director, Janssen India-Johnson & Johnson Ltd.).

Similar report-

- [OPPI re-elects its office bearers](#) – Business Standard

2. [Drug regulator may step up ban on FDCs](#) – Business Standard

Drug controller, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), has decided to ban more fixed dose combinations (FDCs), following the recommendations of an expert committee led by Dr Chandrakant Kokate. CDSCO has started issuing show-cause notices to companies, giving them opportunity to defend their FDCs, a senior official told Business Standard. Sources said further that the move resonates views that hold there is no place for “irrationality” and therapeutic justification in the sale of drugs.

Similar report-

- [Life-saving drug disappears from market, CDSCO calls for meeting](#) – The Indian Express

3. [Government steps in to address shortage of life-saving drug](#) – The Economic Times

The government has called a special meeting with companies that produce the life-saving D-Penicillamine medicine in order to remedy its shortage, which has for months plagued several patients suffering from Wilson’s disease. The central drug regulator has stepped in to address concerns over the shortage, which industry sources argue is because suppliers of the medicine’s most crucial raw material are now favouring other markets for better margins.

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4. [Drug firms facing challenging times due to price control: Cipla](#) – Mint
5. [Govt aims 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras this fiscal](#) – Business Standard
6. [WHO to assess India’s drug regulator in February](#) – The Indian Express
7. [Danish drug maker Novo Nordisk to lay 1,000 employees](#) – The Economic Times
8. [Abbott India appoints Ambati Venu as new MD](#) – The Times of India
9. [DC dept will give license to anybody who intends to become a drug trader in state: TN drug controller](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. [The cost of cheap drugs? Toxic Indian lake is "superbug hotspot"](#) – ETHealthworld.com

Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) will meet with D-Penicillamine producers German Remedies, Panacea Biotec, Samarth Lifesciences, VHB Lifesciences and Chandra Bhagat Pharma on Friday to chart out measures to make the drug available again.

4. [Drug firms facing challenging times due to price control: Cipla](#) – Mint

Drug companies are facing a tough environment due to the government bringing more products under the price control policy as also tightening of registration procedure that has impacted time to market newer products, Cipla Chairman Y.K. Hamied has said. "The environment for the domestic pharma companies remains challenging with more products coming under price control, and other pressures such as government legislation to ban certain fixed dose combination drugs," Hamied told shareholders at the company's annual general meeting (AGM), as per a regulatory filing on Thursday.

Similar reports-

- [Drug firms facing challenging times due to price control: Cipla](#) – The Times of India
- [Drug firms facing challenging times due to price control: Cipla](#) – The Economic Times

5. [Govt aims 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras this fiscal](#) – Business Standard

The government today said it aims to open 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras this fiscal across the country to sell medicines at cheaper rates. This was informed at the Consultative Committee meeting of Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry held today, an official statement said.

The subject for the meeting was National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA). Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Ananth Kumar chaired the meeting. Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh L Mandaviya was also present. A presentation was made on the behalf of NPPA, which showed its activities and steps taken by it to regulate the prices of medicines falling under the National List of Essential Medicines.

Similar report-

- [Government aims 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras this fiscal](#) – The Financial Express

6. [WHO to assess India's drug regulator in February](#) – The Indian Express

The World Health Organization (WHO) is going to assess the functioning of India's drug regulator – Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) – in February next year for its regulation of vaccine market. "As a part of National Regulatory Authority (NRA) assessment, observed audit shall be conducted in selected vaccine manufacturing facilities from October 17 to October 21 in 2016, where the observers from WHO shall assess the performance of the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspectors of CDSCO and state licensing authority," said a letter written by CDSCO to vaccine manufacturers on September 21.

7. [Danish drug maker Novo Nordisk to lay 1,000 employees](#) – The Economic Times

Danish drug maker Novo Nordisk says it plans to lay off some 1,000 employees globally to reduce operating costs because of "a challenging competitive environment, especially in its large US market. One of the world's leading makers of diabetes medicines says half the job cuts are expected to be in Denmark. Copenhagen-based Novo Nordisk said Thursday the layoffs will affect its research and development departments, headquarters staff functions and global commercial organization. Group CEO Lars Rebien Soerensen said the layoffs are needed "for us to have a sustainable balance between income and costs," adding the company has "to prioritize investments."

8. **[Abbott India appoints Ambati Venu as new MD](#) – The Times of India**

MUMBAI: Abbott announced the appointment of Ambati Venu as its managing director with effect from September 29. Venu joins Abbott from GlaxoSmithKlineConsumer Healthcare, where he began his career, over 24 years ago. In February, Abbott's MD Rehan A Khan had resigned from the post of managing director and director of the company, to pursue career opportunity overseas. His resignation was effective from April 30. Venu returns to India after an overseas spell of almost 8 years; most recently, he was the regional vice president & general manager - Asia, GSK Consumer, leading 11 Asian countries, a company statement says.

Similar report-

- **[Abbott India names Ambati Venu as its MD](#)** – Business Standard

9. **[DC dept will give license to anybody who intends to become a drug trader in state: TN drug controller](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

Responding to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)'s interference in the alleged violation of DPCO and Competition Commission Act (CC Act) by the Tamil Nadu Chemists and Druggists Association (TNCDA) and also by the manufacturers in Tamil Nadu, the drugs control administration (DCA) in Tamil Nadu has clarified that any person intends to become a drug trader will be given licence from the DC department.

Director of the DCA said appointment of distributorship is carried out by the manufacturing companies and it is purely for commercial purpose, the regulatory agency has no role in it. If anybody has complaint of violation of DPCO or CCI Act, he can approach the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

10. **[The cost of cheap drugs? Toxic Indian lake is "superbug hotspot"](#) – ETHealthworld.com**

Drugmakers in Medak, including large Indian firms Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd and Hetero Drugs Ltd, and U.S. giant Mylan Inc, say they comply with local environmental rules and do not discharge effluent into waterways. National and local government are divided on the scale of the problem. While the Central Pollution Control Board (PCB) in New Delhi categorises Medak's Patancheru area as "critically polluted", the state PCB says its own monitoring shows the situation has improved.