



## Indian Drug Regulatory Standard Should be at Par with Global Standards

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Access to emergency healthcare is vital, so what is wrong if the government of Rajasthan asks its privately run hospitals to provide such care? Why should hospitals and doctors have gone on strike, in protest against the state's **Right to Health** law that mandates such access? Now that an agreement has been reached between the government and the striking doctors and hospitals, with many categories of private hospitals excluded from the ambit of the new law, what is at stake can be considered away from the heat of conflict. In a remarkable feat, the *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana* ([PMBJP](#)) that sells affordable generic medicines through Jan Aushadhi Kendras (retail outlets) said it has achieved sales of ₹1,236 crore in FY 2020-23, growing 38% year-on-year.

On another note, the NITI Ayog has said that **Indian Drug Regulatory Standards** should be at par with global standards. It has also recommended that medical devices should be overseen by a separately authority and not by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The NITI Ayog's recommendations come during the inter-ministerial consultation on the New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023. The draft bill seeks to replace the existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940. It was put up on public domain in July last year seeking feedback from stakeholders.

In an interesting move, to dismiss claims of **Poor-Quality Pharma Drugs** as an effort by Big Pharma to hurt India's growing reputation as pharmacy to the world, a non-tariff barrier of sorts — isn't as extreme a conspiracy theory as some may believe. Yet, to pretend all is well with the drug licensing and regulatory regime would be counterproductive.

Lastly, Amitabh Kant's concern that India has a major demographic dividend for the next several decades, and, for us to maximise her potential, we must have a **Healthy, Active, and Productive Population**. India has become the world's most populous country, and will also become the largest contributor to the global workforce with over 95 crore individuals.

In this eighth volume of Occasional News Wrap, various dimensions of health regulation issues have been captured, which appeared by way of op-eds, articles, news etc. during the month of April, 2023.

S.N.	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1.	<p><b>Govt. plans to set up first-of-its-kind National Public Health Museum</b></p> <p><i>By Priyanka Sharma Livemint April 1, 2023</i></p>	<p>The government is in the process of establishing a first-of-its-kind <a href="#">National Public Health Museum</a> to showcase models, specimens and studies related to public health. With the country regularly facing health exigencies, the plan is to educate children, students and people on health-related issues. While India has national museums on railways, metro, science and art, the health sector has no such apex and advanced-level public museum of the type seen in western countries.</p>
2.	<p><b>Getting Healthcare Right: Learning from Rajasthan's Confrontation with Hospitals</b></p> <p><i>TK Arun The Federal April 5, 2023</i></p>	<p>Access to emergency healthcare is vital, so what is wrong if the government of Rajasthan asks its privately run hospitals to provide such care? Why should hospitals and doctors have gone on strike, in protest against the state's <a href="#">Right to Health</a> law that mandates such access? Now that an agreement has been reached between the government and the striking doctors and hospitals, with many categories of private hospitals excluded from the ambit of the new law, what is at stake can be considered away from the heat of conflict.</p>
3.	<p><b>India Elected as Member to UN's Programme on HIV/AIDS</b></p> <p><i>Healthworld.com ANI April 6, 2023</i></p>	<p>India was elected as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Program on <a href="#">Coordinating Board</a> of HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) of the United Nations, according to the statement released by the permanent mission of India to the United Nations in New York.</p>
4.	<p><b>Health for All: Aware Consumers Key to Universal Healthcare</b></p> <p><i>Policy Circle Simi TB April 7, 2023</i></p>	<p>The planet is choking in pollution, and human health is compromised by unsustainable consumption and production at a time, when the pandemic refusing to subside. The <a href="#">World Health Day 2023</a> with the theme, <a href="#">Health for All</a>, underlines the importance of raising awareness on healthcare issues. It becomes all the more relevant as countries are committed to achieving universal healthcare by 2030, which is fundamental to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well Being.</p>
5.	<p><b>Centre Steps to Push Affordable Generic Drugs Help Jan Aushadhi Stores Cross Sales Target</b></p> <p><i>By Viswanath Pilla ET Bureau April 8, 2023</i></p>	<p>The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (<a href="#">PMBJP</a>) that sells affordable generic medicines through Jan Aushadhi Kendras (retail outlets) said it has achieved sales of ₹1,236 crore in FY 2020-23, growing 38% year-on-year.</p>

6.	<p><b>Indian Drug Regulations Should Match Global Standards: NITI Ayog</b></p> <p><i>By PTI/TOI April 15, 2023</i></p>	<p>The NITI Ayog has said that Indian Drug Regulatory Standards should be at par with <a href="#">global standards</a>. It has also recommended that medical devices should be overseen by a separately authority and not by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The NITI Ayog's recommendations come during the inter-ministerial consultation on the New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023. The draft bill seeks to replace the existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940. It was put up on public domain in July last year seeking feedback from stakeholders.</p>
7.	<p><b>E-pharmacies Hold Discussions With Govt., Consult New Regulation Policy On Online Sale of Meds</b></p> <p><i>By Healthcare World.com April 21, 2023</i></p>	<p>As a part of the consultation process before introducing any <a href="#">new regulation</a> into effect, the government asked the companies to share a formal presentation to the government on the benefits of e-pharmacies and their compliance status as well as what are the challenges the segment is facing at a time demand for online medicine continues to be high.</p>
8.	<p><b>Tightening the Drug Regulatory Regime</b></p> <p><i>By HT Editorial Hindustan Times April 25, 2023</i></p>	<p>To dismiss claims of poor-quality pharma drugs as an effort by Big Pharma to hurt India's growing reputation as pharmacy to the world — a non-tariff barrier of sorts — isn't as extreme a conspiracy theory as some may believe. Yet, to pretend all is well with the drug licensing and <a href="#">regulatory regime</a> would be counterproductive.</p>
9.	<p><b>Union Cabinet Approves National Medical Devices Policy</b></p> <p><i>By Bindu Shajan Perappadan The Hindu April 26, 2023</i></p>	<p>The Union Cabinet approved the <a href="#">National Medical Devices Policy, 2023</a>, which is expected to facilitate an orderly growth of the medical device sector to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, quality, and innovation. It will help the sector grow from the present \$11 billion to \$50 billion in the next five years, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told the media after the Cabinet meeting.</p>
10.	<p><b>'Misleading Ads: FSSAI May Slap Notices on Food Business Operators</b></p> <p><i>By Sanjeeb Mukherjee/Pratiya Yadav Business Standard, April 28, 2023</i></p>	<p>Amid the Bournvita controversy, the country's food regulator is planning to serve notices on various food business operators (FBOs), including manufacturers/marketers of nutraceutical products, refined oils, pulses, flours, millet products, ghee etc., over "<a href="#">misleading</a>" claims. Advertisement Monitoring Committee of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) reported 32 fresh cases, which have, prima facie, been found in contravention of the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (Advertisements &amp; Claims) Regulations, 2018.</p>

11.	<b>Adequate Physical Activity (PA) at the Population Level is a Critical Need for India Leading Into 2047</b>  <i>By Amitabh Kant The Week April 30, 2023</i>	India has a major demographic dividend for the next several decades, and, for us to maximise her potential, we must have a healthy, active, and productive population. India has become the world's most <u>populous country</u> , and will also become the largest contributor to the global workforce with over 95 crore individuals.
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