

Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers - Year End Review, 2017

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)

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- These are exclusive outlets aimed at making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and the disadvantaged.

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- Around 3000 PMBJP units are functional as per the latest reports.

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- The scheme's product basket has been expanded to cover around 650 medicines and around 150 surgicals and consumables.

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- It covers all therapeutic categories such as Anti-infectives, Anti-diabetics, Cardiovasculars, Anti-cancers, Gastro-intestinal medicines, etc.

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- Several MoUs have been signed with various State Government/ Organisations/ NGOs to promote PMBJPs across the country.

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- Besides, the Department has persuaded the Medical Council of India (MCI) to issue guidelines to comply with the regulation on use of generic names of drugs.

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Capping of Ceiling Prices of Stents and Knee Implants

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- A coronary stent is a tube-shaped device that is used to treat narrow or weak coronary arteries that supply blood to the heart.

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- Knee Implants are used in Knee replacement surgeries.

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- The ceiling prices of the Coronary Stents and knee implants were revised recently.

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- The reduction in prices of coronary stents was up to 85% and that for knee implants was up to 69% of the prices before the price cap.
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- The price ceilings are government's efforts to make these expensive medical care equipments affordable to the general public.
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Fixing of ceiling prices of drug formulations

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- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority fixed the prices of around 250 drug formulations in this year.
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- This has resulted in total formulations under price control to be 849 under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2015.
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- The fixation of ceiling price of scheduled formulations facilitates considerably reducing the consumers' health expenditure.
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Pharma Data Bank

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- This serves as a common platform for the Pharmaceutical Manufacturer/ Marketing/ Importer/Distributor Companies.
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- It could be used to file mandatory returns prescribed in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.
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- And also for filing online applications for price approval of 'new drug' under DPCO, 2013.
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Mobile Apps/ other tools

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- NPPA has recently launched its mobile app named Pharma SAHI DAAM.
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- It benefits common people by offering information on brand name, composition, ceiling price and MRP of the formulation, etc.
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- Ceiling Price of scheduled formulations may also be obtained by using the tool 'Search Medicine Price' available in the website of NPPA.
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Scheme for Development of Pharma Industry

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- This is an Umbrella Scheme prepared by the Department of pharmaceuticals.
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- The Scheme comprises of:
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- i. assistance to Bulk Drug Industry for Common Facilitation Centre
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- ii. assistance to Medical Device Industry for Common Facilitation Centre
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- iii. assistance to Pharmaceutical Industry
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- iv. Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme
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- v. Pharmaceutical Promotion and Development Scheme
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Pharmaceuticals Promotion and Development Scheme (PPDS)

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- The scheme extends financial support for conduct of seminars, conferences, exhibitions, mounting delegations to and from India.
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- Launched in 2008, the objective is to facilitate growth, exports as well as addressing critical issues affecting the Pharma sector.
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Academic Initiatives

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- **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)** - The Government has announced setting up of NIPERs one each in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

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- **Academia-Industry linkage** - NIPERs have undertaken linkages with 17 leading Pharma Industries through MOUs.

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- Institutional mechanism on NIPER-Industry partnership for campus placements and CEO talks has also been established.

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Legislative undertakings

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- **National Pharmaceutical policy** - This is under consideration so as to cover the entire gambit of the pharma sector.

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- **Uniform Code for Pharmaceuticals Marketing Practices (UCPMP)** - The Ministry of Law and Justice is being consulted for making a statutory order for controlling the unethical practices being adopted by some Pharmaceutical companies.

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- **Review of Drug Price Control Order** - The Department has constituted a Committee of Joint Secretaries for this purpose.

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- It comprises of representatives from NPPA, Health, DIPP, DCGI.

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- Amendments to the provisions of DPCO, 2013 is undertaken to ensure enhanced accessibility of drugs to the poor.

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Source: PIB

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