Union Cabinet is all set to approve Pharmaceutical Purchase Policy for Central Public Sector Enterprise and subsidiaries for purchase of 103 medicines including one used in diabetes for a period of 5 years. The government will purchase the drug at reasonable price and the aim would be to ensure that government remains in possession of drugs if emergency arises.

Another aim of the government is to ensure that these drugs become an integral part of public healthcare system. The Cabinet note also says that a report of high level expert group on universal health coverage for India recommended that the strengthening of this sector is required to protect the capacity of domestic drug and vaccine industry to meet national need. The plan also underlines the importance of reviving sick CPSEs. Though the note argues that government procurement wouldn’t impact the market in any ways. Indian Pharmaceutical market is rupees 70,000 crore strong and institutional scale would only account for 241 crore which is 0.33 percent of the market share. But the fact that government wants to create it’s reservoir and integrate it with the public health care sector is a clear indication it intends to buffer rural areas from high prices of medicines.
The Union Cabinet would also clear first phase of Jaipur Metro Project. It is a gift which Rajasthan government had been waiting for a long time. The project will have an investment of 314 crore for which would be shared on 50 50 percent basis by both Centre and Rajasthan. It also includes cost escalation of 5 percent per annum. The first phase would connect Mansarovar to Badi Chaupar and cover a distance of 12 km and DMRC would be in charge of the project. Roughly 5000 tourists visit Jaipur everyday and the project is expected to ease massive congestion in the city.
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