

1. [Why India needs to show some spine](#) – The Hindu

Strong government leadership as well as flexible intellectual property systems are needed in order to effectively combat drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) and HIV and also antimicrobial resistance and non-communicable diseases. This is true not only for India but also countries which rely on affordable generic medicines made in India.

2. [NHRC notice on 'go-slow' promise](#) – The Hindu

The National Human Rights Commission has served a notice on the Union Commerce Ministry over “private assurances” that were reported to have been given by it to a business advocacy group representing U.S. interests that India would go slow in granting Compulsory Licences (CLs) allowing domestic pharma companies to override patents held by Western drug-makers and make corresponding generic drugs that would be sold at cheaper prices.

**Similar Article in [Economic Times](#)**

3. [USIBC team to push for stronger IPRs](#) – The Hindu

The US-India Business Council (USIBC) will lead an executive delegation to India this week to discuss trade-led growth as a strategy for India's economic rise. This comes amid controversy over media reports that the government had privately assured USIBC that it will not issue patent-disabling Compulsory Licenses (CL).

USIBC will deliberate with the stakeholders and Indian government on a study, which among other things, recommended “stronger” Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection in India to boost Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows.

4. [Regulation Mess](#) – Financial Express

Days after the government banned 344 drug formulations, it has dealt another blow to the pharma sector with a regulatory notice to the R20,000-crore nutraceutical (nutrients isolated from food, including dietary and herbal supplements) industry. As per The Economic Times, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has come up with a draft set of rules that

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12. [Leading 15 global pharma companies post dismissal performances in 2015](#) – Pharmabiz
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include strict testing and manufacturing norms. Though products that were being marketed before 2011 and those for which the approval was pending on August 19, 2015, when the Supreme Court scrapped FSSAI's product approval advisory committee, have been exempted, the new rules mean any product in the market after 2011 that had not sought approval stands effectively banned till it shows compliance. This move hits pharma giants like Sun Pharma, Abbott and GlaxoSmithKline as well as the likes of Amway and Herbalife.

5. [Medical Council needs urgent therapy](#) – The Hindu

It is a strange incongruity that in a democratic country with over 1.2 billion people, the systems of health-care delivery and medical education are poorly regulated, expensive, opaque and, by the government's own admission, considerably corrupt. In December, the Centre acknowledged the need to modernise the Medical Council of India (MCI), the apex body that was temporarily superseded six years ago in the wake of a corruption scandal.

Similar article in [Hindu Business Line](#)

6. [India's health care can emulate rules of education system](#) – Hindustan Times

The health care system can emulate the rules of the education system – where each lower tier prepares the child for the higher tiers and no shortcuts are allowed.

In our healthcare system, shortcuts are a rule, which is why tertiary government hospitals treat an estimated 70% of patients requiring primary care.

The plan to expand the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to a higher coverage of Rs 1 lakh for a family of five is a historic step, but not integrating primary health is a grave omission.

7. [Novartis refused patent for anti-hypertension drug combination](#) – Financial Express

Swiss pharmaceutical major Novartis AG has been denied an Indian patent for an oral drug combination- led by a Renin inhibitor – meant to treat mild-to-moderate hypertension, citing lack of inventive step.

The patent for the triple drug combination, comprising Aliskiren (a Renin inhibitor), Amlodipine and Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ), was filed in 2007 as a national phase divisional application at the Chennai Patent office.

8. [World's first gene therapy for children gets nod](#) – The Hans India

The world's first life-saving gene therapy for children, developed by Italian scientists and GlaxoSmithKline, has been recommended for approval in Europe, boosting the pioneering technology to fix faulty genes. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said on Friday it had endorsed the therapy, called Strimvelis, for a tiny number of children with ADA Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (ADA-SCID) for whom no matching bone marrow donor is available.

9. [Reading the Riot Act: How Indian Pharma Companies got hammered](#) – Moneycontrol.com

The last five months have been particularly hard on pharma companies. Almost every major drug company was pulled up by the USFDA for lapses that ranged from data manipulation, use of rejected ingredients to quality control issues.

10. [Now govt bans anti-meningitis injections](#) – Hindustan Times

The government has banned Liposomal Amphotericin B, an injection-based drug used to treat potentially life threatening fungal infections including meningitis. The salt 'amphotericin B' is on the National List of Essential Medicines.

Ambisome, Fungizone, Envocin, Lambin and Amphoject are some of the injection-based drugs made from amphotericin B.

"The increasing complaints of potential side-effects on kidney and liver has led us to write letters to state drug regulators. We have asked them to suspend licences for manufacture of Liposomal Amphotericin B. The regulators have informed companies," GN Singh, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), told HT.

11. [Everyday medicines to cost less as regulator slashes prices by 3%](#) - Hindustan Times

Your medical bill is set to come down as prices of commonly used antibiotics, anti-infectives, analgesics, vitamin supplements and anti-fungal drugs have been reduced by around 3%. This is in sharp contrast to last year, when prices went up by 4%.

In the annual price revision exercise by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), the prices of over 100 medicines have been aligned according to the change in wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation.

Average WPI inflation has been -2.6% in 2015-16 (till February) against 2% in 2014-15.

12. [Leading 15 global pharma companies post dismissal performances in 2015](#) – Pharmabiz

The financial performances of 15 leading global pharma companies remained under pressure during the year ended December 2015 due to patent expiries, cost cutting measures by several governments, adverse exchange rates, low returns from R&D investments, pricing pressure and competition. The aggregate net revenue of these companies remained stagnant at US\$ 501 billion during the year and their operating profit before interest, taxation and adjustments improved only by 4.5 per cent to \$138 billion from \$132 billion in the previous year.

13. [States should compete for Make-in-India](#) – Financial Express

While the diversified trend on the sectoral front is encouraging, what is of concern is the fact that FDI inflows are still centralised and concentrated only in a few states in India. Other high growth states like Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan have still not managed to cut significantly into the FDI pie in a sustainable way.

In response to this, in the past few years, a healthy competition amongst Indian states to promote both foreign as well as domestic investment has emerged. This may lead to decentralisation of FDI. In order to prevent urban and industrial clusters from concentrating in a few areas, states must endeavour to upgrade industrial as well as physical infrastructure beyond their capital cities. Broad-based industrialisation, and development of smart cities and urban centres across the state will help in diversifying growth. It is in this spirit that the Make-in-India campaign should not be seen as a political stunt, but as a platform to promote competitive federalism.

14. [CCI and patent regulator can co-exist](#) – Business Standard

For the first time in India's judicial history, a judgment has dealt head-on with the highly complex issue of Competition Act vs Patent Act. The judgment by a single judge bench of Vibhu Bakhru, in the case of Ericsson vs Micromax and Ericsson vs Intex, has clearly demarcated the boundaries between the Competition Act, 2002, and the Patents Act, 1970.