

- Huge Bogey is made about compulsory licensing: Teatia** – Economic Times  
According to Rita Teatia, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, a huge bogey is being made about India's position on the compulsory drug licensing system. Government is taking an extremely conservative view of the provision and the public health requirements. On questioning of global pharma lobby groups speaking about 'Unwritten assurance' given by India on not issuing compulsory licenses, she says, "There is no such assurance. If there is a public health requirements it will need to be addressed and will be looked at extremely conservatively. Companies have seen a lot of value in going for voluntary licenses.
  - Government may move Supreme Court to club all FDC drugs ban cases** – ETHealthWorld.com  
Government today said it may move the Supreme Court asking it to club all cases related to its ban on 344 fixed dose combination drugs pending in various courts. Responding to a supplementary in the Lok Sabha on whether the Centre would move the apex court requesting it to club all cases opposing the ban together, Health Minister J P Nadda said it was a "good suggestion." The Delhi High Court alone was hearing 180 pleas challenging the government's decision to ban 344 fixed dose combinations. Nadda said some fixed drug combinations are necessary in treatment of malaria and diabetes.
  - EU may appoint negotiator for bilateral trade pact with India** – Mint  
Trade representatives from India and the European Union would meet at the G20 meeting in China, says European Member of Parliament Geoffrey Van Orden. "I think because a lot of effort is going into the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and for a long time you had the same negotiators responsible for all these, we called upon the European Commission (the executive arm of the EU) to appoint a separate negotiator for the BTIA," said, the British MEP
- Huge Bogey is made about compulsory licensing: Teatia – Economic Times (clip attached)
  - [Government may move Supreme Court to club all FDC drugs ban cases](#) – ETHealthWorld.com
  - [EU may appoint negotiator for bilateral trade pact with India](#) – Mint
  - [India to set up 160 virus testing labs](#) – Mint
  - [Communication is critical](#) – Business Standard
  - [New 'resistance-busting' drug offers hope for prostate cancer cure](#) – Business Standard
  - [Paying the price of pendency](#) – Business Standard
  - [NPPA caps prices of another 50 drugs](#) – Business Standard
  - [India makes impressive strides in scientific research](#) - Times of India
  - [India PM Modi's NHAM project will bring about evolution of the health insurance model: Court](#) – Indian Express
  - [Commerce Minister complains of 'sledding' in trade talks](#) – The Hindu
  - [CSIR for more collaborative efforts](#) – The Hindu
  - [Panel to suggest MCI rejig framework](#) – Times of India
  - Poor being deprived of free medicines – Statesman (clip attached)
  - [Experts fear India's clinical research may get hit as global regulators spot](#)

4. [India to set up 160 virus testing labs](#) – Mint  
The department of health research of the ministry of health and family welfare is setting up a national network of Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories. The department of health research of the ministry of health and family welfare is setting up a three-tier national network of Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs). The network is being set up under the department's ongoing research scheme called the Establishment of Network of Laboratories for Managing Epidemics and Natural Calamities
5. [Communication is critical](#) – Business Standard  
A host of Indian companies have faced compliance and regulatory challenges to their operations in India and abroad in recent years. For companies venturing abroad an understanding of the regulatory landscape, the specific compliance requirements and the penalties and consequences of violation is absolutely essential. The story incorporates inputs from different sectors and academic institutes on common compliance issues, reasons why Indian companies are coming under the scanner among others.
6. [New 'resistance-busting' drug offers hope for prostate cancer cure](#) – Business Standard  
A new class of cancer drug can help men with aggressive prostate cancer that has stopped responding to conventional treatment, according to a new study. The Institute of Cancer Research findings provide vital information about the role of Hsp90 in drug-resistant prostate cancers, and open up potential new routes to cancer treatment based on blocking this or related proteins. The study is published in the journal Cancer Research.
7. [Paying the price of pendency](#) – Business Standard  
Corporate India seeks fast-track courts, special benches, investment in judicial infrastructure to beat backlog and rising legal expenses. A corporate lawyer, closely involved with cross-border M&A deals, concedes that most foreign clients consider getting entangled in the judicial system as "big" business risk while investing in India. Most large corporate houses have seen sizable jump in their annual legal budget over the last four-five years. For instance, Sun Pharma's annual legal budget ballooned almost five times - from Rs 308 crore in 2012 to Rs 1,424 crore in 2015.
8. [NPPA caps prices of another 50 drugs](#) – Business Standard  
The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped the prices of 50 drugs and revised the prices of four others. On Thursday, anti-cancer drug Paclitaxel, sold by around 20 companies in India, saw its price capped at Rs 207 for one unit (one millilitre). Xylometazoline, a cough medicine where the market is dominated by Novartis (85-95 per cent market share), saw its price capped as well. Based on the new NLEM, the government on March 14 notified the Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2016. It has 820 formulations. There were 628 formulations under the DPCO of 2013, notified in the wake of the NLEM of 2011.
9. [India makes impressive strides in scientific research](#) - Times of India  
Scholarly output in the country grew by 13.9 per cent during 2009-13, against a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.1 per cent for the world. India has also demonstrated a growing impact through its research worldwide. For instance, India's share of world patent citations and top cited papers increased between 0.8 and 1.2 percentage points from 2009 to 2013. In 2013, India held over 3 per cent of the world's top 10 per cent cited papers. This indicates India is not just growing scientifically, but growing aggressively at the very top end of scientific excellence.
10. [India PM Modi's NHAM project will bring about evolution of the health insurance model: Court](#) – Indian Express  
"Good health is a justiciable fundamental right", a Delhi court has said while observing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious project for health insurance cover for everyone would bring about an 'evolution' in India's health insurance model. Court observed that a person suffering from a genetic disease, is as much in need of a medical insurance cover as others and the liability qua them is more. The court said, "No person can be discriminated or

deprived of a State protection in case of an ailment, be it genetic or acquired....the courts of law are required to interpret the provisions of the private contracts in the light of these constitutional obligations.”

11. [Commerce Minister complains of 'sledging' in trade talks](#) – The Hindu  
Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman dismissed allegations that India’s “negative and protectionist” approach in FTA talks was leading to delays in pacts. She was referring to the alleged attempts by certain countries to portray India as “obstructionist” in the FTA talks. The Minister dismissed allegations that India’s “negative and protectionist” approach — of not agreeing to eliminate duties on most goods — was leading to delays in pacts. Talks are under way for FTAs with Australia, European Union, as well as for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or RCEP among 16 Asia-Pacific nations, including India. She said countries such as Australia and the EU want India to eliminate tariffs even on sensitive items in agriculture (eg: wheat) and industry (automobiles) as part of the proposed Free Trade Agreements. However. Ms. Sitharaman said, “India will not yield” to such pressures.
12. [CSIR for more collaborative efforts](#) – The Hindu  
The institutions under Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will take up research in various areas with a renewed vigour in the next couple of years. Focus on medical plants used in Ayurveda for pharmacological research, opening up labs for industry for more collaborative efforts like incubation centres and technology transfer, affordable implements for farm sector and attracting the young into premier scientific institutions of the country are some of the key areas. Impetus to the meeting’s reformist agenda has been Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s nudge to CSIR to identify 100 problems facing the country and concentrate on immediate deliverables to provide direct benefits to the society.
13. [Panel to suggest MCI rejig framework](#) – Times of India  
In a move to streamline medical education and regulation in the country, the Centre has constituted a four-member committee headed by vice-chairman of Niti Aayog to suggest an implementation framework for restructuring of Medical Council of India, the government informed Lok Sabha on Friday .Apart from Niti Aayog, the committee also has representation from the prime minister's office and the health ministry .
14. [Poor being deprived of free medicines](#) – Statesman  
It is learnt that nearly 500 patients go to the drug store every day, but only about 50 percent of them are able to get medicines as doctors prescribe medicines that are only available at private chemists. Poor patients are compelled to buy medicines from outside as many prescribed drugs are not available at hospital drug store.
15. [Experts fear India’s clinical research may get hit as global regulators spot irregularities](#) – Pharmabiz.com  
India’s clinical research business is heading towards a serious crisis with recent detection of data fraud by the global drug regulatory authorities. Allegations of falsification of data by the Bengaluru based contract research organisation (CRO), Semler Research Centre, has affected the credibility of Indian human studies, noted a section of industry experts. With two regulatory majors USFDA and WHO pinpointing data integrity concerns on drugs which were earlier based on bio analytical data of BE studies have now rejected Semler’s applications approval.