

1. [Health Ministry to form 'Working Group' with private players](#) –

Economic Times

Health Minister JP Nadda on Thursday announced forming of a 'Working Group' by the ministry with private sector players to develop alternate health care models under public-private partnership in a time bound manner.

Addressing 12th India Health Summit, Nadda said the Working Group is aimed at collaborating with the private sector to use their expertise for achieving country's health goals.

"We get wonderful ideas from the companies. We have been interacting with each other. But the problem is we discuss and disperse. There is no concrete approach on how we would go about it.

"Therefore, I declare to form a Working Group with the ministry and the private leaders to come up with alternate and rare PPP models in a time bound manner," he said.

He said the Working Group will break the barriers to help government collaborate with private sector.

2. [Do governments have a role to play in healthcare?](#) – Mint

Scientific advancement in healthcare has allowed human beings to double their life spans and effectively address lethal diseases such as malaria, cholera and the plague that have in the past wiped out entire civilizations. While there is no disagreement among policymakers on the importance of healthcare, a key area of debate relates to the relative role of the government and the market in the provision and financing of healthcare.

3. [Raise your innovation game](#) – Hindu Business Line

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) recently released its tenth annual global survey of the '50 Most Innovative Companies in the World' and the state of innovation worldwide in 2015. Here are some highlights from this interesting survey.

Apple, Google and Tesla Motors have been ranked as the top three innovative companies in the world.

The top 50 list includes 29 companies from the US, 11 from Europe, and 10 from Asia. Three companies from China — Tencent, Huawei and Lenovo — feature in the list. Only one Indian company has made it to this elite list of innovators — Tata Motors.

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2. [Do governments have a role to play in healthcare?](#) – Mint

3. [Raise your innovation game](#) – Hindu Business Line

4. [Government assures access, affordability of drugs through price control](#) – Pharmabiz

5. [India should address a range of issues to sustain growth:IBM](#) – Mint

6. [Dr Jitendra Singh calls for 'Make in India' health module Proposals for NE Region from health corporate leaders invited](#) – Business Standard

7. [Top Indian business group warns pharma industry to step up its quality game](#) – Fierce Pharma Asia

8. [India, EU to meet in January to take stock of FTA talks](#) – Business Standard

Science and technology emerges as an increasingly important underpinning of innovation, and is also a common factor across most companies in this list.

Thirty-eight out of the 50 most innovative companies are from traditional or non-tech areas, yet most of them leverage science and technology smartly. These include companies such as Bayer, Johnson & Johnson, Gilead, Roche, Nike, Visa, 3M and Mastercard.

4. [\*\*Government assures access, affordability of drugs through price control\*\*](#) – Pharmabiz

Union minister of chemical and fertilizers Ananth Kumar ruled out, doing away with the price control on essential and life savings drugs, asserting that the Modi government is pro-poor though assured that industry will continue to be consulted.

While inaugurating the 4th Annual Conference- PharmaMed 2015, organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kumar said, “The government will continue to control the regulated list of pharma products that currently number 603 though it might make revision in it to enable access, affordability and acceptability with quality. It will not loose its control on essential and life savings pharma products in the interest of the common man”.

“Nowhere in the world, regulations and control on such essential sectors are in vogue and India cannot be an exception. I urge industry and pharma manufacturers of generic drugs to increase access, affordability and acceptability of their products with focus on quality so that patients do not suffer shortages of such products”, said the minister asserting that in the next 100 days, the much talked about Katoch Committee recommendations will be implemented with due approval of the cabinet if so required.

5. [\*\*India should address a range of issues to sustain growth:IBM\*\*](#) – Mint

India needs to immediately address issues ranging from improved governance to social infrastructure to capital infusion to physical infrastructure if it wants to sustain its growth trajectory and avoid the middle-income trap, said a new study by International Business Machines Corp. on Thursday.

“While India is still categorized as a low income country, according to IMF’s forecast, it is set to become a middle-income country in next four to five years growing at an average of 9%,” said Vanitha Narayanan, managing director, IBM India. “As India looks to reach that level, the country needs to prepare itself by tackling risks beforehand so that it can become a leader among global economies.”

51% of the respondents said the first priority is to remove excessive regulation, complicated policies and unnecessary bureaucracy to drive growth. Social infrastructure like health care and educational institutions are the second-most important priority as it signifies economic productivity and well being, according to 46% of those surveyed. Physical infrastructure remains the third important contributor to economic growth.

6. [\*\*Dr Jitendra Singh calls for 'Make in India' health module Proposals for NE Region from health corporate leaders invited\*\*](#) – Business Standard

Addressing the India Health Summit, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as chief guest here today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh called for establishing a Make in India" healthcare module, based on public-private partnership as well as multi-centric healthcare collaboration to meet the changing health needs of 21st century India.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Indian society, as a whole, is fast evolving and at the same time, in recent years, India too has become a part of shrunken global world and this phenomenon is impacting every sphere of life including the healthcare system.

7. [Top Indian business group warns pharma industry to step up its quality game](#) – Fierce Pharma Asia

Then-FDA Director Margaret Hamburg went to India last year to politely deliver a message to top government and industry pharma leaders: A country that produces many of the world's generic drugs needs to make sure it is fully in tune with international standards. Now a top business organization has warned the Indian pharmaceutical industry about what the FDA has been tacitly indicating for years with product bans and warning letters. If India doesn't get its "house in order," the country is going to suffer the consequences of seeing its pharma industry fall behind.

The warning was laid out in a report issued Wednesday by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), which called on India's pharma leaders to step up their game and on the government to provide more trained pharmaceutical inspectors so that it can. It said the country's 1,500 inspectors are not nearly enough to oversee a country that has 10,000 drug manufacturing facilities. It also indicated another point of contention with the west, a patent system that the report called inconsistent.

8. [India, EU to meet in January to take stock of FTA talks](#) – Business Standard

India will hold consultations with the European Union (EU) in January, 2016 to discuss the future of the proposed free trade agreement (FTA), Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia said on Thursday.

The meeting, which will take place after a gap of 30 months, will not be a negotiation but a continuation of talks that had been deferred after the EU banned the sale of around 700 pharmaceutical products, clinically tested by Indian company GVK Biosciences, on grounds of being unsafe.