

1. [Government eyes more NIPERs, pacts with private cos for drug research](#) - – Economic Times

The government plans to step up partnership with private players through NIPERs for drug discovery as it looks to set up more such institutions in the next five years.

"We should innovate, we should produce new molecules. We should have very good drug discovery system to make sure we are activating all our NIPERs. Very shortly, over the next 4-5 years, I think we will have around a dozen NIPERs", Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) Secretary VK Subburaj said.

"I think pharma industry should strive to move away from generics, they should be there but there should be expansion diversification in these new sectors as well so that India takes care of these other sectors also all around the world," Subburaj said.

Elaborating on India's place globally in terms of generic drug production, he added: "More than 25 per cent of the generic drugs used in the world are produced in India, that is why India is called the silent champion of global healthcare. That has been India's role, but the growth is only in the generic sector."

There is a huge potential for growth as currently Indian pharma industry is just around 3 per cent of the global market, Subburaj said.

2. [Japanese co loses diabetes drug patent bid](#) – Times of India

In good news for patients, a multinational drug firm's efforts to claim monopoly rights on a new diabetes drug, teneligliptin, have been thwarted, with the patent office rejecting the application of Japan's Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation. The Japanese company's application, if cleared would, have blocked affordable versions of the anti-diabetes medicine launched recently by domestic companies, increasing treatment costs for diabetics.

Teneligliptin, a third-generation new oral anti-diabetic drug, was first launched by Glenmark in June, and recently by a host of companies, including Zydus Cadila. Lupin, which filed the pre-grant opposition to the Japanese firm, is marketing linagliptin, also from the gliptin (DPP-4 inhibitors) family, with Boehringer Ingelheim.

3. [How India Plans to Streamline Its Intellectual Property Rights Process](#) – Wall Street Journal

India plans to streamline its system for approving and defending intellectual property rights, in a move designed to help international companies that struggle as their drug patent cases get stuck for years in the country's slow-moving courts.

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4. [MCI not to make public its ethics panel proceedings](#) – Times of India
5. [In India, healthcare is still a seller's market, says Narayana Hrudayalaya chairman Devi Prasad Shetty](#) – DNA
6. [Govt move to please MNC pharma](#) – The Hans India
7. [PM Modi and Shinzo Abe Release Joint Statement After Bilateral Talks: Full Text](#) – NDTV

The Indian government is drafting legislation to create new intellectual-property courts and simplify drug-patent applications. The changes to the policy which will likely be presented in Parliament as early as this month, Rajiv Aggarwal, joint secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion said.

4. [\*\*MCI not to make public its ethics panel proceedings\*\*](#) – Times of India  
The Medical Council of India, the apex regulatory body for the medical profession expected to protect patient interests, has become more opaque in its functioning by deciding that it will not be making public the minutes of any of its ethics committee meetings. The ethics committee is where medical negligence cases and cases relating to professional misconduct of doctors are heard. The MCI has not uploaded the minutes of any ethics committee meeting held since October 2013, that is, after the current administration took over.
5. [\*\*In India, healthcare is still a seller's market, says Narayana Hrudayalaya chairman Devi Prasad Shetty\*\*](#) – DNA  
Devi Prasad Shetty, chairman, Narayana Hrudayalaya Ltd, has reasons to smile. His healthcare company, established 15 years ago in 2000, has built a network of 23 hospitals (Narayana Health), eight heart centres and 24 primary care facilities across 31 cities, towns and villages in Karnataka and eastern India, besides having an emerging presence in central and western India. A world-renowned cardiologist and humanist, Shetty is of the view that while the Indian government is spending 1.1% of gross domestic product (GDP) on healthcare, there is still a need to build massive infrastructure for the healthcare needs of 1.25 billion people.
6. [\*\*Govt move to please MNC pharma\*\*](#) – The Hans India  
Medical representatives across the country are embarking on a countrywide strike on December 16 to exert pressure on the government not to capitulate to the demands of the Big Pharma. The government has not only consented to provide Data Exclusivity to the patent right holder, but has also come out with a funny formula of taking the average price of top selling brands - enjoying more than 1% of marketshare - as its price. This will drive the cost of essential medicines upwards. Besides, a move is afoot to discredit the Indian generic medicines. Time has come to claim the right to health as our birth right
7. [\*\*PM Modi and Shinzo Abe Release Joint Statement After Bilateral Talks: Full Text\*\*](#) – NDTV  
India and Japan signed four agreements today -- putting the bullet train project on track and envisaging civil nuclear cooperation -- after a bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe.

The two Prime Ministers appreciated the growing cooperation in the field of women empowerment and healthcare. Prime Minister Abe briefed Prime Minister Modi on his efforts to create a "society where all women shine," including by hosting "WAW!". Prime Minister Modi expressed that the target regarding quantitative share of generic medicines in Japan would be an excellent opportunity for collaboration between Indian and Japanese pharmaceutical companies.