

1. [Indian drug companies bet on global M&As in growth pursuit: Moody's](#) – The Economic Times

Indian drug companies will continue scouting for acquiring overseas assets over the next two years to enhance their presence in developed and emerging markets. "Indian pharmaceutical companies will continue to seek growth through the acquisition of overseas assets or companies in the next 18-24 months, with the aim of deepening their geographic and product diversity, and increasing their presence in developed and emerging markets," Moody's Investors Service said in a report titled Pharmaceuticals - India: Inorganic Expansion to Drive Generic Majors' Growth.

The push for overseas expansion comes amid global pharmaceutical industry consolidation, driven by drug companies' desire for product and pipeline diversity, scale and pricing power, it said. "The Indian pharmaceutical sector is not immune to this global trend, and we expect Indian companies to benefit from asset/drug sales resulting from industry consolidation," the report said. M&As can also enhance the expertise of Indian pharmaceutical companies in sophisticated and high-entry barrier products such as sterile injectables, it added.

2. [The new patents regime](#) – Business Standard

The government's attempt to expedite the process of granting patents by hiring more application examiners and digitising the procedures is a welcome move. The need for reforms in this field has long been felt to remove, or at least tone down, the taint the country's intellectual property administration has acquired due to unduly long delays and lack of transparency in clearing patent applications. At present, the average time to dispose of a patent proposal is over six years, frustratingly longer than the international average of one-and-a-half to two years.

3. [Time to review pharma companies' disclosures?](#) – The Economic Times

Disclosure to stock exchanges by listed Indian pharma companies is becoming a tricky affair as companies adopt a discretionary approach in regard to USFDA actions about them; now closely tracked by the Street given the heightened regulatory risk. The moot question is whether a form 483 -the first level report issued by USFDA after inspecting a facility -is material information for

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4. [Rural women are increasingly accessing government hospitals](#) – Business Standard
5. [Invest more in public healthcare, India told](#) – The Hindu
6. [Sun Pharma in pact with Israeli firm Moebius Medical for osteoarthritis drug](#) – Mint
7. [Supreme Court declines to hear biologic drug patent fight](#) – Reuters.com
8. [10 healthcare stories from 2016 that made us happy](#) – Yourstory.com
9. [Creation of Indian Drug Service mooted on par with other civil services](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. [Indian pharma market grew by 15.3% to Rs.9,388 crore during November 2016](#) – Pharmabiz.com

investors? Pharma companies seem to be divided on this. Last Wednesday, in response to a clarification sought by the BSE, Sun Pharma informed the stock exchanges of having received observations under form 483 for its Halol plant, its largest Indian facility supplying to the US. This was five days after the FDA inspection of the site. In contrast, on the same day, Sun's smaller peer Divi's Labs voluntarily disclosed of it having received form 483 the next day of completion of inspection. In both the instances, the Street reacted negatively to the announcements.

Earlier in September, in response to a clarification sought, Cipla informed the exchanges of USFDA issuing procedural observations across its three facilities at Goa. In March, Lupin informed exchanges of having received observations for its Mandideep and Goa facilities.

4. [Rural women are increasingly accessing government hospitals](#) – Business Standard

There was a 24% rise in rural women accessing public healthcare between 2004 and 2014, according to a new report by Brookings India, a think tank, significant in a country where half the rural population uses private healthcare, which is four times costlier. Overall, there was a 6% rise in dependence on public healthcare for out-patients and 7% for in-patients over the decade ending 2014, said the Brookings report, which analysed National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data over this period.

An in-patient is formally admitted for at least one night to a hospital, while an out-patient visits a hospital, clinic, or associated facility for diagnosis or treatment. For out-patient care, 74.9% of ailing patients (who sought care) exclusively accessed a private facility in 2014, compared to 79.7% in 2004. The biggest decrease was seen among rural women, as we said. While 78.2% of them sought private care in 2004, 70.4% did in 2014.

5. [Invest more in public healthcare, India told](#) – The Hindu

WHO to work with the government to position health higher on the agenda, both at the national and state levels. India needs to invest more in public healthcare and build a robust health delivery system in all aspects, including infrastructure and human resources, with special focus on rural areas, the WHO on Sunday said. "We know that nations need a healthy population to prosper. Stepping up investment in public healthcare is pivotal to sustaining India's economic growth. Investing in health is investing in India's growth story," Dr Henk Bekedam, WHO Representative to India, told PTI.

6. [Sun Pharma in pact with Israeli firm Moebius Medical for osteoarthritis drug](#) – Mint

India's largest drug maker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd has entered into an exclusive licensing pact with Israel-based Moebius Medical for development and commercialization of the latter's novel osteoarthritis drug. The novel drug candidate, MM-II, is an intra-articular bio-lubricant injection, which is being developed to provide symptomatic relief from mild-to-moderate osteoarthritis pain. MM-II is a non-opoid product that leverages the physical properties of proprietary liposomes to lubricate arthritic knee joints, thereby reducing friction and consequently leading to joint pain reduction. Under the agreement, Sun Pharma will fund further development of Moebius Medical's molecule, and undertake its global commercialization, Sun Pharma said in a stock exchange filing on Monday.

7. [Supreme Court declines to hear biologic drug patent fight](#) – Reuters.com

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear a case over whether companies that make copycat versions of biologic drugs must wait six months after winning federal approval before bringing them to the market. The justices opted not to take up Apotex Inc's appeal of a July federal appeals court ruling that could delay the Canadian generic drug maker's launch of so-called

biosimilar versions of California-based Amgen Inc's Neulasta, used to fight infection in cancer patients.

**8. [10 healthcare stories from 2016 that made us happy](#) – Yourstory.com**

India has a long way to go before it can claim to be health-secure. Our per capita public spending on healthcare remains the fifth lowest in the world, only above Myanmar, Indonesia, Sudan and Nigeria. Only 1.2 percent of our GDP is spent on healthcare, which is about four percent of total government expenditure. Consequently, India has witnessed a steady rise of private players in the health sector, most of which remain unaffordable to a majority of the Indian population.

**9. [Creation of Indian Drug Service mooted on par with other civil services](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

A proposal to create Indian Drug Service (IDS) on the lines of Indian Administrative Services (IAS) and other civil services is being seriously considered by the government. An inter-ministerial expert group from government and health sector is expected to meet in Delhi towards creation of IDS on December 18, 2016 and to deliberate on the proposed move.

The inter-ministerial expert group will come out with a set of recommendations paving way for the induction of competent pharmacy professionals in key government departments and undertakings through IDS. Hosted by Delhi-based health advocacy group Udyog Development Foundation (UDF) with support from the health ministry, the inter-ministerial expert group comprises of officials from Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) and health ministry.

**10. [Indian pharma market grew by 15.3% to Rs.9,388 crore during November 2016](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

The Indian Pharmaceutical Market (IPM) achieved growth of 15.3 per cent to Rs.9, 388 crore during November 2016 as against 9.8 per cent in November 2015 due to significant growth in volumes. Average Average Growth for the quarter was at 12.2 per cent against 14.2 per cent in the last year. According to AIOCD-AWACS report, chronic market grew at a very high double digit growth and. Anti-diabetic market grew at 32.6 per cent & cardiac market grew at 20.88 per cent. Without anti-diabetic & cardiac markets the IPM growth would have been 12.6 per cent.