

1. [Natco Pharma gets DCGI nod for generic Hepatitis C drug](#) –

Economic Times

Drug major Natco PharmaBSE 3.21 % has got approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to sell generic version of Daclatasvir, which is used for treatment of chronic hepatitis C.

Natco Pharma said: "It is the first company in India to get approval for generic Daclatasvir Dihydrochloride (Daclatasvir) tablets, 30 mg & 60 mg, from the Drugs Controller General (India)."

"Compared with other treatment options, this combination not only increases the cure rate, but is also regarded as a valuable treatment option in some of the difficult-to-treat HCV patient subsets," the company said.

Same article appeared in [Business Standard](#), [The Hindu](#), [Times of India](#), [Hindu Business Line](#), [Financial Express](#), [Mint](#)

2. [Seven charts that show why India's healthcare system needs an overhaul](#) – Mint

Despite recording several gains in health in recent years, India continues to lag several health indicators such as mortality rates and malnutrition. The country carries a disproportionate burden of the world's sick. Home to 17.5% of earth's population, India accounts for 20% of the global burden of disease, 27% of all neonatal deaths and 21% of all child deaths (younger than five years). In a paper released over the weekend in health journal Lancet, a team of researchers led by Vikram Patel, a professor at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, identified seven structural problems in India's healthcare system.

3. [Is the R&D tax break really an incentive to innovate?](#) – Mint

It never ceases to amaze me just how much misinformation and alarmist propaganda Corporate India can spread whenever it is proposed to withdraw a regulatory perk or a privilege. The latest round of fear mongering is around the proposed withdrawal of R&D tax breaks.

In light of all the heat and dust, I decided to look at various industries in India that have been completely transformed by technology and to look at their successes and failures (as an industry rather than as individual companies) and see the role the tax break on R&D has played or not played in this transformation.

4. [How India Can Cure Its Health System](#) – Wall Street Journal

Nothing short of a "radical restructuring" can lift India's broken health-care system from its current state to better provide for millions in the country who rely on government services, according to a new research report.

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5. [What universal health assurance can mean for India](#) – The Hindu

A lack of funding from the federal government for health-care means India has overburdened and outdated government-run hospitals and health centers, researchers said in a paper titled “Assuring health coverage for all in India” in the British health journal, the Lancet.

In 2014, the government said its health-care spending would amount to just 1% of its gross domestic product, among the lowest rates globally, according to the World Health Organization. That level of expenditure puts India behind countries like China and Afghanistan. The U.S. government spends about 8.3% of GDP on healthcare.

5. [What universal health assurance can mean for India](#) – The Hindu

On Saturday, the 12th of December, hundreds of organisations across the world celebrated Universal Health Coverage (UHC) day – marking three years since the passing of a United Nations General Assembly resolution that committed all countries to achieving UHC. This goal is achieved when everybody receives the quality health services they need without suffering financial hardship and it has also been included in the new United Nations Sustainable Development framework. The Director General of the World Health Organisation simply says: “UHC is the best concept that public health has to offer”.

But what are the implications for UHC for India? The ability to deliver quality health services that does not impoverish populations has meant balancing the demands of complex health systems with the ability to fund a progressive range of services. In addition to shielding populations from spiraling healthcare and medicine costs UHC is also seen as route to building build robust, responsive and efficient health systems capable of addressing growing inequalities in healthcare demands and access. UHC has become a critical indicator for human equity, security and dignity.