

1. [WTO gets strict over patent extension](#) – Times of India

The government on Wednesday said WTO member countries have agreed to "prevent evergreening" of patents in pharmaceuticals, a move that will help the entry of generic medicines into the market by ensuring that Big Pharma does not tweak the composition of drugs to extend the validity of a patent.

"One of the decisions adopted extends the relevant provision to prevent 'evergreening' of patents in the pharmaceuticals sector to ensure accessibility and affordability of generic medicines. This decision would help immensely in maintaining affordable as well as accessible supply of generic medicines," commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Lok Sabha.

1. [WTO gets strict over patent extension](#) – Times of India
2. [Government brings 376 drugs under new list of essential medicines](#) – Economic Times
3. [Advantage to Asian players in new product approvals for biosimilars: Quintiles official](#) – Business Standard
4. [2015 in review: Mergers and acquisitions peak in pharma industry; so does regulatory glare](#) – Economic Times
5. [USIBC concludes talks with Centre on medical device investment](#) – Business Standard
6. [Natco settles patent litigation with Celgene on cancer drug](#) – Economic Times

2. [Government brings 376 drugs under new list of essential medicines](#) – Economic Times

The Health Ministry has drawn up the revised National List of Essential Medicines which has seen the number of medicines go up to 376 from 348 in the earlier list prepared in 2011. There are a few new additions in the list but a number of drugs have been taken off as well, according to industry sources.

In the earlier 2011 document listing the list of essential medicines, the government said the list is needed to address the issues of changing disease prevalence, treatment modalities, introduction of newer medicines and identification of unacceptable risk-benefit profile as well as therapeutic profile of some medicines.

3. [Advantage to Asian players in new product approvals for biosimilars: Quintiles official](#) – Business Standard

Biologics with patents expiring between 2015 and 2020 would constitute the second wave of biosimilars and these include top selling products such as Humira, Enbrel, Rituxan/ MabThera, Avastin, Herceptin and Remicade, according to the US-based clinical research and pharmaceutical services company Quintiles.

The company sees better prospects for Asian players in getting new product approvals in area of biosimilars in the Western markets given the rich product pipeline some of them already have.

With the availability of the regulatory framework for product approvals and a better understanding of these requirements, some of the Asian companies have shifted their focus to the regulatory markets, according to the Quintiles official.

4. [2015 in review: Mergers and acquisitions peak in pharma industry; so does regulatory glare](#) – Economic Times

Facing an increasingly watchful eye of the health regulator in the US, Indian pharmaceutical firms are gearing up to tap new markets in 2016 as they look to consolidate their positions after a spate of mergers and acquisitions consummated this year.

Globally also, it remained a year marked with record mergers, led by the USD 160 billion deal between Viagra maker Pfizer Inc and Botox manufacturer Allergan.

Reflecting on implications of the events of 2015, NovartisBSE -0.15 % India Vice Chairman and MD Ranjit Shahani, who was earlier the President of industry body OPPI, told PTI: "As pharma companies globally look at consolidating in some way or the other, Indian pharma firms would do well to negotiate the new pharma landscape. It will also provide them the opportunity to actually benefit from spin-offs."

Also appeared in [DNA](#), [Business Standard](#) and [Outlook India](#)

5. [USIBC concludes talks with Centre on medical device investment](#) – Business Standard

The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) has concluded its medical device trade mission to New Delhi.

The delegation encouraged the Indian Government to move forward on focused research and development investment with the goal of developing "fit-for-market" products against pressing disease states in India and emerging markets.

It said that this will lead to industry growth through development of a local MedTech ecosystem and a manufacturing base to satisfy domestic and global demand.

6. [Natco settles patent litigation with Celgene on cancer drug](#) – Economic Times

Natco Pharma Ltd and partner Allergan Plc on Wednesday reached a settlement with US-based drug maker Celgene Corp. in the patent infringement case of the latter's blockbuster cancer drug Revlimid.

The settlement provides Natco with the certainty of a generic Revlimid launch in the US and a billion-dollar windfall during the settlement period, while Celgene will be able to ward off generic competition for at least six years for a drug that contributes about 60% of its sales.

Revlimid or lenalidomide, used to treat blood cancer, had worldwide sales of around \$5 billion in 2014. The US sales alone accounted for \$3.4 billion in the year ended September.

Also appeared in [Mint](#), [Business Standard](#), [Hindu Business Line](#) and [The Hindu](#)