

1. [Health Ministry seeks pharma companies' views on ease of doing business](#) – Economic Times

The ministry of health and family welfare want pharma companies in India to share their views on simplifying the business climate for the industry, a move that comes at a time when drug makers are increasingly coming under the government's scanner for their decisions relating to quality and pricing issues.

The health ministry has asked the industry to provide information on the permissions needed from various agencies and the time it takes to get them. The drug controller said that it wants the industry to come up with suggestions on how the processes can be simplified for "creating a favourable atmosphere for growth".

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2. [NPPA extends deadline for cos to register in pharma data bank](#) – Business Standard
3. [Indian drug firms dip into patent pool for Hep C drug](#) – Hindu Business Line
4. [India rejects compulsory license application of Lee Pharma against AstraZeneca's Saxagliptin](#) – Economic Times
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7. [Cipla to sell Hepatitis-C drug Daclatasvir](#) – Business Standard

2. [NPPA extends deadline for cos to register in pharma data bank](#) – Business Standard

Drug price regulator NPPA has extended the deadline for pharmaceutical firms to register themselves with pharma data bank by a month to February 15 as the companies have sought more time to comply with its mandatory order.

"The pharmaceutical companies/units have started filing the form online. However, the companies/units have sought more time as there is a large volume of data to be entered," National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said in a statement.

Keeping in view the request of various stakeholders, the last date to file all the forms is further extended to February 15, 2016, it added.

3. [Indian drug firms dip into patent pool for Hep C drug](#) – Hindu Business Line

Indian drugmakers Cipla, Emcure, Hetero and Natco have received the first round of sub-licences from the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) to make generic versions of Bristol-Myers Squibb's hepatitis C drug daclatasvir.

The development marks a first for generic drug companies working through a non-profit, public health organisation to increase access to new hepatitis C medicines for developing world patients, an MPP note said. The companies have signed non-exclusive, royalty free agreements with Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) and the United Nations-backed MPP to produce and sell the anti-viral daclatasvir in 112 low and middle-income countries.

The sub-licences follow MPP's announcement of its first hepatitis C licensing agreement, signed with BMS in November 2015.

4. [India rejects compulsory license application of Lee Pharma against AstraZeneca's Saxagliptin](#) – Economic Times

The Indian Patent Office has rejected the application of little known Hyderabad-based drug maker Lee Pharma for a compulsory license on AstraZeneca's anti-diabetes drug saxagliptin branded as Onglyza. The first filing for the compulsory license was made by Lee in June 2015.

"As the applicant has failed to provide evidence along with application or during hearing or by supplementary submissions and failed to satisfy the Controller regarding any of the grounds as specified in Section 84(1) of the Act, I am therefore of the view that a prima facie case has not been made out for making of an order U/S 84 of the Act. There, the application for grant of compulsory license by the applicant is hereby rejected," the patent office order of Jan. 19 signed by OP Gupta, Controller of Patents said. The case was heard in Mumbai in December.

5. [India market forecast](#) – Biospectrum Asia

Multinational pharmaceutical firms will continue to see mixed results in the Indian pharmaceutical market. A key contributor to this divergence is the frequent but highly varying use of price controls enacted by Indian authorities. Patent protection has also made little progress, with the India Patent Office maintaining its stringency in accepting applications from innovative pharmaceutical firms. Volume-driven gains thus represent a more consistent driver of growth for multinational pharmaceutical firms to leverage upon in India.

Growth opportunities for innovative drug makers will remain challenging in the Indian pharmaceutical market. Multinational firms saw mixed performances over the quarter ending 2015, with a 6 percent year-on-year (y-o-y) expansion for Pfizer India even as GlaxoSmith-Kline Pharmaceutical (GSK) registered a fall in revenue generated from the Indian market. Despite these difficulties, the potential in the Indian pharmaceutical market remains significant. Companies seeking to grow by volume sales in particular are best placed to leverage growth in the Indian market. As a reflection of this, local news sources noted in November 2015 that GSK continues to seek regulatory approval to launch two new paediatric vaccines in India.

6. [IPA pushes for role of pharmacists in healthcare system, releases booklet on responsible use of medicines](#) – Pharmabiz

Keen to push the role of pharmacists in the country with that of other healthcare providers, the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) supported by the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) recently released its booklet on 'Responsible use of medicines: A layman's handbook'. The main aim behind this initiative is to sensitise all the stakeholders about the fact that effective outcome of medicines depends on not only using correct medicines, but also on how it is being used.

The handbook which was released by the Union minister for health & family welfare, J P Nadda during the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress (IPC) stresses on the importance of pharmacists in the whole process and how they could help in the sensitising end users about the best way to use medicines. Dr. Rao Vadlamudi, president of IPA, pointed out that the information given in this booklet is essential for not only the patients but everybody else too who is in contact with the patients, which includes pharmacists who dispenses medicines, patients who procure them and even the physicians who prescribes them.

7. [Cipla to sell Hepatitis-C drug Daclatasvir](#) – Business Standard

Cipla and three other drug makers - Emcure, Hetero and Natco - will sell generic version of Bristol-Myer Squibb's anti-hepatitis drug, Daclatasvir.

The drug makers will manufacture and sell the anti-hepatitis drug in 112 low- and middle-income countries under a sub-licence from The Medicines Patent Pool, a United Nations-backed public health organisation, which works with pharma companies to increase availability of key drugs.

The sub-licences follow MPP's announcement of its first hepatitis C licensing agreement, signed with Bristol-Myers Squibb in November 2015, and mark the first time that generic manufacturers have worked through a non-profit, public health organisation to increase access to new hepatitis C medicines for developing world patients.