

1. [Gilead escapes liability in hepatitis C patent fight with Merck](#) – Reuters

A US judge freed Gilead Sciences Inc from paying any damages for infringing Merck's patents with its lucrative treatments for hepatitis C, Sovaldi and Harvoni. The Judge found a pattern of misconduct by Merck &Co. The dramatic ruling comes after a federal jury in San Jose, California, on March 24 ordered Gilead to pay \$200 million in damages, based on findings that Merck's patents were valid.

1. [Gilead escapes liability in hepatitis C patent fight with Merck](#) – Reuters
2. [Experts say IPR policy lacks implementation road map](#) – Business Standard
3. [Patented drug policy back on government's radar](#) – The Economic Times
4. [Global cancer treatment market to reach \\$ 150 bn by 2020: Study](#) – Business Standard
5. [Clinical trials waived for Pfizer's breast cancer drug](#) – Business Standard
6. [Modi in US: Full text of the India – US joint statement after PM Modi met President Obama](#) - DNA
7. [Why Narendra Modi's US visits make the sick and poor in India anxious](#) – Firstpost

2. [Experts say IPR policy lacks implementation road map](#) – Business Standard

Following the government's recent announcement of a new comprehensive IPR policy to incentivize entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) organized a panel discussion wherein the experts opined that the policy is a good intent but comes with no timeline. "The policy is a good first step. The implementation will be key for this policy. Currently, the policy does not provide for any long-term or short-term implementation goals," said Komal Kalha, senior counsel (intellectual property), US Patent & Trademark office. Krishna Sarma, managing partner of Corporate Law group, said the policy had left out the proposal for specialised courts to hear patent cases. Sarma stressed the need for incentives and tax breaks to encourage research and said the draft policy had proposed special courts to deal with patent applications and infringement matters which face long delays.

3. [Patented drug policy back on government's radar](#) – The Economic Times

In a move that could address the issue of access to drugs and intellectual property, the government decided to relook at the policy for patented drugs pricing, which has gone through various flip-flops in the past three years. Representatives of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DOP), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), health ministry and the pricing regulator met last month to consider various means by which patented drugs could be brought under price control. A committee of joint secretaries of various ministries are looking into the patented drugs policy; they are going through the past committee reports as reference points," said Krishna Sarma, managing partner of Corporate Law Group, a firm that represents multinational drug companies in India.

4. [Global cancer treatment market to reach \\$ 150 bn by 2020: Study](#) – Business Standard

According to a new study released by the IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics, the global oncology drug market is expected to reach \$ 150 billion by 2020 from \$ 107 billion in 2015 – registering annual growth rate of 7.5-10.5 percent through 2020.

5. [Clinical trials waived for Pfizer's breast cancer drug](#) – Business Standard
Pfizer's Palbociclib, has been granted a waiver of clinical trials by the health ministry's apex committee. The company has been issued marketing approval on the condition that it will conduct phase IV trials on 100 patients within 15 months and submit the data. The drug is a potential blockbuster drug developed by Pfizer that significantly increases the rate of surviving HER2 negative breast cancer.

6. [Modi in US: Full text of the India – US joint statement after PM Modi met President Obama](#) - DNA

Bolstering Economic and Trade Ties: Recognizing the importance of fostering an enabling environment for innovation and empowering entrepreneurs, the United States welcomes India's hosting of the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit. The leaders welcomed the enhanced engagement on intellectual property rights under the High Level Working Group on Intellectual Property and reaffirmed their commitment to use this dialogue to continue to make concrete progress on IPR issues by working to enhance bilateral cooperation among the drivers of innovation and creativity in both countries.

The United States welcomes India's interest in joining the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, as India is a dynamic part of the Asian economy.

Expanding Cooperation: Science & Technology and Health: The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Global Health Security Agenda and the timely implementation of its objectives. The Prime Minister noted India's role on the Steering Group and its leadership in the areas of anti-microbial resistance and immunization. The President noted the United States' commitment to support, undergo, and share a Joint External Evaluation in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The leaders recognized the global threat posed by multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) and committed to continue collaboration in the area of tuberculosis and to share respective best practices. The leaders noted the growing threat of non-communicable diseases and the urgent need to address the risk factors by, inter alia, promoting healthy lifestyles, controlling sugar and salt intake, promoting physical activity especially among children and youth and strengthening efforts to curb tobacco use. The leaders also reiterated the importance of holistic approaches to health and wellness, and of promoting the potential benefits of holistic approaches by synergizing modern and traditional systems of medicine, including Yoga. The leaders strongly endorsed expansion of the Indo-U.S. Vaccine Action Program, which is fostering public-private research partnerships focused on the development and evaluation of vaccines to prevent tuberculosis, dengue, chikungunya and other globally important infectious diseases.

7. [Why Narendra Modi's US visits make the sick and poor in India anxious](#) – Firstpost
The article highlights that although the Government of India has clarified early this year that it hadn't promised the US that it wouldn't issue compulsory licences, the Indian position is still not totally transparent for a number of reasons. Firstly, because it a strange India-US policy. Secondly being the instances where patent office denied patent to Gilead and application rejection to compulsory licensing for Lee Pharma.