

1. [Imports from China jump sixfold in a decade](#) – PTI

India's imports from China has jumped sixfold to USD 61.71 billion in 2015-16 from USD 10.87 billion in 2005-06, Parliament was informed today. India's pharmaceutical exports to China grew by 17.3 per cent in 2014-15. "However Indian companies do face certain impediments in accessing the Chinese pharmaceutical market as regulatory processes for drug registration, submission of detailed clinical trials data, registration and testing of samples are cumbersome and can prolong the ongoing process for drug registration," said Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

2. [Patent not to affect hepatitis C drug price in India: Gilead Sciences Inc](#) – Economic Times

US-based pharmaceuticals firm Gilead Sciences Inc today said prices of its hepatitis C drug Sovaldi will not be impacted by granting of patent to it by the country's patent office. "It (patent grant) will have no impact on prices in India. Our licensing programme

is already working well, with our licensed partners already having launched low-cost, high-quality product in the country and in the licensed territory," said a company spokesperson. The price of generic sofosbuvir and ledipasvir fixed-dose combination sold by various firms, including Biocon, Cipla, Abbott, Natco and Sun Pharma, in India are priced at \$384 per bottle of 28 pills. Insisting that recognition of intellectual property (IP) is central to investment in pharmaceutical R&D, the company said Indian patent office's decision underlined "the scientific innovation involved in the development of this breakthrough treatment for chronic hepatitis C. "This licensing programme enables manufacturing and distribution of high-quality, low-cost versions of the company's medicines for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

3. [Baxter emerges as frontrunner to buy KKR- backed Gland Pharma for \\$1.1 - 1.2 billion](#) – Economic Times

US pharma major Baxter has emerged as the frontrunner to buy Gland Pharma, a KKR backed drug maker, for over a billion dollars as global supply constraints have heightened strategic interests to acquire businesses that focus on injectables -- drugs that are widely used through

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vials, syringes and bags, as well as pumps used to deliver them and other fluids. Hyderabad-headquartered Gland is a leading contract manufacturers of injectables, supplying to pharma majors in India and US like Dr Reddy's and Mylan. "With the two final offers on the table, Gland's promoter and KKR will negotiate further to try and revise the offers upwards. There is still a mismatch in the offers and the expectations but that is not unsurmountable. In a week's time, definitive agreements could be in place," said one of the sources mentioned above on condition of anonymity as the talks are still in private domain.

4. [Government fixes ceiling price of 54 drug formulations](#) – Economic Times

Pharma prices regulator NPPA has fixed ceiling price of 54 drug formulations used for treatment of cancer, diabetes rheumatoid arthritis, bacterial infections and hypertension. It has also fixed the retail price of 11 drugs. "National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed/revised ceiling prices of 54 scheduled formulations of Schedule-I under Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2016 and Retail Price of 11 formulations under DPCO, 2013," the regulator said in a statement.

Similar story in TOI: [Drugs for BP, cancer among 54 to see up to 55% price cut](#)

5. [Government probes dumping of chemical amoxicillin used in pharma companies from China](#) – Economic Times

The Centre has initiated a probe into dumping of amoxicillin, used in pharmaceutical industry, from China to protect domestic industry from cheap imports. A notification by DGAD mentioned that the authority hereby initiates an investigation into the alleged dumping and consequent injury to the domestic industry... to determine the existence, degree and effect of alleged dumping and to recommend the amount of anti-dumping duty, which if levied, would be adequate to remove the injury to the domestic industry. The period of investigation is from October 2014 to December 2015 (15 months). It will also cover the period of 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

6. [Cadila gets USFDA nod to sell generic diabetes drug](#) – Economic Times

Drug firm Zydus Cadila today said it has received final approval from the US health regulator to market anti-diabetic Glyburide tablets in the American market. The group has received final approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to market the drug in strengths of 1.25, 2.5 and 5 mg. The Ahmedabad-based group now has more than 100 approvals from the USFDA. Till now the group has filed over 280 abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) since it commenced filing process in 2003-04.

7. [Govt to file 16 cases against US for WTO treaty violation: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) – Mint

Sitharaman says the govt believes that certain renewable energy programmes of the US at the sub-federal level are inconsistent with WTO provisions. India believes that certain renewable energy programmes of the US at the sub-federal level are inconsistent with WTO provisions, particularly with respect to the obligation under GATT (General Agreement on Tariff and Trade) 1994, Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and/or TRIMS (Trade-Related Investment Measures) Agreement. In a separate reply, the minister said India continues to be placed on the priority watch list under the US Special 301 on account of US assessment of Indian intellectual property rights (IPR) protection being inadequate. "The Special 301 report issued by the US under their Trade Act of 1974 is a unilateral measure to create pressure on countries to enhance IPR protection beyond the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement," she added.

8. [Sanofi recalls batches of Combiflam tablets in India](#) – Mint

DCGI had issued safety alerts after some batches of Combiflam did not meet the standards due to delayed disintegration of the molecule in the blood stream. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had issued safety alert first in February, and again in April, after some batches of Combiflam were found not of standard quality due to delayed disintegration of the molecule in the blood stream. "Some batches of Combiflam tablets were found to have a delayed disintegration time," said the company in a statement. "There is a pharmaceutical parameter

that requires the breakdown of a tablet in the human body to be assessed. In the case of Combiflam, though the disintegration time was delayed, doctors and patients can be assured that there is no impact on the safety and efficacy of the product," Sanofi said.

9. [India wary of EU seizing drug shipments under new law](#) – Hindu Business Line
Alarmed by a new European Union trademark law passed without incorporating any of the changes it had suggested, India is weighing its options, in the event the EU confiscates Indian pharmaceutical consignments in transit to third countries. The new trademark legislation has stringent enforcement provisions that allow customs officials to seize foreign consignments en route to third countries if they contain items with brand names or logos similar to those registered as trademarks in the 28-member bloc. India's arguments are based on the fact that trademark laws are applied territorially.
10. [Govt caps price of breast cancer drug trastuzumab, makes it 25% cheaper](#) – Times of India
There is good news for cancer patients. The government has capped the price of exorbitantly-priced trastuzumab, a life-saving drug used in breast cancer, at Us 55,800 per injection, over 25 % lower than the innovator Roche's drug, Herceptin at Us 75,000 per dose, among other oncology drugs. This is the first-ever Instance of the drug pricing regulator, NPPA fixing a ceiling on the biological breast cancer drug. The second significant medicine brought under price control is Poylated Interferon used in cancer and hepatitis C treatment, with a ceiling price of Rs 14,515 per 100 meg. The price revision follows key medicines used in cancer, Hepatitis B and C, being added in the National List of Essential Medicines earlier this year.
11. [India has 1.92 lakh active researchers, 2.37 lakh pending patents](#) – Times of India
As of April 2016, India has 1.92 lakh active researchers with 14% of them being women, but Indian patent offices have 2.37 lakh patent applications pending. And, as you read this, tens of new patent applications will be filed even as India lags way behind China in the global patent numbers. While there are several issues that affect India's global performance in filing patents — from researchers lacking finances to lack of knowledge about processes — ambitious projects like Make-in-India are affected by inefficiencies in patent offices, efforts to streamline which are failing to yield results. One of the major reasons for the pendency is the over 450 posts of patent examiners that remain vacant, even filling up which, experts point out will not be enough to ease the situation. The government has cleared decks to create another additional 108 posts, of which 62 will be examiners. Researchers, who do not want to be named say: "If they reject it, we know our work may not be worth a patent, but a pending application means we cannot showcase our work or think it is of little worth in terms of novelty!"
12. [Rise in NCDs pushes up Kerala healthcare costs](#) – The Hindu
The current health expenditure, both in terms of per capita expenditure and as a share of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in Kerala is much higher compared to the national average, a reflection of the increasing health seeking behaviour of the people and the overall development of the State. According to the figures released by the first ever State Health Accounts (SHA), a mammoth exercise undertaken by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), in 2013-14, the current expenditure on healthcare on Kerala during 2013-14 was Rs. 24,699 crores, which works out to 6.2 per cent of the GSDP. Of this public expenditure accounts for 1.2 per cent of the GSDP. In per capita terms, the current health expenditure worked out to Rs. 7,300.
13. [How cancer becomes drug-resistant](#) – Times of India
A team of researchers, including an Indian-American scientist, has found that the major reason cancer drugs fail is that they cannot penetrate the high-pressure environment of solid tumors. In the study, published in Biophysical Journal, the team conducted hyaluronidase treatment in a mouse model of pancreatic cancer and found that it broke down hyaluronic acid as well as normalised the fluid pressure in tumours, allowing vessels to re-expand and thereby overcoming a major barrier to drug delivery. "The findings show that the hyaluronic acid-dependent immobile fluid phase plays a previously underappreciated role in driving high pressures in solid tumours," Hingorani added. The researchers plan to further examine the mechanisms behind high immobile fluid pressures in solid tumours.

14. [Cabinet likely to consider national IPR policy tomorrow](#) – India Today

The Cabinet is likely to take up for consideration a national intellectual property rights (IPR) policy tomorrow. "Cabinet may take up the issue tomorrow," sources said. Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had recently said the policy would soon be placed on the agenda of the Cabinet. The national IPR policy has been formulated with the mission to foster innovation, accelerate economic growth, generate employment and promote entrepreneurship. Besides, it aims to protect public health, food security and environment, among other areas of socio-economic importance.

15. [Medical devices clock 27% growth in patent volume: Study](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Medical devices sector clocked 27 per cent growth in year-on-year patent volume in 2015 followed by pharmaceutical industries 4 per cent growth. Biotechnology which saw a -2 percent move, logged a year-over-year decline in patent volume in 2015. This is the finding of the 2016 State of Innovation Report: Disruptive, Game-Changing Innovation study, released today by the Intellectual Property & Science business of Thomson Reuters, the world's leading provider of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. The pharmaceutical industry continues to grow thanks to its branching into creative, new markets. Proof can be seen in the seven drugs expected to launch this year that Thomson Reuters predicts will achieve blockbuster sales status of more than \$1 billion in revenue by 2020, with some predicted to hit \$2 billion during that period.