

1. [Nadda lays foundation stone of advanced research centre](#) – PTI

With an aim to improve the quality of Indian drugs, Health Minister J P Nadda today laid the foundation stone of an advanced research centre at Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission in Ghaziabad.

"Laid foundation stone of 'Advanced Research Centre' at Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission in Ghaziabad today. The new facility will go a long way in improving quality of Indian drugs," Nadda said in a post on the microblogging website, Twitter.

During the ceremony, the Union Minister said India is excelling in the field of pharmaceuticals and is exporting good quality medicines at cheaper rates to Africa and several other countries where it is in competition against European and US based companies.

He further said the Centre is going to ease the conditions of patent law which will help drug manufacturing units in getting their formulations patented without hassle.

2. [Is India ready to reset its innovation mojo?](#) – Mint

There's some good news to start with. India's recent entrepreneurial endeavours have already struck a chord with global investors. In addition, it is heartening to observe that the government has taken this wave seriously. Apart from many initiatives already announced—from a start-up policy to innovation prizes, among others—a recent report by the NITI Aayog, the government's think tank, and steered by an expert committee headed by Harvard University professor Tarun Khanna, proposes the implementation of a framework titled the Atal Innovation Pyramid with short-, medium- and long-term goals. This framework could form the bulwark for re-injecting innovative and entrepreneurial flair in the Indian economy ([bit.ly/1WWx72I](http://bit.ly/1WWx72I)). However, as the report argues, much needs to be done beyond the framework to further the big-tent view of innovation and entrepreneurship.

A final aspect to be considered is that of harmonization of the relevant offices pertaining to innovation and competition. This is a much debated question over the last half a century with a 2002 paper pointing out that competition and innovation might follow an inverted-U relationship. One immediate issue of operational concern for policymakers might be to first buckle up and professionalize evidence-driven approaches in the relevant patent offices, competition commission offices and quality-ascertaining offices in India across sectors. For example, are the Indian Patent Office, the Competition Commission of India and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (in the context of pharmaceuticals) or Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (for food safety) ready for the challenges that an innovative mojo

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3. [Drawn Up in Secret, the TPP's Text Helps Big Pharma Put Patents Over Patients](#) – The Wire
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will induce? How can one harmonize their activities with a nodal, perhaps central innovation authority?

3. [Drawn Up in Secret, the TPP's Text Helps Big Pharma Put Patents Over Patients](#) – The Wire  
The substantial new barriers against generic entry envisaged by the TPP will not only ensure longer monopoly pricing for pharmaceutical products but also render competition between brand and generic manufacturers unviable.

The Intellectual Property chapter, in particular, has been a cause for great concern, as leaked drafts of the text revealed substantial leaps in exclusion rights to rights-holders over and above the prevailing TRIPS standard. Consistent push-back from public health and open access advocates, internet freedoms activists, environmentalists, labour groups and even governments seems to have had only a marginal impact on the negotiations as the released text confirms this shift towards more restrictive standards. Most seriously, continual access to medicines faces a severe threat from the new barriers envisaged in the [TPP](#) text as pharmaceutical companies have been given not only stronger monopoly rights, but the opportunity to arm-twist national governments by invoking the private dispute resolution mechanism in the treaty.

4. [The colour purple that has left drug makers like Dr Reddy's Laboratories pale](#) – The Economic Times

The colour purple has always been a preferred choice of pharma companies. The reference here has nothing to do with the Pulitzer-winning book of Alice Walker, but the actual colour that has pushed big pharma to pursue long-drawn legal battles and fervently chase rival companies who have used the colour to sell the versions of their blockbuster drugs.

Traditional trademark laws protect words and logos. However, intellectual property experts point out that in the last few years courts have started recognising several non-traditional trademarks, such as colour, smell and shape. In pharma, especially the colour and shape have become a bone of contention for companies that are fighting to squeeze every bit of their patented drugs before they hit the cliff.

British drug maker GlaxoSmithKline had a similar run in with Sandoz Pharma, which used the purple colour to sell its inhalers named AirFluSal and Forspiro. These were the generic versions of Glaxo's nearly \$9 billion anti-asthma drug Advair. Besides, the actual patent for the drug, Glaxo had trademarked the purple colour for Advair. In March 2014, a German court ruled in favour of the British company, helping it to hold on to Advair revenue before it went fully generic.

5. [Cheaper Treatment: Up to 90% discount on cancer drugs](#) – Indian Express  
A pilot project launched at AIIMS Delhi will sell anti-cancer drugs, cardiac stents etc at a fraction of the market rates. Called AMRIT, it will be run in association with the public sector HLL Lifecare; the pilot was launched by Union Health Minister J P Nadda Sunday.

“Under the AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) programme, we want to give medicines at an affordable cost. We have identified 202 drugs of cancer and cardio-vascular diseases where the price is going to be reduced on an average by 60 to 90 per cent,” Nadda said. “In the same way, 148 cardiac implants will be given from the centre and sold here and their cost will be reduced by 50 to 60 per cent.”

6. [Panel recommends Merck & Co continue cholesterol drug study](#) – Reuters  
Merck & Co said an independent data monitoring committee recommended that the drugmaker continue a study of its experimental cholesterol drug, anacetrapib. The recommendation comes a month after Eli Lilly & Co stopped testing a similar cholesterol drug, belonging to a class of drugs called CETP inhibitors. Merck said on Friday that the committee reviewed safety and efficacy data from the large study, including a futility analysis.

7. [It is time for a proper 'antibiotic policy'](#) – The Hindu

As the world grapples with the growing menace of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, a concerted effort by health officials, doctors, pharmacists and the general public to curb the indiscriminate use of antibiotic drugs is the need of the hour, Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (NTRUHS) Vice-Chancellor T. Ravi Raju has said. He was speaking on the eve of the first World Antibiotic Awareness Week (November 16 to 22) campaign launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO), here. While doctors should avoid empirical therapies, people should stop buying OTC (over-the-counter) drugs without proper prescriptions, he said, adding that pharmacists should not sell OTC drugs to shore up revenues.

8. [Filling chasms of health and education: Bridging the digital divide](#) – Financial Express

Technology is a strange enabler for people with access. It's a powerful tool that makes life simpler, faster and cost-efficient. It has been a prime road of change in rural or urban, agriculture or industrial sector. This disparity between societies has resulted in the uneven distribution of technology benefits for developing nations like India.

Healthcare opportunities in rural India are challenging as doctors are reluctant to serve there because the living conditions are bad and planning and building infrastructure is hard because of a number of steps involved. The unequal pace of development in societies in having access to digital infrastructure and services in health education is rising. People with access to ICT are getting useful health information from the internet and improving their quality of life; however, at places with lesser penetration of technology, people either travel miles to cities to get medical care or get assistance from local drug stores. The issue of health has given rise to double divide, since economic and social disparities reinforce divide on those who are either not privileged or can't afford to have smart devices with internet access. That is when the innovative diagnostic virtual health programmes come into the picture, which provide technology services in rural areas for a small fee. Such diagnostic medical services have given a boost to the telemedicine effort connecting doctors from large cities to remote villages via video-conferencing.

9. [Glenmark Pharma: A potent pill](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The pharma industry has managed to buck the uncertainty in the economy and sustain growth. This was helped by a good show in key overseas markets, such as the US, weakness of the rupee against the dollar and steady performance in the home market.

Given the large generic opportunity in the US due to patent expiries, companies with strong presence in this market may be well-placed to capitalise on this opportunity. Glenmark Pharma falls under this category.

10. [Restoring India's credibility globally](#) – Business Standard

*(Edited excerpts from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the Indo-UK Business Meeting at Guildhall, London, November 12, 2015)*

One of the biggest challenges in India today is to productively employ the youth. For meeting this challenge, we need to provide a huge push to manufacturing which has stagnated at around 16 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) for several decades. This share must reach around 25 per cent in the short and medium term. With this in view, we have launched the Make in India initiative. We are working on all fronts to make India a global manufacturing hub.

To achieve this objective, apart from vigorous exercise for ease of doing business, we have fast-tracked approvals and clearances for industry and infrastructure. The hallmark of our strategy now is policy-driven governance. Measures like transparent auction and allocation of key natural resources like coal, spectrum, iron ore have created a level playing field for investors.

I am personally convinced and want to assure you that India is committed to protect intellectual property rights (IPR) of all innovators and entrepreneurs. We have taken several initiatives for transparency and online processing in IPR administration. A comprehensive National IPR policy is being finalised.