

1. [Patents India](#) – The Financial Express

Innovation usually starts with a patent—a right granted to anyone who invents a new, useful and non-obvious process. The government is taking a hard look at revamping the country's patent office. That's all the more important for driving the Make-in-India initiative. But for that it has to ensure that our patent laws are in sync with that of the US. All along, India has been arguing that its patent protection laws are in keeping with WTO norms and are aimed at preventing ever-greening of patents that MNC pharma firms indulge in. While that could be work in progress, according to a report

in The Indian Express, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) is all set to reduce the time for approving a patent application from the current 5-6 years to 15 months, and for trademark applications from 13 months to just one month.

2. [NPPA exempts price controls for three insulins of Wockhardt](#) – The Economic Times

India's drug pricing watchdog, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), has exempt drug maker Wockhardt's three insulin products from price controls for a period of five years.

The products namely insulin human injection, isophane insulin human suspension and another one, a 70% isophane insulin human suspension and 30% insulin human injection are classified as a "new drug" and thus qualify for non-application of the DPCO 2013.

3. [India, EU to recommence FTA talks soon: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) – Mint

Showing a positive sign, India and European Union (EU) will again start talks on the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which was halted for 30 months. Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that 'We are resuming the talks with the EU. The chief negotiators will meet soon'.

While stating the reason for the FTA talks with EU, Sitharaman has said that the concern over the EU banning sale of around 700 pharma products, clinically tested by GVK Biosciences, India had in August deferred FTA talks with EU when the Chief negotiators of both the sides were scheduled

1. [Patents India](#) – The Financial Express [Access amid innovation](#)
2. [NPPA exempts price controls for three insulins of Wockhardt](#) – The Economic Times
3. [India, EU to recommence FTA talks soon: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) – Mint
4. [More Pfizer-Allergan-like deals in the offing](#) – The Hindu Business Line
5. ['Developing nations must have a say in WTO's Nairobi pact'](#) – The Hindu Business Line
6. [India lags in drug development, says expert](#) – The Hindu
7. Editorial: [The India Story, in word & deed](#) – The Hindu
8. [Jan Aushadhi saves costs of those on lifelong medication](#) – The Economic Times
9. [Bristol-Myers signs deal with U.N. group for generic hepatitis C drug](#) – Reuters
10. [NPPA gives drug cos final chance to register with pharma data bank](#) – Express Pharma

to meet. She said that India deferred the talks because EU's action was 'unilateral' and was 'not right'. Highlighting about the drug ban issue, Sitharaman said 'We have resolved it in the sense that when German Chancellor Angela Merkel came and the Prime Minister met her in Bengaluru, he had raised the issue of 700 drugs being banned. And she has assured the Prime Minister that she will look into it and the matter will be given fair justice'.

4. [More Pfizer-Allergan-like deals in the offing](#) – The Hindu Business Line

- [Click here to read Business Standard story](#)

Drug giant Pfizer is not new to tectonic acquisitions. But if there's one clear message from its \$160 billion overture to buy Botox-maker Allergan, it is that drug companies are trying every trick in the book to keep their head above water.

As rumoured over the last several days, the deal will in fact allow US multinational Pfizer "to shift its legal base to Ireland in a so-called "inversion" that would reduce its tax rate," foreign media reported. Or as one multinational chief explains, "it is called tax planning, not tax avoidance."

Mega deals work "if the patient's health outcome, the holy grail, is kept at the centre of the transaction", observes Ranjit Shahani, Novartis' India Head and former head of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) – a platform largely for multinational drug companies.

In about 15 years, there may be just one pharma company in each country, he says, except may be the US, that may have two or three, he adds.

5. [Developing nations must have a say in WTO's Nairobi pact](#) – The Hindu Business Line

Developing countries and least developed countries have to be taken on board to achieve a basic minimum agreement at the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) ministerial meet in Nairobi, Sudhanshu Pandey, Joint Secretary, Commerce Ministry, said.

Trade experts pointed out at the possibility of some members such as the US trying to bring in new issues into the WTO at Nairobi such as environment, e-commerce, labour standards and stricter rules for IPR.

6. [India lags in drug development, says expert](#) – The Hindu

The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, organised a conference on "Drug Discovery and Development: Global Scenario – Indian Prospective" that saw officials and representatives from the pharma industry sharing their views on the emerging scenario in the field.

Dr. V.K. Subburaj, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India categorically mentioned that India has very good drug manufacturing capabilities, but the country lacks in drug development.

"Our drugs manufactured here are exported to more than 220 countries in the world," he said.

7. **Editorial:** [The India Story, in word & deed](#) – The Hindu

On his visit to Kuala Lumpur to attend the ASEAN-India summit, [Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in familiar form](#), pitching India as an investment destination to the East Asian countries. Taking credit for turning the Indian economy around since his government "took office 18 months ago", Mr. Modi [outlined his plans for economic reform](#), which he said was a "way station on the long journey" to the transformation of India. He also offered specific opportunities to

ASEAN countries on investing in infrastructure in India, particularly in Metro Rail systems, housing, road, rail and waterways. While Mr. Modi's oratory skills are powerful, it is time to wonder whether his audience, only too eager to invest in India last year, is still listening as keenly to his message. A year after they called India an 'emerging tiger' too, the narrative has shifted. To begin with, several of the promises Mr. Modi gave at the [ASEAN-India summit](#) are reiterations of promises he had made a year ago, and many are beginning to wonder if some of them, like the promise of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) legislation, can be kept, given his relations with the Opposition in Parliament. Mr. Modi has been keen to emphasise that a liberalised IPR patents regime is just around the corner, more in line with what the U.S. and the EU countries have been demanding, but it is unclear if this would militate against India's Patents Act that is [in line with the TRIPS agreement](#). Finally, many of the commitments he has given, like the plan for a mammoth increase in renewable energy to 175GW, will require at least \$200-\$300 billion in funds and debt payments, which are yet to be clearly sourced. The Prime Minister's well-honed pitch now needs some pace on the ground, so that the reality begins to match the rosy picture he has been painting.

8. [Jan Aushadhi saves costs of those on lifelong medication](#) – The Economic Times  
Few things can be more troublesome than the cost of medicines for those who are on lifelong medication feels Prabodh Vekhande, a city based astrologer and computer engineer. He has recently set up a medicine store under the government's Jan Aushadhi Yojna. "This is a scheme for making available quality medicine at affordable prices. The medicines are better than the generic ones as they have been researched and developed by the government in the labs set up for the purpose," says Vekhande.n

9. [Bristol-Myers signs deal with U.N. group for generic hepatitis C drug](#) – Reuters  
A United Nations-backed organization working to cut the price of HIV drugs said it had signed a deal with Bristol-Myers Squibb Co to allow generic versions of the company's hepatitis C drug to be sold in 112 low- and middle-income countries.

The drug, Daklinza, is on the World Health Organization's list of essential medicines.

Hepatitis C affects about 150 million people globally and kills around half a million each year, the World Health Organisation estimates.

The Medicines Patent Pool said on Monday that Daklinza would now be available to nearly two-thirds of people affected by the disease in low- and middle-income countries.

10. [NPPA gives drug cos final chance to register with pharma data bank](#) – Express Pharma  
NPPA has given a final chance to pharmaceutical companies to register themselves with pharma data bank by December 15 and said failure to do so will invite penal action.

"The companies are hereby given a final opportunity to register themselves in IPDMS and fill all forms as required... on or before December 15, 2015," National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said in a notice on its website.