

1. [Has the US diluted pressure on India's IP regime?](#) – Hindu Business Line

The striking change in tone and tenor of two letters by Orin Hatch, now Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, is noteworthy, particularly because of his proximity to Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO).

In June 2014, he wrote: "...I am very concerned with India's policies on intellectual property rights, which not only harm US innovators and creators but are extremely short-sighted, inhibiting India's own economic development. For example, India continues to ignore its international obligations and misuse its patent law to build up its domestic industry at the expense of US innovators.

2. [MNCs face regulatory risk](#) – Hindu Business Line

After a weak show in 2013-14 due to steep price cuts following implementation of the new pharma pricing policy, the Indian pharma industry made a comeback in 2015. Domestic pharma sales have increased by 14.7 per cent for the 12 months ended August 2015, according to research firm AIOCD AWACS. This was driven by a strong pick-up in demand for drugs that cater to chronic ailments — diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, dermatology and urology. Given that barely a third of the country's population has access to healthcare, there is significant room for growth in the home market. But there are challenges too.

Regulatory activism in India has increased in the last two years. The strong intent of the drug price regulator, the National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA), to address the anomalies in the pricing mechanism came out loud and clear when it imposed restrictions on the selling prices of 108 cardiovascular drugs outside the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) in July 2014.

3. [Is greed good?](#) – Times of India

Greed is good. This infamous quote from Wall Street seems to have become the mantra for certain pharmaceutical biggies. At least for a little-known start-up biotech firm, Turing Pharma

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9. [Industry-university gap needs to be bridged to improve R&D in India: Anand Kumar](#) – Pharmabiz

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11. [Merkel arrives today, focus on investment and market access](#) –

which recently made news for all the wrong reasons. Many of us may not have even heard the name of the US-based company Turing or its CEO Martin Shkreli, until recently. The young CEO grabbed headlines, generating an outrage globally, with his decision of jacking up the price of an old life-saving drug (toxoplasmosis) for a parasitic infection, by over 5,000%.

Turing Pharmaceuticals decided to charge \$750 per pill, for a drug that was \$1 when it was first made, and two weeks' back cost \$13.50. Soon enough, social media lashed out at his action, some even calling him "the most hated person" in America. After the global outrage, he bowed to pressure and agreed to reduce the price, although he still hasn't stated how much. To be fair to him, neither is Shkreli the only one who has increased prices, nor is he the first one. Most companies including Valeant Pharma and AstraZeneca have gone for increases in the US, some to the extent of an eye-popping 900%. A recent analysis said that even generic companies are not far behind. These increases are mainly for drugs for lifestyle diseases and chronic therapies like cancer, hepatitis C and high cholesterol.

4. [Easy does it - Doing business, making strategies](#) – Telegraph

The United States of America remains the world's foremost political, economic, technological and military power, even if, in relative terms, it is not as dominant globally as before. It is India's biggest economic and technological partner; we have numerous institutionalized dialogues, which point to the huge potential of the relationship. Of all Western countries, our people-to-people ties are the deepest - more than two million annual visits between their citizens, students, and entrepreneurs. Our military ties are expanding, and we are building strategic convergences with it in the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific regions.

Bilaterally, the US has complaints about our trade, investment and policies on intellectual property rights. Its pharmaceutical sector is especially aggrieved because of our patent policies. We want to push "Make in India", but American companies oppose decisions on preferential market access to locally established units for encouraging manufacturing in India. The sentiment against outsourcing, restrictions on movement of professionals, visa issues, the long pending totalization agreement are subjects of difficulty in our relations. We have rhetorical, but no real, convergence on climate-change issues, on which the US continues to pressure us. The US is also pushing for "high quality" trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific, going beyond World Trade Organization accords, that would leave us out, as in the case of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

5. [It's the age of redefined PPPs](#) – Hindu Business Line

The discovery of penicillin by Alexander Fleming was a watershed moment in medicine. This near century-old breakthrough marked the beginning of modern curative medicine which has saved millions of lives, helped improve surgical outcomes, increased life expectancy and enhanced the ability of the human race to fight the perils that exist in nature. This singular discovery was significant since from that time onward, medicine has become interventional, curative and reliant on the use of mass-produced drugs to tackle diseases and conditions. While penicillin and other modern interventions have come to define the era of modern medicine, the 21st century is witnessing another such inflection point.

A new 'PPP' in healthcare is now finding a firm footing in planning treatment modalities for a significant portion of populations across the world. I believe the next era of medicine will be preventive, predictive and personalised. This new triad of medicine is both path-breaking and the need of the hour.

6. [Indo-US Trade Policy Forum to Meet on October 28](#) – Business Standard

The Indo-US trade Policy Forum will start its two-day meeting on October 28 in America where India is expected to press for greater market access to agri-products and removal of non-tariff barriers.

Trade Policy Forum is the principle trade dialogue body between India and the US.

The other issues which are expected to figure in the meeting include ways to promote investments, intellectual property rights (IPR), increasing cooperation in services sector and about the forthcoming meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Nairobi in December, an official said. The meeting will be held between Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US Trade Representative Michael Froman.

7. [Exclusive - DoP submits pharma reforms roadmap to PMO](#) – Bloomberg TV

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has vowed to push reforms including a new Bulk Drug Policy and the Jan Aushadhi scheme even though some its proposals have been turned down by Prime Minister's Office. Sources told Bloomberg TV India that DoP has submitted its roadmap to the Prime Minister's Office in which it emphasised clearly on the need to complete the delayed projects including the New Bulk Drug policy and the Jan Aushadhi scheme. DoP has also highlighted its aim to double the pharma exports to \$30 billion in coming years.

8. [India lags in research, says Jipmer Director](#) – The Hindu

India has some catching up to do in terms of research and patent filing, said Dr. S.C. Parija, Director, Jipmer, at the inauguration of a conference on Intellectual Property Rights organised by the Intellectual Property Rights Cell of the Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth University here last week. The conference was held at the Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute.

While funding is not a barrier in the field of research and advancements, India lags behind in research outputs because of far too few people in the field, said Dr. Parija, according to a press release from the university. He said only four per 10,000 people in India are involved in research, while the numbers for the U.S. is 79 and China is 18. He added that only 0.9 per cent of the GDP is spent on Research and Developmental activities in India.

9. [Industry-university gap needs to be bridged to improve R&D in India: Anand Kumar](#) – Pharmabiz

For R&D growth in India, industry-university gap need to be bridged and government must initiate policies to help contain risk in R&D in the pharma and biotechnology sectors so that new molecules can be brought to the market, opined Dr Anand Kumar, deputy managing director (DMD) of Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL).

The widening gap between the industry and university is the main reason for the Indian pharma sector lagging behind in R&D and new product development. According to Anand Kumar, despite India having well qualified, knowledgeable and skilled pharmaceutical workforce and investing Rs. 100s of crores for R&D, things will not change unless the this gap between the industry and academia is bridged.

10. [India, Africa to forge common cause against Western trade bullying](#) – Business Standard

India is concerned that the TPP and TTIP agreements, that it is not part of, may seek to set international phyto-sanitary standards and factory standards for goods that India and developing countries like it are not yet ready to measure up to.

The two US-led mega trade groupings, being aggressively pursued by the Barack Obama administration, are expected to go beyond WTO standards and protection measures for intellectual property, environment and labour. The standards they set up are also expected to put constraints on India's pharmaceutical sector, which produces vital generic drugs at cheap rates for the masses.

11. [Merkel arrives today, focus on investment and market access](#) – Hindustan Times

As German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrives with a galaxy of some of the world's most powerful business leaders on a three-day India visit beginning on Sunday, inbound investment and greater market access are set to get a major policy push. For the first time, India is expected to unveil a special clearance mechanism to facilitate investments coming from Germany and the European Union, sources said. The announcement set to be made on Monday will likely be a one-of-its-kind single-window mechanism.

“This has been approved by the PMO and commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman will unveil it. It will help boost investments and be part of an investor-friendly environment,” a source said. On the table will be a 10-point agenda ranging from the teaching of Sanskrit in German schools and trade talks to issues related to further market access in automobiles, pharmaceuticals, vocational training, green energy, river cleaning, defence and aerospace, infrastructure modernisation, insurance, smart cities and intellectual property rights.

12. [FICCI to organise summit on medical values "Advantage Health Care India 2015"](#) – Business Standard

With the primary objective to develop strategic partnership in the medical and holistic healthcare sector between India and the target country, the event will be supported by Ministry of Home Affairs and NABH.

13. [Late delay as Pacific trade talks near landmark deal](#) – Reuters.com

A dozen Pacific nations closed in on a sweeping free-trade pact on Sunday in Atlanta but failed to finalize terms on the fifth day of round-the-clock talks, dashing hopes raised by an earlier breakthrough on protections for new biotech drugs. U.S. officials, who are hosting the meeting, delayed a planned joint news conference until early Monday.

That pushed a resolution of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) talks beyond the deadline set by Japan's economy minister Akira Amari. On Saturday, Amari had said the next 24 hours would be a make-or-break period for the talks. After five years of negotiations, many officials had described this round as the best chance for an agreement, so failure to strike a deal in Atlanta would plunge the future of the talks into uncertainty.