

1. [Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India celebrates its golden jubilee](#) – Pharmabiz

With renewed commitment to make quality medicines accessible to patients across the nation, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) celebrated its 50th year with all healthcare stakeholders in Mumbai recently and conferred special golden jubilee recognitions.

In his inaugural address, Governor of Maharashtra Ch. Vidyasagar Rao said, “The research based pharmaceutical industry in India has long been a partner in India’s economic growth and development, including through technical collaborations, disease

awareness programmes, patient access initiatives and drug safety efforts. At this juncture, we need to have a renewed thrust on innovation from the pharmaceutical industry in India.”

“I have come here to express my sense of appreciation to the OPPI and to the captains of pharmaceutical industry for your outstanding contributions to the cause of nation building,” he added.

The governor stressed on India’s tremendous strength in life sciences, specifically in innovative medicines and the country’s rich human capital, including chemists, pharmacists, biologists and engineers.

Dignitaries including Dr V K Subbaraj, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals and Dr Jagdish Prasad, director general of health services were present on the occasion celebrating the ‘50 Years theme: Healthy India, Innovative India’.

Highlighting the role played by OPPI in its 50 year journey, Dr Shailesh Ayyangar, president, OPPI said, “OPPI has been at the forefront in developing the nation’s pharmaceutical industry for the past 50 years. We have consistently supported government’s healthcare agenda and have been a dedicated partner in India’s journey of developing a robust pharmaceutical industry which is recognised world-over.”

In a recorded message, chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis commended the good work of the pharma companies, while assuring the industry of a conducive business environment for sustained growth.

1. [Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India celebrates its golden jubilee](#) – Pharmabiz
2. [Maharashtra governor Advised OPPI to Create Drugs for Lifestyle Diseases](#) – HT Media
3. [Indian drugmakers hashing out new ethical marketing code](#) – FiercePharmaAsia
4. [DoP to come out with a revised UCPMP code for pharma cos](#) – Pharmabiz
5. [WHO cautions against slashing health spending](#) – Mint
6. [Germany's Boehringer denied patent on HIV drug](#) – Times of India
7. [Natco Pharma betting big on discovery research](#) – Hindu Business Line
8. [Diabetes cure: An insight into research post exit of glitazones](#) – Business Standard
9. [India, Russia decide to boost trade ties](#) – Business Standard

An eminent panel of OPPI's office bearers decided to confer special golden jubilee recognitions to mark its 50 years. Dr Prathap C Reddy, founder chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group received the lifetime achievement for contribution to modern healthcare. DB Gupta, founder and chairman, Lupin Ltd received the lifetime achievement in the pharmaceutical industry, Dr Tarun Gupta, professor emeritus, NMIMS received the award for advancement of education in pharmaceuticals. Dr JN Banerjee was felicitated as the founding member of OPPI. Prof RD Joshi, former secretary general, OPPI was recognised for meritorious commitment to OPPI and Ranjit Shahani, vice chairman and managing director, Novartis was felicitated as President Emeritus of OPPI.

The day saw two animated panel discussions. The first on healthcare innovation in India which focused on the sort of innovations that can transform the healthcare landscape in India. The second, patient group discussion, touched upon the important role that pharmaceutical companies must play to improve the lives of patients and support responsible healthcare.

The OPPI was established in 1965. OPPI represents the research-driven pharmaceutical companies in India and remains committed to supporting the nation's healthcare objectives, collaborating with the Indian government and other stakeholders to find sustainable solutions; solutions that balance the need for innovation with the necessity for more accessible medicines, within a robust IP environment.

2. [Maharashtra governor Advised OPPI to Create Drugs for Lifestyle Diseases](#) – HT Media

At the golden jubilee celebrations of the Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), the Maharashtra governor asked the pharmaceutical industry to create drugs for lifestyle diseases such as tuberculosis, heart diseases, type 2 diabetes and so on.

The governor has advised the pharmaceutical industry to conduct a research and raise investments in the development of drugs for such diseases and for its research activities. Further, suggested OPPI to make strategies for the well-being of the growing population of India from 90 million to an expected 173 million in the next 10 years.

The governor also praised the OPPI for taking an initiative towards India's development and growth and also for under-developed.

3. [Indian drugmakers hashing out new ethical marketing code](#) – FiercePharmaAsia

Indian doctors looking for handouts like paid vacations and other freebies may be in for a rude awakening if the country's drug companies and multinational pharma giants can agree to a proposed code of practice for ethical marketing of their products, according to a report by the Economic Times.

Representatives of 40 to 50 companies held a closed-door meeting on Oct. 14 to hash out a "voluntary and moral commitment" for ethical marketing. The group at the meeting represents almost half of the companies involved in the country's \$15 billion industry, the Economic Times reported.

The newspaper said previous efforts to craft a marketing code of ethics failed because groups like the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, the Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and the Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association could not agree on a plan.

The latest meeting, according to the *Economic Times* report, comes as India's government has said it plans to make the current marketing code covering the industry mandatory in 2016. The current code is voluntary and is said to be violated on a regular basis, the *Economic Times* reported.

Ranjana Smetacek, director general of OPPI, said the group would be working with the government to "tweak" the code so that it is "more practical and implementable," the *Economic Times* reported.



"We recognize that the code has to be mandatory but before it is implemented we want certain queries to be addressed," Smetacek said in a separate report in the *Business Standard*.

Smetacek also said the OPPI will work with the government to "boost innovation" in the industry and would soon present recommendations for various policy reforms.

*OPPI Director General
Ranjana Smetacek*

"We want to push innovation and hope to share with the government measures which can create a favorable environment for innovation," Smetacek told the *Business Standard*.

4. [DoP to come out with a revised UCPMP code for pharma cos](#) – Pharmabiz

The department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) is planning to come out with a new Uniform Code of Pharmaceuticals Marketing Practices (UCPMP) after consulting all the stakeholders in one months time. This is expected to help pharma companies in the country to adopt UCPMP.

UCPMP is a voluntary code that should be adopted by pharmaceutical industry to curb unethical practices in the healthcare sector. UCPMP bears significance as pharmaceutical companies have been accused of massive enticements to secure prescriptions from the medical fraternity for a very long time.

Says secretary, DoP, Dr. V K Subburaj , "UCPMP is a voluntary exercise and pharma companies have not accepted it till date. Since it is voluntary, there is no penalty stipulated on the same. Voluntary system has not worked because stakeholders were not consulted before it was issued. We will come out with a new code in one month's time which will be acceptable to all."

Earlier, the department had extended the adoption of UCPMP by two months from July 1 to August 31, 2015. The department had directed pharma companies to adopt UCPMP for a period of six months with effect from January 1, 2015 which came to an end on June 30, 2015.

5. [WHO cautions against slashing health spending](#) – Mint

The Narendra Modi government should not treat the health sector as a "black hole of expenditures" at a time when India is confronted with rising disease burden, worsening pollution and growing shortage of basic amenities, particularly clean drinking water and sanitation, a top World Health Organization (WHO) official said.

"For me, as a director general of the World Health Organization, I would advocate appropriate investments in the health sector," Margaret Chan said in an interview during a breakfast meeting with reporters at the United Nations on Monday.

The health sector "should not be seen as a black hole of expenditures", she said, referring to the manner in which federal spending on health was slashed in India.

In this year's Union budget, the government allocated Rs.33,152 crore for health and family welfare for fiscal 2016.

But this was a reduction from the budget for fiscal 2014 when the government had allocated Rs.37,333 crore for health.

6. [Germany's Boehringer denied patent on HIV drug](#) – Times of India

The Indian Patent Office has denied Germany's Boehringer Ingelheim a patent on its key HIV drug, Nevirapine, for a version sold as Viramune XR (extended release), yet again thwarting attempts by Big Pharma for "exclusivity" extension on their patented drugs to reportedly block entry of affordable generics.

The application on the Nevirapine extended release formulation was refused since it was found to be "obvious" and lacking inventive step, violating Section 3 (d) of the Indian Patent Act — a provision under which Novartis lost the patent on its blockbuster drug Glivec in 2013.

7. [Natco Pharma betting big on discovery research](#) – Hindu Business Line

Natco Pharma wants to make it big in discovery research, and hopes to develop and bring to market an indigenous drug.

Sharing his vision for the three-decade-old, city-based company, Chairman and Managing Director VC Nannapaneni told BusinessLine: "For the Indian pharmaceutical industry as well as for us at Natco, the next big thing is discovery research. We are working towards realising the dream of having our own molecule."

The industry veteran, who returned from the US and set up Natco in 1984, feels India has already arrived on the global pharmaceutical map.

It has made a huge impact in generics and in bringing down costs to affordable levels. "India is very much active in the discovery research front. Selecting the right drug and target disease to develop molecules assumes significance," said Nannapaneni.

He added that there is scope for entrepreneurship in new drug discovery, especially for start-ups that can focus on specific areas to develop basic molecules. The government has to foster the movement, and private investors and Big Pharma should also support various stages of drug discovery, he said.

8. [Diabetes cure: An insight into research post exit of glitazones](#) – Business Standard

Needless to say, the pharmaceutical industry is always in the pursuit of new drugs for diabetes and big players are continuously in the spree to achieve the required milestones in their field. Diabetes falls under the category of endocrinology when it comes to a pharmacological classification. Out of the 10 new drug applications for endocrinology disorders approved by the FDA in 2014, the number of drugs approved for type 2 diabetes was 5, according to data published by leading clinical trial tracking firm, Center Watch. All of these have been launched by big pharmaceutical companies in the time frame of January-October 2014.

This is higher than the number of diabetes drugs approved in 2013 when there were only 2 approvals, one for Invokana (canagliflozin) by Janssen Pharmaceuticals in April 2013 and another for Nesina (alogliptin) by Takeda in January 2013. Needless to say, trends are working in favour of clinical trials for the sugar pill. However for the diabetes disease in 2015, the FDA has been highly active in approving Tresiba (insulin degludec injection) and Ryzodeg 70/30 (insulin degludec/insulin aspart injection) to improve blood sugar (glucose) control in adults with diabetes mellitus in September 2015.

At least 100 new medicines are in the phase of research and development for type 2 diabetes and nearly 50 percent of them were in phase 1 clinical trials in the year 2014.

9. [India, Russia decide to boost trade ties](#) – Business Standard

India and Russia today discussed ways to boost their economic ties to achieve the target of USD 30 billion in bilateral trade in the next 10 years.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, chairing the 21st India-Russia Inter-Governmental Consultations, also looked at ways to enhance the mutual direct investment to USD 15 billion by 2025.

Both the sides identified various sectors to achieve these commercial targets, agreed upon by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin during their summit meeting last year.

Agriculture, pharmaceutical and infrastructure were some of the areas identified by both sides to strengthen their economic engagement.