

1. [The cost of scanty research](#)

– Mint

Indian companies' focus on research and development (R&D) may have quietly hit its lowest ebb in a decade as they try to cut costs because of the economic slowdown and it becomes easier to buy technology off the shelf.

A look at the R&D expenses of 1,506 companies as a percentage of their net sales shows a continuous decline since 2010.

"Businesses have found that technology can be bought off the shelf... But in order to be competitive, they need to innovate," said Dr. Nirmalya Bagchi, dean of research and consulting at the Administrative Staff College of India.

Bagchi added that there are select sectors, including auto, technology and the pharmaceutical industry, which are spending large amounts on R&D. Start-ups would also be innovating on their own.

"However, if one looks at the country as a whole, it would not be incorrect to say that there is a decline," he said.

2. [Indian Regulators Battle Big Pharma Over Cough Syrup Abuse, Reducing Supplies](#) – NDTV

Indian regulators are privately pressuring major drug firms to better police how they sell popular codeine-based cough syrups to tackle smuggling and addiction, a move that is reducing supplies of a medicine doctors say is an effective treatment.

Cipla stopped making the product last year owing to regulatory demands, and US-based Abbott Laboratories and Pfizer have had to reduce batch sizes by up to half, cutting how much medicine their factories can produce.

3. [African countries seek Indian investments in pharma sector](#) – Hindu Business Line

African countries are keen to have Indian pharmaceutical companies invest in their expanding health care systems and many are seeking joint ventures in various areas ranging from establishment of hospitals and clinics to setting up units manufacturing drugs and medical equipment.

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2. [Indian Regulators Battle Big Pharma Over Cough Syrup Abuse, Reducing Supplies](#) – NDTV
3. [African countries seek Indian investments in pharma sector](#) – Hindu Business Line
4. [Show cause notices sent to 10 Indian doctors for receiving payment from drug companies](#) – The Hindu
5. [Exploring all facets of clinical trials](#) – The Hindu
6. [Is innovation in India Inc undergoing a radical shift?](#) – Economic Times
7. [PFCD India releases National Blueprint to address growing NCD burden](#) – Pharmabiz
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9. [Maharashtra urged to hike health spending to Rs 74 bn by 2018](#) – Business Standard

“Essential and life saving drugs including medical equipment and articles are in utter shortage in the entire African continents and especially in Gambia. The Indian pharmaceuticals and health industry could reach out and help fill this gap,” said Omar Sey, Minister of Health, Republic of Gambia at the India-Africa business forum meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Sey was speaking at a session on “Delivering Affordable Healthcare Solutions for Africa”. The meet is jointly organised by the CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and PHD Chamber.

4. [**Show cause notices sent to 10 Indian doctors for receiving payment from drug companies**](#) –

The Hindu

The Punjab Medical Council has sent show cause notices to 10 doctors for receiving funds from pharmaceutical and allied healthcare companies. By accepting funds directly from these sources, the doctors have allegedly violated the Medical Council of India’s code of ethics, notes an October 27 news item in journal The BMJ.

The Punjab Medical Council’s president, G.S. Grewal told the journal that the 10 doctors had received funds from drug companies through their personal bank accounts, thus violating the national rules. According to the rules, doctors cannot accept funds directly from drug companies, and any payments for any services rendered by them should be routed through their institutions.

The doctors are required to respond to the show cause notice by Wednesday, The BMJ notes. Proceedings against these doctors, which may include even suspension of their licenses, will be initiated if the council is unsatisfied with their responses.

5. [**Exploring all facets of clinical trials**](#) – The Hindu

The issue of clinical trials in the country has been a controversial one. Investigations revealing exploitation, procedural irregularities and breaches of ethics in several cases have lowered the credibility of such trials in the public’s mind and led to an overhaul of the regulatory system.

But has the overhaul erred too far on the side of caution? That was one of the questions explored by Y.K. Gupta, national scientific coordinator, Pharmacovigilance Programme of India, on Tuesday.

Dr. Gupta was speaking at a lecture at Sri Ramachandra University (SRU). Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, national professor of pharmacology and advisor, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of NCT, Delhi, who was due to give the lecture, died early on Tuesday morning.

6. [**Is innovation in India Inc undergoing a radical shift?**](#) – Economic Times

If a Facebook or YouTube was created in India, at the time it was, it would have sputtered and collapsed. An innovation by itself can be rendered ineffectual without the buzz and the nurturing cover of an ecosystem.

"Success is determined by many factors — whether the ground is fertile for innovation or whether the market is a lead-market or not," says Gopichand Katragadda, group chief technology officer, Tata Sons, as he begins to dissect India's innovation potential. Context is critical in innovation.

A lead-market, in innovation parlance, is the market for a product or service where the 'diffusion process' for a successful innovation is fostered and expanded through a host of services.

7. [**PFCD India releases National Blueprint to address growing NCD burden**](#) – Pharmabiz

The Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (PFCD) released ‘SANKALP – DISHA SWASTHA BHARAT KI’, a National Blueprint on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) to facilitate a multi-sectoral

response for prevention, control and management of growing cases of cancer, diabetes, heart and respiratory disorders, mental illness, injuries and other chronic diseases.

According to Dr. Kenneth E. Thorpe, PFCD chairman, "The National Blueprint presents a result-oriented action plan to facilitate the Centre and state governments, private entities and healthcare implementers with best practices and innovative measures to address the growing burden of NCDs in India."

The National Blueprint was released by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, director general of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & secretary, department of health research, Dr. Jagdish Prasad, Director General Health Services (DGHS) and several key representatives from the state health departments were present on the occasion.

8. [**FDA Warns Novartis on Manufacturing Violations at Two India Plants**](#) – NDTV

The US Food and Drug Administration warned Novartis AG last week after the Swiss firm was found in violation of manufacturing practices last year at two of its India drug-making plants, Novartis said.

The warning, issued to Novartis's generic drugs unit Sandoz on October 22, came after FDA officials inspected its Turbhe and Kalwa sites in India in August 2014.

The FDA expressed its concerns to the company last year, and Novartis has been working on addressing them since, it said in a statement disclosing its quarterly results on Tuesday.

9. [**Maharashtra urged to hike health spending to Rs 74 bn by 2018**](#) – Business Standard

Maharashtra, the second most populous State, needs to increase spending on health to over Rs 74 billion by 2018 to meet challenges in the key sector and rising cost of medical care, a research institute said today.

Maharashtra is the second largest state in terms of population in India where 45.2 per cent people reside in urban areas with an income of over Rs 15,40,000 crore.

However, with the growing urbanisation there is a need to look at the growing healthcare costs as well. The State needs to increase health spending to over Rs 74 billion (Rs 7,400 cr) by 2018, New Delhi-based International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) said in a statement here.

The State Government has allocated a sum of Rs 2,296 crore to the health sector in 2015-16.