

1. **[Column: Drug licensing must recognise patents](#)** – Financial Express

Nearly 30 months back, US drug multinational Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) had petitioned the Delhi High Court to restrain Indian firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals from manufacturing and selling its anti-diabetes drugs viz., Zita and Zita-Met, which violated MSD's patents. The drugs contain sitagliptin, for which MSD holds a patent in India.

In its October 7 judgment, the High Court restrained Glenmark “by permanent injunction” from making, using, selling, distributing, advertising, exporting, offering for sale or dealing in sitagliptin phosphate monohydrate or “any other salt of sitagliptin in any form, alone or in combination with any other drug, thereby infringing on patent of MSD.”

Coming at a time when prime minister Narendra Modi, during recent meetings with the top brass of the political establishment in the US and Germany, has reiterated his government's commitment to ensuring enforcement of intellectual property rights and the creation of an environment conducive to innovation, the sitagliptin order will certainly boost India's credentials. But, is that enough?

2. **[Govt proposes patent rule changes to boost ease of doing business](#)** – Financial Express

The government on Thursday proposed amendments to the rules under the Patents Act to streamline the application process, as part of its efforts to improve the ease of doing business in India. The rules also seek to encourage the manufacturing sector by offering expeditious processing of patent applications in cases where an investor has committed to use that innovation for its manufacturing activity in India.

Having a robust intellectual property rights (IPR) regime is one of the priorities of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who recently agreed with his US counterpart Barack Obama to conduct annual technical dialogue between the nations in this area and take steps that would foster innovation and job creation.

3. **[Dr Reddy's Plans bigger push on biosimilars in emerging markets](#)** – Economic Times

Indian drugmaker Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd plans to step up sales of biosimilars, or copies of complex biotech drugs, in emerging markets in the next few years, its chief operating officer said on Thursday.

Biosimilars are a lucrative category of medicines that is expected to generate billions of dollars in sales in the next few years, but Indian drugmakers are lagging their Western peers in launching biosimilars in developed markets.

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5. **[India-Africa summit: What Africa hopes to get from India](#)** - DNA
6. **[Will PM Modi's mega Africa outreach advance India's interests?](#)** – India Today
7. **[Sanofi backs off from Vatelizumab drug deal with Glenmark](#)** – CNBC TV18

4. [Telemedicine Making Drug Trials Cheaper And Quicker](#) – Forbes Asia

The following excerpt comes from Forbes/Wolfe Emerging Technology Report's recent full-length interview with Noah Craft, M.D., Ph.D., DTMH, the co-founder and CEO of Science 37. (Full disclosure: my venture firm Lux Capital is an equity investor.)

Prior to starting Science 37, Noah was the chief medical officer of VisualDx and the chief scientific officer for Direct Dermatology, a national leader in telemedicine. Before that, he was the director of the Center for Immunotherapy Research at LABioMed and ran a large, NIH-funded laboratory studying the human microbiome and vaccines against tropical parasites and cancer. He has extensive training and experience in dermatology, microbiology, immunology, tropical medicine, parasitology, medical informatics, and health care technology.

5. [India-Africa summit: What Africa hopes to get from India](#) - DNA

As African foreign ministers and heads of government troop into the national capital for the latest edition of the India-Africa summit and bilateral meetings on the sidelines, thousands of patients of cancer, HIV and other ailments back in the continent are keeping their fingers crossed. The summit is billed as a platform for enhanced economic cooperation and strategic diplomatic move to boost India's bid to get a seat in the United Nations Security Council. But the cause for anxiety of patients and support groups in poor African countries is not diplomacy. They are concerned about the future of India's intellectual property regime, which, till now, has facilitated the flow of affordable medicines to Africa from India. The timing of the summit is critical. It is taking place at a time when India is reviewing its intellectual property policy. It is apprehended that any change in the policy would harm patients in Africa, so African leaders hope to convince India not to change it. The African apprehension has risen because of growing pressure on India from powerful pharmaceutical lobbies of America and Europe to dilute its patents policy.

6. [Will PM Modi's mega Africa outreach advance India's interests?](#) – India Today

In its biggest ever engagement with Africa, India on Thursday sought to recharge its ties with all 54 African countries, announcing increased interaction in sectors such as energy and agriculture while offering an additional concessional credit of \$10 billion.

The summit, held in New Delhi, is a major initiative of the Modi government to reach out to the continent which has rich resources, is witnessing faster growth and has a demographic profile similar to that of India. African countries see large scope of cooperation with India in diverse areas such as agriculture and education.

The big question on the television show To The Point on Thursday was : Was the India Africa Forum Summit a foreign policy triumph for Prime Minister Narendra Modi? The show was hosted by India Today's Karan Thapar and the panelists included former diplomats Kanwal Sibal and Satyabrata Pal with journalists Jyoti Malhotra, Suhasini Haidar and P Chaudhuri. According to experts, apart from support for reforms of the UN Security Council, both sides can be helpful to each other in many other fields as well.

7. [Sanofi backs off from Vatelizumab drug deal with Glenmark](#) – CNBC TV18

French drugmaker Sanofi has decided not to pursue its deal with Glenmark related to development of Vatelizumab drug, a monoclonal antibody (MaB) for multiple sclerosis. This will negatively impact Glenmark as the drug was already in the second phase of trials. Sources say Sanofi was not satisfied with the primary endpoint of the ongoing trials. This will be a setback to Glenmark's plan of launching its own novel biological drug in the market. In June 2011, Glenmark had licensed the molecule to Sanofi in a deal worth USD 613 million. Till April 2014, as a part of the deal, the Mumbai-based pharmaceutical company had received USD 55 million from Sanofi.