

1. [US waiting to hear PM Narendra Modi's stand on protection of IPR](#) - The Economic Times

The US industry will wait to hear the Narendra Modi government's stand on protection of Intellectual Property Rights when the Indian prime minister meets business leaders in New York and Silicon Valley this week.

The US has urged successive Indian governments to create a regime that will protect the intellectual property rights of its enterprises that invest in India, especially pharmaceutical companies. US officials pointed out that they prefer a predictable IPR regime for its innovators.

2. [Americans overpaying hugely for cancer drugs – study](#) – Reuters

Americans are paying way over the odds for some modern cancer drugs, with pharmaceutical companies charging up to 600 times what the medicines cost to make, according to an independent academic study. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's declared aim to lower the cost of prescription drugs by ending what her campaign describes as "excessive profiteering" triggered a sell-off in drug stocks this week.

Drug companies argue that they need to make decent profits to pay for the billions of dollars needed for drug research. Many companies also have extensive low-cost or even free access schemes for patients who cannot afford their medicines. But the high prices charged for modern drugs is generating increasing push-back from healthcare providers, patients and some doctors. Hill used Indian government data on the cost of pharmaceutical ingredients and allowed for a 50-percent profit margin - but no money for investment in research - to work out the costs of producing certain drugs.

3. [Clinton plan on U.S. drug costs adds to pressure for lower prices](#) – Reuters

NEW YORK Hillary Clinton's campaign promise on Tuesday to cap prescription drug costs for U.S. consumers lends weight to efforts by health insurers, doctors' groups and consumers to address skyrocketing prices, industry experts said.

Clinton, in the lead among Democratic presidential candidates, unveiled a plan that includes a \$250 monthly cap on out-of-pocket costs prescription drugs, allowing the Medicare plan for the elderly to negotiate drug pricing and permitting Americans to purchase drugs from other countries at lower cost.

4. [U.S. drugmaker Turing to roll back 5,000 percent price hike](#) – Reuters

Turing Pharmaceuticals, a small company that generated outrage over raising the cost of an old anti-infective drug by more than 5,000 percent, said on Tuesday it would roll back that increase to make sure it remains affordable.

Earlier in the day, PhRMA, the pharmaceutical industry's main lobbying group, sought to distance itself from Turing's move, posting on Twitter that the drugmaker "does not represent the values of PhRMA member companies." Asked for further details, the lobby group noted that Turing is not one of its members, which include global drugmakers such as Merck & Co, Pfizer and Novartis. "PhRMA members have a long history of drug discovery and innovation that has led to increased longevity and improved lives for millions of patients," the group said in a statement. "Turing Pharmaceutical is not a member of PhRMA and we do not embrace either their recent actions or the conduct of their CEO."

**Headlines Today**

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2. [Americans overpaying hugely for cancer drugs – study](#) – Reuters
3. [Clinton plan on U.S. drug costs adds to pressure for lower prices](#) – Reuters
4. [U.S. drugmaker Turing to roll back 5,000 percent price hike](#) – Reuters
5. [Chemists & druggists on warpath against e-pharmacy; nationwide bandh on Oct 14](#) – Pharmabiz.com
6. [Karnataka govt sets target of 15% growth for pharma sector from current 8%, KDPMA insists on Pharma Policy & Park](#) – Pharmabiz.com

**Editorial:**

1. [Let's see you tech it](#) – Financial Express
2. [Kindling a Knowledge India initiative](#) – Financial Express

5. [Chemists & druggists on warpath against e-pharmacy; nationwide bandh on Oct 14](#) – Pharmabiz.com  
Lakhs of chemists and druggists across the country are literally on warpath against the Central government's recent move to amend Drugs and Cosmetics Act (D&C Act), together with IT Act, 2000 to formulate guidelines to regulate the sale of medicine through internet (e-pharmacy).

To protest the government's move, the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), which commands of membership of over 7.5 lakhs chemists and druggists across the country, will observe one-day all India chemist bandh on October 14 this year.

“We feel the adverse drug reaction of some medicines may spoil the health of new generation due to addiction of certain drugs. We are also concerned about the survival of around 7.5 lakh chemists who are dependent on this business. Their livelihood will be in danger, they will be jobless and increase the unemployment in the country due to the e-pharmacy,” Shinde added.

6. [Karnataka govt sets target of 15% growth for pharma sector from current 8%, KDPMA insists on Pharma Policy & Park](#) – Pharmabiz.com  
Karnataka govt has now set a target for the state pharmaceutical industry to achieve a 15 per cent share of country's total pharmaceutical business from the present about 8 per cent. This has led the Karnataka Drugs and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (KDPMA) to submit a letter to the state department of industries and commerce to revive the Karnataka Pharmaceutical Policy (KPP) which has been in abeyance since its introduction in March 2013.

In order to garner much of the additional 7 per cent growth, the industry requires the revival of the Karnataka Pharmaceutical Policy along with the Pharma Park which would create a favourable investment environment, noted KDPMA.

#### Editorial:

1. [Let's see you tech it](#) – Financial Express  
By and large, when it comes to negotiations with the US, India has always been on the backfoot. US pharma firms, for instance, routinely trash India's patent laws and estimates are regularly put out on how much India's poor IPR costs US industry each year. Nasscom has done the country a big favour by, on the eve of Prime Minister Modi's US visit, putting out a report giving details of how Indian IT firms are helping the US and how, in return, the US government treats them by levying high taxes and unconscionable social security levies. If nothing else, this should help the government during its negotiations with the US on, for instance, a totalisation agreement to avoid double taxation of income with respect to social security taxes.
2. [Kindling a Knowledge India initiative](#) – Financial Express  
The Indian economy has grown quickly over the last couple of decades, surpassing \$2 trillion in its GDP. Yet it faces many barriers—from unemployment to poverty to income disparity—on the road to becoming a true knowledge-based economy. As eminent economist Amartya Sen noted, a nationwide equitable distribution of improved capabilities will lead to a higher quality of life.

While Make in India, Digital India and Skill India will further India's economic growth by stimulating job creation, alleviating poverty and preparing its workers for 21st century jobs, the Modi government has not adequately addressed the innovation and IP policies which will foster innovation and turn India into a technology leader rather than a follower.

A Knowledge India initiative needs to take hold. India is at a stage where importing foreign technology can no longer sustain its economic progress. India's current business environment calls for a robust ecosystem where ideas are domestically created, protected and commercialised systematically. A fitting way to meet this need is by building a robust IP rights regime that will lay the foundation of a knowledge economy. While the Modi administration has begun a number of IP initiatives—including the development of a National IPR Strategy—India ranks very low in IP rights implementation.