

1. [Pharma companies urge government to fend off US demand for tighter IP laws](#) – The Economic Times

A lobby group of Indian drugmakers has urged the government not to give in to mounting pressure from a section of US senators for tighter intellectual property (IP) laws in India, saying this will hurt the domestic industry and impede consumers' access to affordable healthcare.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) on Wednesday shot off a letter to commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States. Multinational companies are clamouring for inclusion of two key provisions in the Indian Patents Act — data exclusivity and patent linkages.

2. [Govt will cap trading margins of drugs](#) – Bloomberg TV

The government is considering capping trade margins to lower prices of all medicines, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said on Wednesday.

While the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority and the new Drug Price Control Order will try to reduce the retail prices of drugs, the government is thinking of reining in drug prices on a cost basis, Ahir said.

"We cannot say now whether it will be 35 per cent or 50 per cent, but the government will surely cap trade margins on all drugs," he said.

3. [India to supply generic cancer drug to US](#) – The Times of India

India has agreed to supply to the United States generic cancer drugs at a time there is outrage in America about the predatory practices by the US pharma industry, one of whose leaders is getting hammered for increasing the price of life-saving drugs by as much as 5000 per cent overnight. The full details of the US-India agreement was not disclosed, but Indian officials confirmed that New Delhi had agreed to supply an "off-patent" cancer drug. Such a move could be a template for the supply of life-saving pharmaceuticals to a US system that is overpriced and overburdened, causing untold suffering to millions of poor and middleclass Americans.

4. [Dishman gets licence from J&J to make TB drug raw material](#) – Money Control

Dishman Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals today said it has received a licence from Johnson & Johnson (J&J) to manufacture raw material for a drug used in the treatment of multi drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

Headlines Today

1. [Pharma companies urge government to fend off US demand for tighter IP laws](#) – The Economic Times
2. [Govt will cap trading margins of drugs](#) – Bloomberg TV
3. [India to supply generic cancer drug to US](#) – The Times of India
4. [Dishman gets licence from J&J to make TB drug raw material](#) – Money Control
5. [Public expenditure on health at a dismal low](#) – Indian Express
6. [Less than 20% of population under health insurance cover: Report](#) – The Times of India
7. [National Health Profile highlights poor doctor-patient ratio](#) – The Hindu
8. [Pharmacies in Hyderabad Stop Selling Drugs Without Prescription](#) – New Indian Express
9. [Growth to remain moderate in Q2](#) – The Hindu
10. [India, US reaffirm their commitment on deepening sci-tech engagements](#) – Business Standard
11. [India, US to Launch Innovation Forum Next Year](#) - NDTV

The company holds a licence agreement from Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, one of the pharma companies of Johnson & Johnson, to produce the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) of Sirturo a drug used in the treatment of multi drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), Dishman Pharma said in a regulatory filing.

5. [**Public expenditure on health at a dismal low**](#) – Indian Express
Public expenditure on health in India in terms of percentage of GDP has not increased in the last few years and the share of the central government has been steadily declining over the years. These are some of the findings of the newly introduced section on health financing in the National Health Profile 2015, compiled by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence. However, the per capita public expenditure has gone up from Rs 621 in 2009-10 to Rs 890 in 2012-13.
6. [**Less than 20% of population under health insurance cover: Report**](#) – The Times of India
Despite liberalization of the insurance sector, only around 21.6 crore people - less than one-fifth of India's population - are covered under health insurance. Even among those who have some form of coverage, 67% are covered by public insurance companies, according to National Health Profile 2015, compiled by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence. Despite liberalization of the insurance sector, only around 21.6 crore people - less than one-fifth of India's population - are covered under health insurance. Even among those who have some form of coverage, 67% are covered by public insurance companies, according to National Health Profile 2015, compiled by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence. Despite liberalization of the insurance sector, only around 21.6 crore people - less than one-fifth of India's population - are covered under health insurance. Even among those who have some form of coverage, 67% are covered by public insurance companies, according to National Health Profile 2015, compiled by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence. A low public health spending coupled with poor health insurance penetration is reflected in India's high out-of-pocket expenditure on health.
7. [**National Health Profile highlights poor doctor-patient ratio**](#) – The Hindu
Every government hospital serves an estimated 61,000 people in India, with one bed for every 1833 people, new official data shows. In undivided Andhra Pradesh, every government hospital serves over 3 lakh patients while in Bihar, there is only one bed for every 8800 people.

Union Minister for Health J.P. Nadda released the National Health Profile 2015 prepared by the Central Bureau for Health Intelligence (CBHI) on Tuesday along with officials of the Ministry, the Directorate General of Health Services and the CBHI.

8. [**Pharmacies in Hyderabad Stop Selling Drugs Without Prescription**](#) – New Indian Express
For a mild or high fever, vomiting or any such other minor ailment, people seek medical advice from medical shop owners and buy the suggested medicines. But pharmacists have, of late, stopped dispensing some drugs without prescription following the crackdown by the Telangana Drug Control Administration on those selling Schedule H and H1 drugs without prescription. Many drugs such as antibiotics, anti-cancer, painkillers, and those used for vomiting and loose motion fall under the Scheduled category.

Undeterred, the DCA is bent on continuing its drive and implementing the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules which clearly state that Schedule-H1 drugs cannot be sold by retailers without the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

9. [**Growth to remain moderate in Q2**](#) – The Hindu
The growth momentum of domestic pharmaceuticals sector is likely to remain moderate, with 8 per cent overall sales growth in Q2 of this fiscal, Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BoAML) said in a report.

However, the momentum is expected to pick up from the second half of the current financial year. A higher base, fewer launches and incremental competition in some key high-value products are impacting revenue growth, according to the report.

Growth in profit after tax may be hit by price erosion in base portfolio, higher R&D costs and emerging markets (EM) currency woes, BoAML said.

10. [India, US reaffirm their commitment on deepening sci-tech engagements](#) – Business Standard
India and the United States have co-chaired the Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on science and technology cooperation to outline a full slate of joint activities between the two countries. The JCM further emphasized the importance of promoting women in the sciences, the sharing of scientific data, strengthening mechanisms to protect intellectual property rights (IPR) and promoting an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and technology commercialization.
11. [India, US to Launch Innovation Forum Next Year](#) - NDTV
Days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Silicon Valley, India and the US have agreed to launch a forum next year to boost innovation and related two-way investment and trade.

The two countries will launch a private sector-led Innovation Forum, which will serve as an additional avenue through which the two governments seek private sector feedback and input for bilateral discussions, the State Department said in a fact sheet released after the conclusion of the India US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue yesterday.

The Forum will consider a set of rotating topics to ignite and scale innovation, increase related two-way investment and trade, support the advancement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and identify where specific skill sets are needed to propel innovation forward, it said.