

1. **[PM Modi promises to protect patents](#)** – The Hindustan

Times
Prime Minister Narendra Modi told a group of media barons on Thursday he is committed to protecting IPR, a red button issue for many US businesses. "We are committed to protecting IPR which is essential to fostering creativity", he told the group which accounted for 40% of the world's entertainment industry.

IPR is a major concern for some US companies specially in the pharma sector, who have sought to mount pressure on the Indian government to bring it in line with their commercial interests. However, it's a separate conversation India is having with these firms and their backers in the US who have appealed for changes.

2. **[India will protect intellectual property: Modi](#)** – The Times of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured the global innovative industry that India not just values intellectual property but will also protect it, especially in this era of technology advancement.

"We are committed to protecting IPR (intellectual property rights), that's essential to fostering creativity," Modi told during the meeting with the top

bosses of companies like News Corp, 21st Century Fox, Sony, Discovery, Time Warner, A&E and VICE Media, representing 40 percent of global industry in this space. "This is a technology driven era. We are a technology driven society," he added.

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Earlier, Modi had an hour-long interaction with chief executives from the financial sector during which he invited the global investment community to come to his country and join his "Made in India" campaign, given that India was today the fastest-growing economy with untold potential.

3. [US companies seek Barack Obama's help to improve India business climate](#) – The Economic Times

Ahead of his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week, a US trade advocacy group today sought President Barack Obama's help in improving the business climate for American companies in India.

Representing voices of a select group of companies mostly from the pharma and manufacturing sector, the Alliance for Fair Trade in a letter to Obama urged him to discuss necessary policy changes to improve the business environment for American companies in India.

The alliance has a track record of raising such issues in the past and launching anti-India campaigns on issues related to intellectual property and pharma sectors.

4. [Can India & America take Gilead-IPA model further?](#) - The Economic Times

As Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) begins his second trip to the United States, the bilateral relationship between New Delhi and Washington, DC looks remarkably different from the summer of 2014. Modi came to office burdened by the legacy of the UPA government's final months. In the US, India's alleged violation of intellectual property rights (IPR) best practices had become a big issue.

This subject figured in Modi's first visit and early business meetings. At the time, US policy on India had been driven not so much by the White House, the State Department or the Pentagon but by the US Trade Representative's office. Concerns — valid, over-the-top and often a combination — of the US pharmaceutical industry seemed to weigh heavily on diplomacy.

5. [Patent Office refuses application for Genentech's cancer drug](#) – Business Standard

The [patent office](#) has refused a particular patent application of Genentech Inc, a biotechnology corporation, for a treatment with Anti-VEGF Antibodies, a drug which it sells as Avastin, which is used in treating various types of cancer.

While [Glenmark Pharmaceutical](#) and [GM Pharma](#) Ltd had earlier filed a pre-grant opposition against the application, all the parties informed the patent office that they are not interested in further pursuing the case.

6. [Generic drugs row: NGOs ask India not to buckle under US pressure](#) – The Economic Times

A group of experts and NGOs today asserted that the US pressure on India's generic manufacturing capacity is threatening the lives of millions in the developing world and asked the Indian government not to succumb to the demands of the American pharma monopolies. "India has been the leading example globally of the most effective use of TRIPS flexibilities," said Prof Brook Baker, senior Policy Analyst at the Health GAP.

"Over the next 15 years, the global community is setting ambitious goals to tackle communicable and non-communicable diseases. The experience of HIV has shown that getting 15 million on treatment by 2015 was achieved in large part thanks to generic competition and this is reflected in the SDGs," he said.

"Without safe, effective and affordable generic medicines, there will be little hope of achieving the SDGs, which is why US pressure on India to cripple generics and to support big pharma monopolies is so out of step with the Administration's statements at the UN today," he said.

7. [Market forces should determine prices: Edgard Olaizola](#) – Business Standard

The \$19.6-billion (2014 revenue) US pharmaceutical and biotech firm Eli Lilly has large stakes in India where it has emerged a key player, especially in diabetic care. Eli Lilly India's Managing Director **Edgard Olaizola** tells *Ajay Modi* the company will launch more products in diabetic care and oncology to grow these businesses. Edited excerpts:

The Indian government has a policy of price control on select drugs with an aim to improve accessibility. Do you think price control leads to better access? How does such control impact the industry?

On pricing, we have always felt competition is the biggest leveller and mandatory price approvals/controls do not provide any tangible benefit to the masses. The real issue remains access to basic medicines and government is taking the right steps towards providing free access to generic medicines to this segment through welfare schemes. Beyond this, the pricing should be determined by market forces and not through pricing controls. Moreover, we advocate adopting a consultative approach for fixing drug prices in which all stakeholders are involved to ensure transparent and market-based pricing caps on essential medicines. The pharmaceutical industry is an integral part of the health care system and an all-inclusive outlook is critical for its growth and sustainability to ensure a robust health care environment.

8. [The Pharmacy of the Developing World is Under Siege and it is Modi's Duty to Defend It](#) – The Wire

The past decade has been tumultuous for India's generic medicines experiment that dates back to the early 1960s, when India commenced production of medicines from the basic stage through public sector drug manufacturers. Following an agreement across the political spectrum that self-sufficiency in medicines production was vital in India, the intellectual property system we inherited from the British was overhauled and the Patents Act 1970 was put in place. The law identified food and pharmaceuticals as areas where exclusive rights would be limited. The Indian government also put in place industrial policy measures and established public sector research institutions to collaborate with local industry. Over the next few decades, India would nurture a generics industry that would eventually be called the pharmacy of the developing world. In 2005, when India had to amend its patent law to comply with the World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Parliament paying heed to national and international concern, included pro-health safeguards (also known as TRIPS flexibilities) in the amendments as MPs across party lines raised concerns over the potential adverse impact that patents could have on access to medicines.

9. [Katoch panel makes sweeping recommendations for revival of API manufacturing including 15-year tax free status](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Katoch Committee on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), constituted by the department of pharmaceuticals (DoP), has made sweeping recommendations for revival of API manufacturing in India including tax free status to cluster developers and cluster participants for 15 years.

Immediate financial investment will be required from the government for development of clusters which may be in the form of a professionally managed dedicated equity fund for the promotion of manufacture of APIs. All central and state duties, taxes, levies etc in creating the entire community cluster infrastructure and individual unit infrastructure should be zero. If a unit promises more than 50 per cent capacity utilized for NLEM products then at least these benefits should be given, the panel recommended.

The DoP has now asked the industry associations like IDMA, IPA, OPPI and BDMA to provide their comments latest by October 12, 2015.

10. [FDA revokes approval for Sun Pharma's seizure drug over compliance issues](#) - Reuters
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has revoked an approval issued in March to India's Sun Pharma Advanced Research Company Ltd (SPARC) to launch a drug for seizures, citing manufacturing quality problems at its production site.

The move comes as a setback to SPARC, the research arm of India's largest drugmaker, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. The drug, Elepsia XR, was its first to receive an FDA approval.

11. [Dr Reddy's Laboratories to buy intellectual property rights of fondaparinux for \\$17.5 mn](#) – Financial Express
Dr Reddy's Laboratories on signed an agreement to buy the exclusive intellectual property rights (IPR) of fondaparinux sodium for \$17.5 million in cash, from its current owner Alchemia Ltd., and Australian drug discovery and development company.

Fondaparinux is a generic version of the anticoagulant drug Arixtra which is indicated for the treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE). It is also indicated for prevention of DVT after major surgery, such as knee and hip replacement worldwide, the company said.

12. [Roche says new drug shows benefits in lung, bladder cancer tests](#) – Reuters
Roche 's new immune-system boosting cancer drug has given positive results in tests on patients suffering from some lung and bladder cancers, according to data released on Sunday at the European Cancer Congress in Vienna that the company hopes will help it win quick regulatory approval. In its Phase II trial targeting advanced or metastatic bladder cancer, Roche said its atezolizumab immunotherapy drug shrank tumors in 27 percent of people who expressed medium and high levels of PD-L1, a protein that appears to help cancers evade the immune system.

13. [Medicine for drug-resistant TB patients to benefit 800 in Maharashtra](#) – The Times of India
The new medicine to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis will be rolled out in four Indian cities and will be made available for free. The drug will be made available to people with the support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The US government is the largest bilateral donor in the global TB effort, supporting TB programmes in more than 50 countries with the highest TB burdens. "We are going to procure bedaquiline through the donations given by the USAID," Khaparde added. The new medicine to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis will be rolled out in four Indian cities and will be made available for free.

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14. [J&J's Janssen Pharma to launch new TB drug next year](#) – The Hindu Business line
Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson Group, would launch Sirturo (bedaquiline), a medicine used in treatment of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB), early in 2016.

Announcing this here on Thursday, Dishman Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals Ltd Managing Director Arpit Vyas said his company holds a license agreement from Janssen to produce the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) of Sirturo for treatment of patients suffering from MDR-TB, mainly in emerging economies.

15. [Apotex recalls India arm's medicine in US](#) – Business Standard
Canada-based [Apotex](#) is recalling 117,644 bottles of [Cevimeline Hydrochloride Capsules](#) in the US that were made by the firm's Indian arm Apotex Research.

The company is recalling the drug due to “failed stability specifications”, as per the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) website.

16. [Chemists to go on strike on Oct 14 against online sale of medicines](#) – Indian Express
Even as the issue of sale of drugs over the Internet is fast snowballing into a controversy with eight lakh chemists planning to go on a strike on October 14, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has set up a committee under the chairmanship of Maharashtra FDA Commissioner Dr Harshadeep Kamble to look into the matter.

17. [Pharmacists urge policymakers on World Pharmacy Day to boost their role in healthcare sector](#) – Pharmabiz.com
On the eve of World Pharmacists Day, pharmacists from Delhi based pharma advocacy group, India Pharmacists Abhiyan met the health ministry and chemical fertilizer ministry officials and appealed them to consider their demands in the interest of patient safety.

Among other demands submitted by the pharmacists to Union health minister JP Nadda, Dr VK Subburaj, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) and Dr Jagdish Prasad, director general of health services (DGHS) included establishment of pharma education under the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on par with medical and nursing courses, it was suggested to amend Food Safety and Standards Act 2011 to add pharmacy as a subject of academic qualification for the post of Food Safety Officer.

18. [India needs a comprehensive approach to combating heart disease -Vice President Vice President inaugurates 11th World Heart Day event](#) – Business Standard
The Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari said that we would need a comprehensive approach to combating heart disease. He was addressing the inaugural session of 11th Annual World Heart Day event, here today.

The Vice President has said that India has seen a rapid transition in its heart disease burden over the past couple of decades and the load of communicable and noncommunicable diseases is projected to get reversed in 2020. Demographic projections suggest a major increase in cardiovascular disease mortality as life expectancy increases and the age structure of the growing population changes, he added.