

1. [Access Campaign: At Obama-Modi meeting in New York, MSF urges India to protect affordable medicines for millions](#) - wn.com

As US President Obama and Indian Prime Minister Modi meet in New York today, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) warned that US pressure for India to change its intellectual property policies could result in millions of people around the world losing their lifeline of affordable medicines. MSF relies on affordable generic medicines produced in India to do its medical work in more than 60 countries, and therefore urged Modi to stand strong and protect India's role as the 'pharmacy of the developing world.'

MSF displayed large billboards on trucks outside of Modi's hotel and the Indian consulate in New York with the image of the Taj Mahal made out of pills and the tagline 'Incredible India' – a take on the long-standing Indian tourism advertising campaign.

"We need affordable medicines from India to do our humanitarian work, so we are not about to let the pharmacy of the developing world be shut down," said Dr. Manica Balasegaram, Executive Director of MSF's Access Campaign. "The health of millions of people around the world will be affected by the decisions Prime Minister Modi makes, so we are urging him not to cave in under overwhelming pressure from the US to change the country's policies to favour big pharma interests."

2. [Fostering Innovation in India](#) – Business Standard

Innovation is central to economic development. In a country the size of India, it is imperative to look at innovation from an international as well as a state and level perspective.

Two recent reports on innovation offer unique insights on fostering innovation in [India](#) from these two viewpoints. The first is the 'Global Innovation Index 2015' (GII 2015). The report ranks countries, placing India 81st among 141 countries. The report classifies India as an 'Innovation outperformer' due to India's relatively low per capita income, high 'global innovation score' (GIS) among its peers and being consistently an 'innovation achiever' for the past three years.

Looking at the 'Innovation efficiency ratio', (a ratio of outputs of innovation to inputs of innovation), India is ranked 31st among the 141 countries. This means that in comparison to innovation inputs, India's outputs are significantly better than many countries. According to the findings of a survey done for the report, the top three priorities for Innovation in the Indian context are 1. Providing large R&D infrastructure support 2. Improvement of ICT infrastructure and 3. Providing direct financial R&D support. This is understandable given India's decrepit research infrastructure and poor internet penetration rates.

Headlines Today

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3. [India-US Bilateral Talks: Both Sides Focus On IP Law](#) – Business World

With India-US bilateral talks over economic and commercial relationship being scheduled on Monday (28 September) when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets President Obama, the Indian pharmaceutical industry and healthcare action groups are on their toes as the US side is expected to put pressure for dilution of India's intellectual property laws. Although the agenda for the top leaders' meeting has no mention of intellectual property law in particular, there have been alerts from the industry and commercial bodies from both the sides to take up the issue during the bilateral talk. A team of US law makers and industry representatives had last week written to the US administration to use the upcoming US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue to advocate market-based reforms in India. This included a demand to take up issues such as inadequate intellectual property right protection, forced localisation, non-science-based agriculture barriers and high tariffs for American exports to the Indian market.

Some of the key concerns, that the US industry lobby and trade groups have been raising on India's intellectual property law, are the absence of data exclusivity for patented drugs and patent linkage for drug approvals in India. But, the Indian drug industry and healthcare groups have time and again cautioned the government about the dangers of these two provisions on the access of healthcare to Indian patients.

4. [PM Modi's US visit: 7 MoUs signed to boost startups in India](#) – Economic Times

Aimed at giving a big boost to startups in India, as many as seven MoUs have been signed between various organisations of India and the US.

The MoUs were signed as Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the India-US Start-up Konnect 2015 here.

The first MoU between Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms and the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences is to develop Indo-US Life Science Sister Innovation Hub so as to enhance science-based entrepreneurship, research, academia and businesses by leveraging each other's ecosystems.

5. [Govt plans mandatory marketing code for pharmaceutical firms](#) - Mint

Drugmakers may soon be prohibited from offering gifts to doctors to prescribe their products, with the government finding that an existing voluntary code discouraging the practice has made little impact.

The mandatory code will replace the voluntary Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) released by the department of pharmaceuticals in January.

6. [Painful pills](#) – Financial Express

WHEN Martin Shkreli, a biotech entrepreneur (pictured), bought the American marketing rights to Daraprim, a drug that treats parasitic infection, he probably did not expect to end up being cast as the poster-child of price-gouging. However, when his company, Turing Pharmaceuticals, said it would increase the price of Daraprim in America from \$13.50 a pill to \$750, he received a torrent of condemnation. Hillary Clinton, the Democrats' leading presidential contender, announced plans to take on this sort of "outrageous" pricing. On September 22, Shkreli promised to rethink the price rise. The row prompted big falls in biotechnology companies' shares, amid worries that Clinton's comments may herald a broad pushback against the high cost of medicines. Shkreli defended his move, saying that Turing plans to invest in research and development to improve the 62-year-old drug. Doctors expressed scepticism. Some said they needed not a better drug but a cheaper one. The medicine is used to treat toxoplasmosis, an infection that is particularly dangerous to people with weakened immune systems, such as those with AIDS and some cancer patients. The price increase inflamed Americans' anger over the growing cost of prescription medicines. In the past year there has been much criticism of the price of a recently introduced hepatitis C drug, Sovaldi, as well as the costs of new im-

munooncology and cholesterol-reducing drugs. However, Daraprim is quite different from these treatments.

7. [How Dr Reddy's is rebooting its biosimilars play](#) – Economic Times

When the multi-billion dollar biosimilars opportunity started opening up for Indian pharma companies sometime in 2005, Dr Reddy's was among the first to race off the blocks with four launches in India about as many years. But things have slowed since.

The company's last big biosimilar launch was back in 2011 when it introduced cut-price versions of pegfilgrastim, branded Cresp, a chemotherapy drug used to boost white blood cells. In the meantime, rivals such as Biocon, Cipla, Zydus Cadila and Ahmedabad-based Intas are pressing ahead with multiple launches here.

8. [India to host 53 African trade ministers](#) – Mint

With an eye to boost its trade relationship with African countries and fast-track long-pending trade agreements with groupings from that continent, India will host a meeting of 53 African trade ministers, the largest such congregation, in New Delhi next month ahead of the India-Africa Forum Summit.

The official said that all countries of Africa have their unique trade baskets and India is currently examining which countries are more important from its export perspective. “There is tremendous potential for India in engineering, textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, processed food and vegetable products,” he added.