

## Gujarat firms on buying spree, strike deals worth ₹17k cr in H1

**Kalpesh.Damor**  
@timesgroup.com

**Ahmedabad:** In the biggest buyout by an Indian company in Europe, Ahmedabad-based Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd bought Actavis Generics UK and Ireland assets for Rs 5,100 crore on Wednesday. Intas is not alone. A slew of top firms in the state have struck deals worth Rs 17,500 crore in first half of fiscal 2016-17.

Few hours before Intas mega deal was made public, Adani group announced acquisition of transmission assets from Anil Ambani-led Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra) for Rs 2,000 crore. Nirma Ltd made headlines for striking Rs 9,400 crore deal with LafargeHolcim Group to take over the latter's cement business in India. Torrent Pharmaceuticals, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), Zyclus Cadila and Astral Poly

### LOOSENING PURSE STRINGS

Figures in ₹/Cr

Assets	Acquirer	Deal Size
Lafarge India cement biz	Nirma Ltd	9,000
Actavis UK & Ireland biz	Intas Pharma	5,100
RInfra's transmission lines	Adani Group	2,000
Glochem Ind's Vizag unit	Torrent Pharma	250

Technik Ltd, too, have acquired assets in H1.

Experts opine that after a downturn of 3-4 years, positive cycle has started in the economy with slew of policy initiatives such as Goods and Services Tax (GST) roll out from next year and opening up of various sectors such as defence, retail and real estate. Gujarat companies are loosening their purse strings now to cut deals for long-term profitability.

"Pharma companies are the front runners in making acquisitions. The sector has been doing exceptionally well over the last few years. Unlike infrastructure firms, financial stress is less in

pharma and companies have cash reserves, which they are now using buy distressed assets in overseas countries," said **Rajeev Shah, managing director and CEO, RBSA Advisors.**

With increasing global exposure, the corporate companies have matured a lot over a period of time. "Many of these companies had trying to buy assets for long and opportunities now are arising. The firms are making acquisitions keeping the long term profitability in mind. They are even paying premium considering future growth," added Sunil Parekh, an Ahmedabad-based industrial advisor.