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IPR & Innovation

1. **Task Force recommends govt to formulate national innovation strategy to boost R&D** - Pharmabiz

   The high-powered Task Force on 'Enabling the private sector to lead the growth of pharmaceutical sector' has recommended to formulate a national innovation strategy to give fillip to R&D in the field of pharma industry. It also recommended to create and fund an organisation to support and promote biopharmaceutical innovation, R&D and national and international academia-industry partnership. The Task Force also recommended to the government to identify and create a think tank to foster the spirit of innovation and to roll out the strategy towards drug discovery and development process with specific targets defined for each stakeholder involved. Besides, it asked the government to create a common platform to connect all dots pertaining to R&D and innovation.

Regulatory & Medical

1. **Centre approves plan to strengthen drug regulatory system at Rs.1750 cr** – Pharmabiz

   The Central government has approved a proposal to spend Rs. 1750 crore for the next 3 years to strengthen the drug regulatory system in the country. In this regard, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for strengthening the drug regulatory system both at the central and the state levels. According to a report released by the government, the strengthening or up-gradation of the drug regulatory system will be spread over a period of three years and with a total of Rs.1750 crore. Of which, Rs.900 crore will be spent on strengthening central structures and Rs.850 crore will be made available to the state governments, after signing a memorandum of understanding.

Others

1. **Samples of FDCs sent to IPC for testing as part of national drugs survey** – Pharmabiz

   Around 5000 samples of fixed dose combinations (FDCs) collected as a part of the survey on spurious and not-of-standard quality (NSQ) drugs have been sent to the lab of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) based in Ghaziabad for final testing and analysis. This is a part of national drugs survey which involves 224 molecules under 15 therapeutic categories. Apart from the FDCs sent to the IPC, sampling of formulations and APIs imported into the country through its 9 notified ports which got recently started by National Institute of Biologicals (NIB)

will take three months time to conclude. This is a part of drug sampling done at ports in Delhi, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata in collaboration with Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad. Earlier sampling of drugs imported into the country was to be done based on a one month survey but got further extended to 3 months to collect more drug samples from the ports with the target of around 1000 drug samples.

2. **Was India immature in calling off free trade talks with EU?** - Mint
   While India intended to send a strong signal to the European Union by cancelling talks for a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) after the European Commission imposed a ban on some Indian generic drugs, experts including former commerce secretaries hold that India may have acted in an immature manner on the matter. The commerce ministry on 5 August indefinitely postponed a meeting between the chief trade negotiators of both sides scheduled to be held on 28 August holding that it is “disappointed and concerned by the action of EU in imposing legally binding ban on the sale of around 700 pharma products clinically tested by GVK Biosciences, Hyderabad” on 16 July.