

1. **Column: Active Voice - [Focusing on IP alone will not increase access to healthcare](#) – Business Standard**

Access to healthcare is a major challenge in developing countries as this involves making available affordable and quality medicines to people living in poverty. Goal 3 of the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) seeks to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

It is time that the UN panel broadens the scope of the exercise to include issues affecting people and not just look at IP, which is a part, but not the whole, of the problem relating to access to medicines in developing countries like India.

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2. **[Govt will suggest states to frame own IPR policies](#) - Business Standard**

The government would suggest states to formulate their own intellectual property rights (IPR) policies to promote innovation and give a boost to state economies, an official said on Tuesday.

The department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP), the nodal authority regulating IPR-related matters, on Tuesday convened an interactive session on the national IPR policy. Industry associations such as Ficci, CII, and Nasscom were present. These entities suggested a host of changes to the IPR policy and the government's ongoing efforts to generate intellectual property in the country.

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- [Centre holds awareness campaigns on IPR policy](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [DIPP to suggest states to frame own IPR policy](#) – The Economic Times

3. **Opinion column: [Healthy India should be a bigger priority than 'Make in India'](#) – [Businesstoday.in](#)**

It's uncommon for anyone living in India to be unfamiliar with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, lung infections and cancer. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 60 per cent of deaths in India are caused by NCDs, i.e. many more people die from NCDs than from accidents, maternal and prenatal conditions put together.

The Government of India is aware of the critical and urgent need for action against NCDs and has taken some measures to address it. In 2008, it announced the National Programme for

Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) for implementation in one district each across seven States.

The writer is MD and CEO, Sanofi India, and President, [Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India](#).

4. [Doctor deficit: Coercing medical graduates to serve in rural areas won't work](#) – **The Financial Express**

If India's poor doctor density—a government report says the country has just 7 registered allopathic doctors per 1,000 population—wasn't alarming enough, a KPMG-[OPPI](#) report on access to healthcare states that 80% of these doctors serve just 28% of the country's population (largely residing in urban areas). And, that's not all—60% of the country's hospitals and 75% of its dispensaries, too, serve only this population. This skewed distribution's fallout is understaffed government hospitals and health-centres; this leads to increased spending on healthcare for people from rural areas as they seek out local private facilities—this, as per the NSSO, is a growing trend—or travel to nearby urban centres for treatment at a government facility. Given poor insurance penetration and shrinking government support—this covers barely a third of the expenses—out-of-pocket expenditure is increasing for the population with poor access. Those who simply can't afford these costs are being forced into extended morbidity.

5. [Govt to hire more inspectors to curb counterfeit drugs menace](#) – **Business Standard**

As part of efforts to strength pharma regulations, the government plans to step up vigilance on sale of spurious drugs by increasing the number of drug inspectors, a senior official said today.

"Despite increased vigilance on counterfeit drugs, nearly 2 per cent of these drugs are sold in the market. Efforts are on to strengthen regulation and increase drug inspectors. "Nearly 10,000 pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities across the country are monitored and inspected by national and state regulators," said Sudhansh Pant, Joint Secretary at Department of Pharmaceuticals in Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers here.

6. [Action between Boehringer Ingelheim and Gennova over stroke medicine moves to court](#) – **The Economic Times**

The Indian drug regulator has been taken to court over its marketing approval of tenectaplast, a drug now indicated for use in stroke patients by Gennova Biopharmaceuticals. Globally, the drug has only been prescribed for heart attacks, but the drug regulator approved the drug for use in stroke patients here after recommendations from an expert committee of neurologists.

Deep Das, a neurologist from Kolkata, has filed a petition at the Delhi High Court to challenge the process followed by the country's central drug regulator to grant this approval, a legal expert told ET. The case will next be heard on August 24 by Chief Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal. The approval of tenectaplast for use in stroke patients has been a point of contention between German drug maker Boehringer Ingelheim and Gennova—the biopharma arm of Pune-based Emcure Pharma.

7. [MNCs, domestic firms at odds over stent pricing](#) – **Business Standard**

A meeting on stent pricing on Tuesday turned into a battle between multinational companies and domestic manufacturers. A stent is a a long thin object put inside a tube in the body, for example a blood vessel, so that its walls stay firm or so that body fluids can flow easily through it.

At a meeting called by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), representatives of multinational companies like Abbott, Boston Scientific, and Biotronik pressed for special pricing for "next-generation" stents. "Multinationals want a higher MRP (maximum retail price) for next-generation stents," a source said.

8. [NPPA to celebrate Foundation Day on Aug 29 with focus on affordable medicines](#) – **Phrmabiz.com**

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is organising NPPA Foundation Day on August 29 with a theme - Affordable Medicines- at Vigyan Bhavan , New Delhi. Set up in 1997, NPPA is entrusted with the task of fixation/revision of prices of pharma products, enforcement of provisions of DPCO and monitoring of prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs. The NPPA and drug manufacturers have constantly been at logger-heads over price fixations.

It will start with lighting of lamp jointly by minister for chemicals and fertilisers and parliamentary affairs Ananth Kumar and minister for health JP Nadda. Bhupendra Singh, chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) will deliver the welcome address. Jai Priye Prakash, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals, ministry of chemicals and fertilisers will deliver the introductory address.