

1. [Judicial decision-making key to regulating property rights: Experts – Business Standard](#)

Judicial decision-making is the key to regulating property rights, predictability, economic growth and competition, which will facilitate innovation and competition, legal experts at a conference here said. "Every IP licensing arrangement or patent litigation process requires direct interaction with government officials. However, emphasis should be put to differentiate political environment and judiciary," said F. Scott Kieff, Commissioner, United States International Trade Commission (USITC).

1. [Judicial decision-making key to regulating property rights: Experts – Business Standard](#)
2. [With an aim of expansion, pharma companies like Lupin and Torrent eyeing overseas acquisition – The Economic Times](#)
3. [No. of India's TB patients may be double the estimate: Lancet – The Times of India](#)
4. [Pfizer to purchase antibiotics business of AstraZeneca – Business Standard](#)
5. [EGov: Healthcare gets a digital boost – The Financial Express](#)
6. [Universal Health Coverage : Why non-communicable diseases can't be left behind – The Financial Express](#)
7. [FICCI's White Paper: E-Pharmacy – Pharmabiz.com](#)

He was speaking at a conference on innovation, competition and intellectual property rights (IPR) issues pertaining to the information, communication and technology (ICT) sector organised by Jindal Initiative on Research in IP and Competition (JIRICO).

2. [With an aim of expansion, pharma companies like Lupin and Torrent eyeing overseas acquisition – The Economic Times](#)

India's top pharmaceutical companies are set to embark on an acquisition spree to bulk up their overseas presence. Lupin, Torrent, Zydus Cadila, Intas, Aurobindo, Dr Reddy's and No. 1 Sun Pharma are said to be examining proposals of varying sizes, cherry-picking those that can fill gaps in the product range. These companies are all looking at popular brands. They are scouting for niche manufacturing sites, promising experimental drugs, specialty firms in emerging markets and opportunities in the US, Europe or Japan, putting the industry at the verge of an inflection point, experts said. At the same time, a bunch of small Indian firms are also emerging as prime acquisition targets. The overseas companies on shopping lists include Brazil's skin care-focused Theraskin, which has attracted interest from Torrent Pharma and Lupin. While Torrent is seen placing bids for a long list of assets to catch up with its homegrown peers, Lupin has shown an appetite for snapping up acquisitions that it finds a good fit.

3. [No. of India's TB patients may be double the estimate: Lancet – The Times of India](#)

India's tuberculosis nightmare could be much worse than feared. A new study analysing the sale of anti-TB medicines across India has estimated that there could be two times more drug-sensitive TB patients than currently assumed. While it was assumed that India's annual burden of TB cases stands at roughly 2.2 million a year, the study to be published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal on Thursday pegs this number at over 3.8 million in 2014. This excludes drug-resistant TB cases. The study, jointly done by the Indian government, the Imperial College of London and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, confirmed what has long been suspected: more Indian TB patients seek treatment in the private sector than the public sector.

4. [Pfizer to purchase antibiotics business of AstraZeneca](#) – Business Standard

Pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca has agreed to sell its small molecule antibiotics business to Pfizer Inc in a deal that could be valued at more than \$1.5 billion. AstraZeneca, which saw off a \$120 billion takeover attempt by Pfizer in 2014, said the sale would allow it to focus on developing new medicines in its main areas of cancer, and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Pfizer will pay \$550 million upon completion and a further unconditional \$175 million in January 2019, AstraZeneca said. It will also pay up to \$250 million in milestone fees, up to \$600 million in sales-related payments and recurring, double-digit royalties on future sales of Zavicefta and ATM-AVI in certain markets.

5. [EGov: Healthcare gets a digital boost](#) – The Financial Express

Technological intervention is what the current healthcare system demands, especially amidst spiraling medical expense, poor infrastructure and low-quality healthcare. Internet and its applications has definitely brought a dynamic change in the industry, becoming one of the most promising sectors in today's time. What's interesting is the fact that the healthcare sector has also joined the bandwagon, followed by an unprecedented rise in medical aggregators. In India, there is only one doctor for every 1,700 people, according to World Bank Survey, 2012.

Hence, one of the greatest challenges India is facing is to provide quality medical care to the huge and diversified set of population, which do not have access to specialty doctors and physicians due to socio-economic and geographical limitations. Through IT-enabled platforms, such as web meetings and online video tools, we can bring medical experts everywhere. Video/online consultations are great tools to connect doctors in metro cities to the communities in remote areas. Such technologies break all barriers that stand in the way of quality patient care, be it geographical, time or monetary.

6. [Universal Health Coverage : Why non-communicable diseases can't be left behind](#) – The Financial Express

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have emerged as the leading cause of death globally. According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) estimates, NCDs were responsible for 70% of total deaths and 59% of aggregate disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2013. To prevent impoverishment of citizens, governments have endeavoured to provide enhanced and affordable access to healthcare services via the universal health coverage (UHC) framework. In September 2015, UHC deliberations led to the adoption of SDG 3.8—to achieve financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to effective and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Health systems so far, especially in low- and middle-income countries, are resource-constrained and are inadequately equipped to deal with the burden of NCDs. Essentially, UHC may be perceived as redefining the standard objectives of health systems—accessibility, availability, affordability, quality and viability—with a focus on better outcomes for the vulnerable sections of the population. A typical UHC model is hard to define as approaches differ across countries and health systems are constantly evolving, based on socioeconomic fundamentals.

7. [FICCI's White Paper: E-Pharmacy](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry had come out with a White Paper on the controversial e-pharmacy trade in India last month. The White Paper underlines the need for framing of a comprehensive set of guidelines or rules to legitimize the operations of internet sales of pharmaceutical products in the country. There are more than a dozen e-pharmacies operating in the country today with a steady growth in their sales. There are no rules laid down so far to regulate this new model of trading activity.

FICCI recommends to the government that with widespread use of the Internet both in the urban and rural areas of the country, the barriers of accessibility and affordability of medicines, especially for the elderly can be effectively removed. The Paper notes that India is experiencing a steady and fast transition in disease profile with increasing burden of non-communicable diseases accounting for around 60 per cent of the total deaths. Rapid urbanization and sedentary lifestyle, especially among the working age groups are pushing them to premature lifestyle diseases. The need to take medicines lifelong is an unavoidable situation because of this trend. Easy accessibility and affordability of medicines thus become the major challenge for the patient community.