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IPR and Innovation

1. [Mega trade pact RECP to miss 2015 deadline](#) – Business Today

The biggest economic partnership which India aims to join-the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)-between the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its six free trade agreement partners: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India will not conclude in 2015, as originally scheduled.

The decision to extend the deadline was taken at the third RCEP ministerial meeting held on August 24 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as there was no uniform progress in several of the key areas of negotiation. The member countries are hoping to conclude the pact in 2016.

Access to Healthcare

1. [OPPI concludes 4th Healthcare Access Summit in Mumbai](#) – Financial Express

Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) recently organised its fourth 'Healthcare Access Summit' in Mumbai. The day-long event registered key industry stakeholders and policy makers who discussed various measures which needs to be taken in order to improve healthcare access in India.

2. [Health ministry against task force proposal to hike prices of vital drugs](#) – The Times of India

A government task force has recommended changes in the existing drug price regulation which could result in a spike in prices of essential medicines. These include suggestions to pull several

medicines out of price control, which is likely to impact drugs used in treatment of diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular diseases as well as antibiotics.

However, the health ministry is against the revision of the existing price regulation. Though the ministry is yet to evaluate the task force's recommendations, officials in the ministry said it is unlikely to accept such suggestions. The health ministry, which has always maintained a stand in favour of a stricter price control regime, has also recently set up a separate committee to evaluate the impact of the current price mechanism.

3. [Govt launches Sehat telemedicine initiative](#) - Mint

The government on Tuesday launched a pan-India health initiative called Sehat in line with its Digital India vision. The initiative, which will be run in collaboration with Apollo Hospitals, aims to connect 60,000 common service centres across the country and provide healthcare access to citizens irrespective of their geographical location.

The flagship Digital India initiative is an umbrella programme that seeks to build digital infrastructure, provide government service on the web and mobile platforms and digitally empower all the citizens with an estimated investment of Rs.1.13 trillion over the next three to five years.

4. [Is Indian medical health care at par with the West?](#) – The Economic Times

Though there is huge gap in providing quality health care to all in India however there are some aspects for which government and health care professional can take pride. The first and the foremost being the shifting of medical care to the private sector. This lead to the entry of new technology into the country almost immediately as soon as it is available in internationally. Secondly increase in number of qualified and highly skilled Indian doctors. Already Indian doctors are preferred all over the world be it gulf, England and USA. In many medicalfields they are the world leaders and are involved in original research and innovation. Third reason is the inexpensive treatment. As man power is cheaper in India the country can provide quality treatment at cheaper rates in all the aspects of medical care for example: Liver transplant, minimally invasive surgery, Robotic surgery and others.

5. [TN rolls out master health plan for the poor](#) – The Hindu

In a major initiative on preventive healthcare, Chief Minister Jayalalithaa announced a comprehensive AMMA Master Health Check-Up plan in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday, as part of a slew of schemes. Making a statement under Rule 110 of the Assembly, Ms. Jayalalithaa said it was possible to cure diseases if they were diagnosed at an early stage. Since the government medical college hospitals already have the necessary infrastructure, the government had decided to launch the master health check-up as a pilot programme at the Chennai Government General Hospital. This will help those sections that cannot afford such tests in private hospitals.

6. [NITI Aayog against free health care, bats for more private sector role](#) – Business Standard

The [NITI Aayog](#) has objected to increasing investments and focusing on the public health sector as well as providing free drugs and diagnostics, as suggested in the updated draft [National Health Policy](#) of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

Asking for a revision, it has recommended that the private sector and insurance-based models be given a greater role in a public health system that would require people to pay for health services.

Medical & Regulatory

1. [Health ministry to amend D&C Rules to fix 60 days time limit for govt labs to furnish test reports](#)
– Pharmabiz

The Union health ministry will soon amend Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for fixing 60 days time limit for the government laboratories to furnish test reports on the statutory samples sent for testing, except in the cases where animal testing is required.

According to sources, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) of the ministry has recommended to the government that for prescribing time limits for government laboratories, a directive may be issued by the government to the state governments or Drug Control Authorities to adhere to a time limits of 60 days for furnishing the test reports on statutory samples by the government drug testing laboratories except in the cases of seras and vaccines and other such special products which may require animal testing.