

IPR and Innovation

1. [Cipla Chief: Don't Dilute India's Patent Laws](#) – PharmaAsia News
2. [Focus on Private Sector: India's generic drug wars](#) – SciDev.net

Access to Healthcare

1. [HIV, cancer, diabetes drugs likely to cost less](#) – Hindustan Times
2. [When US, UK doctors refuse to prescribe Indian drugs, it reeks of racism](#) – Times of India

Medical & Regulatory

1. ['Govt has no plans to control medical device prices'](#) – Business Standard
2. ['Strengthen research in pharma sector'](#) – Times of India

Others

1. [Sun Pharma US arm faces class action suit from ex-employees](#) - Economic Times
 2. [Investors meet in TN: Biopharma gets a boost](#) – Hindu Business Line
 3. [Large pharma companies to see muted growth in FY16](#) – Business Standard
 4. [MNCs see India as biggest marketplace for products: Saravana Kumar, LIC Nomura Mutual Fund](#) – Economic Times
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IPR & Innovation

1. [Cipla Chief: Don't Dilute India's Patent Laws](#) – PharmaAsia News

Cipla's chairman and anti-monopoly champion, Yusuf Hamied, has re-emphasized concerns around any potential dilution of India's patent regulations, given the possible ripple effects across the developing world.

2. [Focus on Private Sector: India's generic drug wars](#) – SciDev.net

Aaron Motsoaledi, South Africa's health minister, recently fired up debates on global drug policy by warning that proposed changes to Indian patent law could spell death for Africans who depend on cheap, Indian-made drugs. "We regard India as the pharmacy of the developing world," Motsoaledi said. "They were our heroes, and if they change their laws now, we will be in big trouble in Sub-Saharan Africa." Indian companies provide cheap generic drugs to countries across the world and account for 80 per cent of donor-funded HIV treatment — a set-up now threatened by US pressure. But Big Pharma should work with Indian companies and could even benefit by doing so.

Access to Healthcare

1. [HIV, cancer, diabetes drugs likely to cost less](#) – Hindustan Times

Medicines used for the treatment of life-threatening diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, diabetes and cancer are set to get cheaper. The Department of Pharmaceuticals is in the process of drafting a supplementary list of life-saving formulations. While in last three months, government has introduced about 87 formulations into the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which attracts price ceiling, government is likely to introduce 40 more formulations by coming December.

2. [When US, UK doctors refuse to prescribe Indian drugs, it reeks of racism](#) – Times of India

Greg Jefferys, a 61-year-old historian and author from Australia, hit international headlines when he flew to Chennai to use generic sofosbuvir to successfully cure himself of Hepatitis C. He spent 1/100th — just about \$1000 — the amount it would have cost him if he were to use the patented version. Jefferys has since helped hundreds of patients access the medicine cheaply from here. Talking to Rema Nagarajan, Jefferys strongly criticises big pharma and the patent regime that is putting life-saving medicines beyond the reach of patients and allowing companies to make 'obscene profits'

Medical & Regulatory

1. [Govt has no plans to control medical device prices](#) – Business Standard

The government has no plans to control prices of medical devices even as it continues to expand price regulation in drugs. The government wants players in the medical devices industry to follow self-regulation and refrain from charging unseasonably high margins. "Pricing policy is bothering both the pharmaceuticals and medical devices industries. The medical devices sector is at its infancy. Let it become a \$50 billion industry. There is no need for any apprehension at this stage," said V K Subburaj, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals. There is, however, no plan to ease the controls on pricing of drugs. Subburaj said the government wanted to allow market forces to decide prices of medical devices but asked the industry not to extract very high margins. "Many products are imported cheap and sold at ten times the price. High margins attract attention. Wherever prices are high, the industry should make it reasonable," he said.

2. [Strengthen research in pharma sector](#) – Times of India

The founder of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, Dilip Shanghvi, on Saturday exuded confidence that the Indian pharma industry has the potential to discover at least a couple of new drugs in the next decade. However, Shanghvi, who is also the MD of the company, said that for this to happen, the industry needs to strengthen clinical development and hone its research capabilities. He was speaking at the symposium 'DRILS Synergy 2015' organised by the Dr Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences (DRILS), here.

Others

1. [Sun Pharma US arm faces class action suit from ex-employees](#) - Economic Times

For Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, the run-ins with US authorities seem to be continuing. In the latest, the company is facing a class action suit over the closure of the unit's Caraco facility in Michigan six years ago. India's largest pharma firm faces charges of violating the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, which requires companies to give 60 days' notice before a plant is shut down.

2. [Investors meet in TN: Biopharma gets a boost](#) – Hindu Business Line

The biopharmaceutical industry has attracted more investments as compared to the traditional pharmaceutical sector, for the Global Investors Meet (GIM). M Velmurugan, Executive Vice-Chairman of Guidance Bureau, Industries Department (Government of Tamil Nadu), said Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology sectors have received a cumulative investment of around ₹4,000 crore preceding the meet.

He told BusinessLine that a majority of the investments relate to biopharmaceuticals, which use biotechnology to produce drugs from life forms like bacteria and enzymes. According to a report published by PricewaterhouseCoopers for the Department of Pharmaceuticals – Government of India – the biopharmaceutical market is expected to be worth ₹21 lakh crore (\$319 billion) by 2020, from ₹9 lakh crore (\$137 billion) in 2009. The report states that biosimilars, copies of original biopharmaceuticals products, cost 15-75 per cent of original versions and has the potential to bring in an additional revenue of ₹28,300 crore (\$4.3 billion) a year for India.

3. [Large pharma companies to see muted growth in FY16](#) – Business Standard

After exiting FY15 on a weak note, the pharmaceutical sector appears to be showing signs of improvement. While analysts expected little to change in the first half of the financial year, the June quarter has been better than expected. Lack of product approvals and regulatory clearances to facilities have been issues that have plagued the sector. However, expectations have been reset now and stock prices have corrected in line with that.

In the first quarter, most companies except Lupin reported operational improvement. A large part of this was driven by contribution by one-off product launches in the US. For instance, the quarterly performance of Torrent was boosted by the launch of gAbilify and Cipla's by gNexium, which led to a surge in operating margins during the quarter. Other than these two companies, most other pharmaceutical companies reported muted growth due to fewer approvals.

4. [MNCs see India as biggest marketplace for products: Saravana Kumar, LIC Nomura Mutual Fund](#)

– Economic Times

PSU banks will show improvement in performance, while duration funds will remain the best bet for investors. Saravana Kumar says he remains very bullish on India, in an interview with Sanket Dhanorkar.