

1. [For innovation's sake](#) – **The Indian Express**

In many respects, the relationship between the United States and India has never been better. A number of studies, including data recently released in the 2016 US Chamber International IP Index, reveal the relationship between strong IP protection and increased innovative output, as well as access to innovative technologies, medicines, entertainment, and software.

India's recently released National IPR Policy demonstrates the government's recognition of the importance of IP to

fostering innovation. The policy is an important first step, and the US remains committed to working with India to ensure its implementation strengthens IP protection.

2. [Govt to amend norms for fixing drug prices](#) – **Mint**

Ananth Kumar, minister for chemicals and fertilizers, promised to amend the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) in the next 15 days, enabling the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, or NPPA, to regulate the prices of around 350 drugs for which market data is not available. The minister was speaking at the foundation day celebrations of NPPA.

NPPA governs price control and DPCO is the order by which price control is enforced. DPCOs are issued by the chemicals and fertilizers ministry and issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, through which certain medicines could be declared as essential commodities and their prices capped. The National List of Essential Medicines, issued by the ministry of health and family welfare, forms the basis of deciding which medicines should come under price control via DPCO.

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Also reported by-

- [Government to amend norms in 15 days for fixing prices of 350 drugs](#) – The Economic Times
- [Pharma pricing body moves to recover money overcharged by firms](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [Shri Ananth Kumar Stresses Upon The Need For Affordable Medicines; Launches Pharma Sahi Daam Mobile App](#) – Business Standard
- [Government to Amend Norms in 15 Days For Fixing Prices of 350 Essential Medicines](#) – Bloomberg Quint

3. [IIP to set specifications for pharma packaging](#) – The Hindu

The Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) is formulating packaging specifications for pharmaceutical products that are exported to several unregulated and semi-regulated markets in Africa and Asia. This comes after frequent rejection of Indian pharmaceutical products from such markets due to the absence of regulations and quality standards that govern pharmaceutical imports.

“The government has asked us to come out with packaging specifications in consultation with the pharma industry so that products are not recalled on certain grounds,” said Dr. N.C. Saha, Director IIP. “We are working on this and will come out with the recommendations and quality standards by next year,” he said. The government will then notify the desired packaging standards which will be made mandatory for all pharma companies exporting to these markets. “We are concerned about the rejection rates in unregulated and semi-regulated markets,” he said.

4. [Centre keen to adopt Gujarat model of SMS-alert for 'unsafe' drugs](#) – Business Standard

The Centre is keen to adopt the Gujarat model of an online drug alert system through short-messaging-service (SMS) to retailers which basically alerts retailers and wholesalers about sub-standard quality or unsafe drugs.

Gujarat was the first state in the country to implement such a regulatory mechanism in around 2011-12. Here pharmaceutical stockists and druggists receive an SMS from the state FDCAs about non-standard quality (NSQ) drugs on the basis of test reports at the FDCA's drug testing laboratories. There are more than 27,000 pharmacy outlets in the state, and they can stop selling such unsafe drugs immediately after aberrations are detected in the batch.

5. [Pharma cos offer freebies to doctors, violate code: MP](#) – The Economic Times

A Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament has alleged that four drug companies have bribed doctors across India to push their products, violating the Medical Council of India's code of conduct. USV, Abbott Laboratories, Macleods Pharmaceuticals and Sun Pharmaceuticals allegedly sponsored "pleasure trips" for doctors or, in some cases, doled out cash in violation of the code of conduct. Tapan Sen, a Communist Party of India (M) MP, wrote in a letter to minister of chemicals & fertilisers Ananth Kumar. The letter dated August 18 was reviewed by ET.

The department of pharmaceuticals said in a report in July that there was a need to take up the issue in the interest of consumers and patients as such promotional expenses extended to doctors had a direct implication on the pricing of drugs and affordability.

6. [India to be amongst top five global pharma innovation hubs by 2020: Assocham](#) – Business Standard

To push India into top five pharmaceutical innovation hubs by 2020 and establish global presence by launching one out of every five to 10 drugs discovered in India at global level, the government is preparing for multi-billion dollar investment with 50 per cent public funding

through its public private partnership (PPP) model to enhance innovation capability, reveals the joint study.

The Indian Government has been very active in boosting growth and investment in Indian pharmaceutical industry. It allows 100 per cent FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) under automatic route (without prior permission) in the pharmaceuticals sector.

7. [Talks with Centre on price regulation of stents positive: NATHEALTH](#) – Business Standard

Discussions with the central government on price regulation of coronary stents, used in treating certain cardiac conditions, have been positive and a consensus has been arrived at with the government on implementing a scoring matrix for drug-eluting stents (DES), said Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH).

The industry body, which represents the top Indian and international healthcare companies, medical technology, health insurance, health IT and start-up companies in the country, has been arguing against the recent decision of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to add coronary Stents to the National List of Essential Medicines 2015 (NLEM 2015), bringing the product under price control, as medical devices cannot be treated through policies and framework made completely for pharmaceutical products. Besides, the report of the ministry has indicated its desire to bring other cardiology products under NLEM as well.

8. [Centre questions maintainability of Roche's plea against Cadilla's cancer drug](#) – Mint

An appeal against an approval granted by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) in case of a biosimilar drug would lie before the Central government, the Centre told the Delhi high court on Monday. The court was hearing the issue of maintainability of a case brought by Swiss drug maker Roche over an approval of a biosimilar version of a breast cancer drug being marketed by Ahmedabad based pharmaceutical company, Cadilla Healthcare under the name Vivitra.

Similar report-

- [Court battle over Zydus Cadila's breast cancer drug continues](#) – The Economic Times

9. [Nadda launches patients' feedback initiative 'Mera Aspataal'](#) – Business Standard

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J. P. Nadda on Monday launched the 'Mera Aspataal' (my hospital) initiative that seeks to empower the patients by seeking their views on quality of experience in a public healthcare facility, an official statement said. The initiative was launched at the third National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Facilities in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

10. [Lack of govt support puts pharma industry in MP in quandary, several SSIs closed](#) – Pharmabiz.com

More than four hundred pharma manufacturing units in Madhya Pradesh were closed within the last 5 years due to the state government's apathy in lending a helping hand to the struggling pharma manufacturing sector. If the government does not change the attitude, all the remaining small scale units in the pharmaceutical sector will vanish from the scene creating a situation where in the common people will be unable to avail essential medicines. The manufacturing units are helpless and the leading association in the pharmaceutical sector, IPA MP branch, is inactive on the government's lethargy, according to manufacturers from SSI units.