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2. [India files 34.4 patents as regards to per million people: Government](#) – The Economic Times
3. [MSF responds to new leak of Trans-Pacific Partnership text on intellectual property for pharmaceuticals](#) – Express Pharma

## Access to Healthcare

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2. [Government defers free trade agreement talks with European Union post ban on pharmaceutical products](#) –The Economic Times

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1. [PSUs in pharma sector will not be sold: Ananth Kumar](#) – The Economic Times

## IPR and Innovation

1. [Get States into the IPR policy loop](#) – The Hindu Business Line  
Beyond the Centre, there is a lack of awareness on how to create an ecosystem that spurs inventiveness. The Indian high technology market is assessed to be worth \$550-600 billion by 2020 in the areas of electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM), aerospace & defence (A&D), environmental technologies and renewable energy.
2. [India files 34.4 patents as regards to per million people: Government](#) – The Economic Times  
India registers 34.4 [patents](#) in regards to per million people as compared to other developed countries, the government today said. In a written response to a question in [Lok Sabha, Y C Chowdary](#), Minister of State in the [Ministry of Science and Technology](#) said, as per the World [Intellectual Property](#) Organisation's (WIPO) latest statistics, India registers a few research applications (patents) than other top filing countries.
3. [MSF responds to new leak of Trans-Pacific Partnership text on intellectual property for pharmaceuticals](#) – Express Pharma  
A preliminary review of the leaked text confirms that provisions that will harm access to medicines, primarily being proposed by the US and Japan, remain in the text. In addition, the text shows that many negotiating countries continue to object to the inclusion of these provisions, which will strengthen, lengthen and create new patent and regulatory monopolies for pharmaceutical products. MSF has called on all negotiating countries to reject any provisions that will raise the price of medicines and reduce the availability of price-lowering generic competition.

## Access to Healthcare

1. [State purchases many essential drugs in excess](#) – The Times of India  
Shortage of experienced staff and temporary employees has led to a huge disparity in purchase and distribution of essential drugs by the state government under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) for the year 2014-15. The Child and Family Welfare (C&FW) department and NUHM procured essential drugs and consumables worth over Rs 100 crore for all patients visiting public sector health facilities. However, a number of drugs have been purchased nearly four to five times more than the demand made by local bodies of 95 cities in the state. Of the total medicines purchased, almost 40% drugs may have to be discarded as they will be past their expiration date in a span of two months.
2. [India's missing patients](#) - Mint  
When one thinks of ill-health in India, one typically associates it with poor states with a history of poor health outcomes such as Madhya Pradesh or Jharkhand. So, you may be surprised to know that the highest proportion of people reporting illnesses last year was in the state of Kerala, widely considered to be an epitome of attainment in human development outcomes. Tamil Nadu, another vaunted welfare state, ranks just four notches below Kerala in that list, according to the recently published results of a national survey on health conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in the first half of 2014.

## Regulatory & Medical

1. [Government mulls providing over 50 essential drugs at cheaper rates](#) – The Economic Times  
Government is mulling providing more than 50 essential drugs, including those used in treatment of cancer and AIDS, at cheaper rates to a large section of the population, Union Minister Ananth Kumar said today. As of now, the government keeps a tab on the prices of essential medicines which are included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). "These 50-55 medicines are very essential and we need a bracket of such 50-55 medicines which should be provided at cheaper rates and are of good quality. Therefore the government is looking into this and exploring this," Kumar said.
2. [Government defers free trade agreement talks with European Union post ban on pharmaceutical products](#) –The Economic Times  
India has decided to defer talks with the [European Union](#) on the proposed free trade agreement in protest against the ban on about 700 pharmaceutical products clinically tested by contract research organisation GVK Biosciences. The chief negotiators of India and the EU were to meet later this month to start the stalled negotiations on the [Broadbased Investment and Trade Agreement](#) (BITA). The EU is India's biggest trade partner, with a bilateral trade of nearly \$100 billion.

## Others

1. [PSUs in pharma sector will not be sold: Ananth Kumar](#) – The Economic Times  
Public sector undertakings in pharmaceuticals sector will not be sold but their assets will be leveraged to make them financially viable, the government said today. Kumar assured government's full support in enhancing the efficiency and productivity of pharma PSUs. For the sake of health security, there is a need to re-energise and revive the sick pharma PSUs and the government is working on it, he added.