

1. [Institution Mechanism necessary to Protect IPRs : PHD Chamber](#) – Business Standard

National Conference on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) held here under aegis of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has recommended to the government that institutional mechanism is called for protection of IPRs in the absence of which remains the scope of piracy that goes on unabated.

In addition, the Conference also suggested that focus needs to be intensified for monetization of intellectual properties discovered and invented in universities and research institutions with their thick partnership with industry and industrial associations in the shape of final products with key element of innovation in it. It was highlighted during the conference that a vast majority of academic institutions and universities do not have IPR Cell for patenting the innovations and therefore, such cells are need of hour to protect and patent the properties for their commercial launch and gains.

2. [Device-makers upset over price cap on coronary stents](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The medical devices manufacturing industry received a jolt last week when the Department of Pharmaceuticals announced the inclusion of cardiac stents under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, a decision that had been expected since the inclusion of the devices in the National List of Essential Medicines in July this year. Unhappy over the decision, which is expected to bring relief to patients in need of angioplasty for blocked arteries, the Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) said: “The decision disregards the innovative nature of the medical technology sector that has evolved over the past 20 years globally and is still evolving.”

The prices of the stents fluctuate wildly, with drug eluting stents going up to as much as ₹2 lakh, and bare-metal stents costing ₹20,000-40,000, adding to the high out-of-pocket health expenditure in the country.

3. [Drug firms eye over-the-counter market in bid to buttress growth](#) – Mint

A fast growing market for wellness products such as health supplements and weight management products is luring traditional drug makers in India. Some of India’s largest drug makers such as Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd and Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd are

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3. [Drug firms eye over-the-counter market in bid to buttress growth](#) – Mint
4. [Activists cry foul over new HIV drug monopoly](#) – The Economic Times
5. [Government yet to bar companies from bribing doctors](#) – The Times of India
6. [1st phase of 'Pharma City' may commence operations by end of 2018: KT Rama Rao](#) – The Economic Times
7. [Need to encourage the medical devices sector](#) – Business Today
8. [We Cannot Overcome Our Healthcare Challenges Without Innovation](#) – The Huffington Post
9. [Flashback 2016: Healthcare firms ride the IPO wave; M&As flourish](#) – VC CIRCLE
10. [Maha FDA plans massive crackdown on WHO GMP pharma units for GMP violations](#) – Pharmabiz.com

creating a portfolio of over-the-counter (OTC) products. This \$3 billion market has hitherto been dominated by consumer goods firms such as Reckitt Benckiser, the maker of Dettol, and Dabur India Ltd, which makes the Hajmola digestive supplement.

“In India, there are a lot of regulations on prescription drugs but consumer healthcare offers a slightly more positive and open environment, especially on the pricing side,” said Subodh Marwah, vice-president and global head of consumer healthcare at Sun Pharma. “So, I believe growth potential, less stringent regulations, higher margins and sustainability are the reasons for this growing interest in consumer healthcare.”

4. [Activists cry foul over new HIV drug monopoly](#) – The Economic Times

Doctors and aid organisations have called upon the Competition Commission of India and the price regulator to step in to ward off the monopoly over a new HIV drug, dolutegravir, which received the approval of the Indian drug controller last month. Dolutegravir — sold by GlaxoSmithKline's Viiv Healthcare unit under the Trivicay brand — is considered the best-in-class HIV drug as it reduces virus levels faster and has a high barrier to resistance compared to previous line of drugs.

However, only one Indian drug maker, Emcure, will be allowed to sell the medicine in the Indian private market, because of a licensing agreement with Viiv Healthcare under the Medicine Patent Pool.

This is despite Indian generic makers like Cipla, Aurobindo Pharma, Hetero and Strides Arcolab having licence to sell this drug in nearly 50 other low- and middle-income countries. However, these companies can sell the drug through public sector tenders or through NGOs in India. Activists call this condition restrictive and anticompetitive.

5. [Government yet to bar companies from bribing doctors](#) – The Times of India

The government appears to be dragging its feet on clamping down on pharmaceutical companies bribing doctors with foreign jaunts, expensive gifts and even cash to sell their drugs. The Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) announced in January 2015 was to be made mandatory after six months. Instead, there have been four extensions, with the last one in September for an indefinite period. Given the fact that a similar code announced during the previous government's tenure in 2011 never became mandatory, health activists apprehend that this code too could fall by the way side.

In September, when an indefinite extension was given to the voluntary code, a senior official in the Department of Pharmaceuticals had told TOI that the delay was because the ministry was reworking the code to ensure it had teeth and would include penal provisions. The official also said all stakeholders consultations were complete and legal opinion too had been sought. Yet, three months later the code has not been made mandatory.

6. [1st phase of 'Pharma City' may commence operations by end of 2018: KT Rama Rao](#) – The Economic Times

Telangana Industries Minister KT Rama Rao today said the first phase of the proposed "Pharma City" near here is expected to commence operations by the end of 2018. Replying to a query, during the question hour in the Legislative Assembly, KTR also said the government is in possession of over 5,646 acres of land so far for the industrial park. The Telangana government had earlier said it would set up "Pharma City" which will have components and other related activities with regard to antibiotics, fermentation products, synthetic drugs, large volume chemical synthesis, intermediaries, vitamins, vaccines, drug formulations, nutraceuticals, herbal medicinal products, speciality chemicals, cosmetics among others.

7. [Need to encourage the medical devices sector](#) – Business Today

October brought with it the encouraging news that the Modi government is planning a major overhaul of the country's drug policy. The overhaul, if we go by media reports, will include some very positive steps like reducing the number of drugs under price control, doing away with the practice of periodic renewal of manufacturing licenses, and encouraging medical and drug research in the country. This initiative is being backed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), with two intents: help India emerge as a major hub both for manufacturing pharmaceuticals as well as innovation in medical research, and thereby stop further loss of pharma business to other countries, including China. Of course, this will also help address the twin healthcare challenges of affordability and access.

This is good news. In fact, Niti Aayog's view that the price control regime needs to be reviewed, as it is impacting investments negatively in the sector, is very encouraging. Their idea of evaluating negotiated price as a solution is definitely more sensible than fixed capping. That Niti Aayog is taking up this position, and the fact that it is receiving support from the PMO holds promise of interesting times ahead for the drugs industry.

8. [We Cannot Overcome Our Healthcare Challenges Without Innovation](#) – The Huffington Post

Medical innovation in the pharmaceutical industry has resulted in positive results that have undeniably benefited patients and their families. We depend on better and more effective drugs for patients to live better and longer lives. The development of effective medicines has helped eradicate some of the world's most dreaded diseases, such as polio and smallpox. AIDS and cancer are no longer the dreaded death sentences they once were.

Medical research, knowledge transfers and innovation are critical for us to overcome growing healthcare challenges. Everyone stands to gain from innovation, especially those suffering from HIV, tuberculosis, rare cancers, heart disease, diabetes, and vector-borne diseases such as dengue or malaria. The sense of relief a patient and his family members feel when they are told that a new life-saving medicine is now available, cannot be described.

9. [Flashback 2016: Healthcare firms ride the IPO wave; M&As flourish](#) – VC CIRCLE

Blockbuster initial public offerings and significant private equity interest marked an action-packed period for the healthcare industry this year, but warnings by the US drug regulator for several pharmaceutical companies and regulatory disappointment for the medical devices sector spoiled the mood. The sector also has several other positive highlights to look back on, including a billion-dollar inbound acquisition in the pharmaceuticals segment involving a Chinese investor, a big multispecialty hospital deal, the emergence of startups and easing of rules to attract foreign investment in pharmaceuticals companies. Healthcare firms have been riding on robust primary markets, which have had a glorious run ever since the BJP-led government came to power in 2014.

10. [Maha FDA plans massive crackdown on WHO GMP pharma units for GMP violations](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Against the backdrop of recent spurt in cases of non-compliance to good manufacturing practices (GMP), Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is planning to take action on two more manufacturers for non-compliance to GMP norms following cancellations of WHO GMP Certificate of two Maharashtra based WHO-GMP units - BDH Industries Limited, Mumbai and Sydler Remedies Pvt Limited, Pune. GMPs are based on a criteria involving factors such as sanitation and hygiene, qualification and validation, self-inspection, quality audits, suppliers' audits, prevention of cross-contamination and bacterial contamination during production, training employees and personnel.

The recent actions were taken on the basis of Technical Report Series (TRS) issued by World Health Organisation (WHO) as a part of its guidelines on auditing and verifying of compliance of WHO-GMP units. As a part of the crackdown, the state regulator also recently detected a Navi Mumbai-based firm for not complying to provisions of Schedule L 1 and Schedule M regarding GMP of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rule there under.