

1. [Pharmaceutical Price Controls Risk Future Cures](#) – Forbes

Recent reports of significant price increases for certain medications have ignited, yet again, calls for pharmaceutical price controls. If implemented, price controls will reduce medical discovery and diminish patients' access to life saving medicines.

Pharmaceutical innovations are improving the quality of life for many patients. Advances in HIV-Aids medicines, for instance, can now help patients effectively manage a once fatal disease empowering patients to live long and healthy lives.

Pharmaceutical innovation is also an important economic driver.

According to PhRMA, the trade association for the pharmaceutical industry, the U.S. pharmaceutical industry employs over 800,000 people paying, on average, more than double the average compensation for U.S. workers. In total, the industry is responsible for over \$790 billion in economic activity annually.

1. [Pharmaceutical Price Controls Risk Future Cures](#) – Forbes

2. [IPR policy to help India become innovative economy: Amitabh Kant](#) – Economic Times

3. [Patents filed not enough, says DIPP Secy](#) – Business Standard

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8. [NPPA's Pharma Jan Samadhan scheme gets good response, gets 295 complaints since launch in March](#) – Pharmabiz

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10. [Dr Henk Bekedam named new WHO representative to India](#) – Economic Times

2. [IPR policy to help India become innovative economy: Amitabh Kant](#) – Economic Times

The national Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy being prepared by government will help India become an innovative economy over the next 10 years, a top official said today.

Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Amitabh Kant said that recognising the need to scale up the process of IP creation and increase commercialisation of the technology, the government has embarked on the process of preparing a national IPR Policy.

"We expect it to be a visionary document that can guide the journey of India towards becoming an innovative economy in the next 10 years," he said here at a CII function.

Same article appeared in [Business Standard](#), [The Statesman](#) and [Moneycontrol.com](#)

3. [Patents filed not enough, says DIPP Secy](#) – Business Standard

Businesses as well as government institutions need to step up filing patents to safeguard their intellectual property rights (IPR), said Amitabh Kant, secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), on Wednesday.

Speaking at a conference on IPR by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Kant said he was concerned "domestic filing of patent applications has remained static at only 20 per cent of overall filings in the past few years".

He pointed towards government-supported research institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), as well as premier government bodies such as Department of Science and Technology and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) not filing patents on a regular basis.

4. [‘Drug cos use health camps to push sales’](#) – Times of India

Marketing personnel from pharmaceutical firms are screening people and conducting various diagnostic tests at 'free health camps' in return for prescriptions from doctors for their company's medicines, a report in the British Medical Journal has revealed.

The Medical Council of India (MCI) says the practice is unauthorised and that only a registered medical practitioner can perform screening and diagnostic tests. The BMJ report, published in Wednesday, says it has evidence that unlicensed employees from several pharmaceutical companies both Indian and multinational, including Abbott, Bayer, GlaxoSmithKline, Roche and Sanofi have tested patients at health camps.

5. [Research on Cancer Treatment in the Country](#) – Business Standard

The technological advances in the field of cancer treatment in various specialties are an ongoing process. The treatment of cancer is by radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery and palliative care. The State Government Health facilities and Central Government Institutions, such as AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, RML Hospital, PGIMER (Chandigarh), JIPMER (Puducherry), CNCI (Kolkata), etc., provide facilities for diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The ICMR has developed and disseminated guidelines for management of various types of cancers.

India has signed an MoU with National Cancer Institute of USA in which ICMR, AIIMS and DBT are the parties for cooperation on Cancer Research Prevention, Control and Management. India is also a member of International Agency of Research on Cancer (IARC) which is a WHO body for research on Cancer.

6. [Cant heal the world](#) – Hindu Business Line

The planned merger of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer with competitor Allergan, aimed in large part at cutting the combined company's tax bill, illustrates a troubling trend in the industry: Firms are focused more on pursuing near-term profits than on longerterm research needed to develop groundbreaking drugs. This is unfortunate, because disease may be making a comeback. Consider the accelerating spread of multi-drug-resistant bacterial infections. There are now more than two million cases each year in the US alone.

Last month, scientists announced that they had found evidence, in farm animals in China, that genes for antibiotic resistance are being transferred directly among different bacteria — a trick (known as horizontal gene transfer) that will allow the resistance to spread more quickly than ever before. Slow progress The pharmaceutical industry's reshaping doesn't bode well for humanity's ability to respond. Almost all antibiotics in use today were discovered between 1940 and 1960. Research progress since then has been almost nil. A few synthetic drugs such as the fluoroquinolones were discovered in the 1960s, but these haven't led to many other breakthroughs. Biologist Kim Lewis of Northeastern University, who has studied antibiotic development, sees the primary problem as the lack of any method for finding promising compounds.

7. [Drug maker was focused on profits, not patients Report](#) – Financial Express

The makers of a breakthrough hepatitis drug put profits before patients in pricing the \$1,000 pill that's become a symbol of the excessive cost of medications, Senate investigators said Tuesday. A bipartisan report from the Senate Finance Committee concluded that California-based Gilead Sciences Inc. was focused on maximizing revenue for its hepatitis C medications, even as the company's own analysis showed a lower price would allow more patients to be

treated. The lawmakers who led the investigation said it's a warning about what could happen with other innovative treatments for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and HIV.

8. [NPPA's Pharma Jan Samadhan scheme gets good response, gets 295 complaints since launch in March](#) – Pharmabiz

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)'s much publicized 'Pharma Jan Samadhan' scheme, launched for redressal of consumers' grievances relating to pricing and availability of medicines, has registered a total of 295 complaints since its launch in March this year.

According to a source, a total of 295 cases have been registered with the NPPA since its launch and the drug price regulator has disposed off all the cases so far. A total of 12 complaints were registered by the patients or consumers for overpricing, while 134 complaints were registered by the consumers for shortage of medicines.

The scheme is a web enabled system for redressal of consumers' grievances. It has put in place a speedy and effective complaint redressal system with respect to availability and pricing of medicines. It would serve as a robust e-governance tool for protection of consumers' interests through effective implementation of the Drugs (Price Control) Order 2013.

9. [Cphi India Pre-Connect Congress held in Mumbai](#) – Express Pharma

The Cphi India Pre-Connect Congress recently held in Mumbai, saw leading pharma experts discuss and provide unique insights on inorganic growth strategies, bridging gaps between regulatory authorities, transfer pricing concerns, the state of data integrity and the scope for biosimilars in the Indian market.

A panel discussion on 'Navigating the transition of India from a manufacturing hub to a global pharmaceutical innovation and drug discovery destination' was moderated by Utkarsh Palnitkar and the panelists were Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, OPPI; Dhileep Krishnamurthy, Vice President and Global Head-R&D, Piramal; Sudarshan Jain, Managing Director, Healthcare Solutions, Abbott Healthcare and Sharad Tyagi, Managing Director, Boehringer Ingelheim.

10. [Dr Henk Bekedam named new WHO representative to India](#) – Economic Times

Senior World Health Organisation (WHO) public health specialist Dr Henk Bekedam has taken charge as the UN body's representative to India.

Dr Bekedam, a Dutch national and medical doctor by training, has worked for 19 years with WHO as its representative in China and Egypt, Director of Health Sector Development in the WHO Western Pacific Region Office in Manila, and as team leader of the health sector reform project in Cambodia, a WHO release said today.

Other areas of Bekedam's strong expertise include health system strengthening, Universal Health Coverage health sector reforms, food safety, AIDS, tuberculosis, tobacco control and chronic diseases.