

1. [No respite for Big Pharma on patents](#) – Financial Express

Disappointed with India's new National IPR Policy, the US has upped the ante for a world-class patenting regime in India, but the Narendra Modi government has refused to undertake a review of the same in terms of changes in substantive provisions in the Patents Act like Section 3(d) and compulsory licensing, official sources told FE.

"There is absolutely no proposal to do it (diluting Section 3(d))," said a senior government official. Section 3(d) prohibits the grant of patents to new forms of known substances that do not result in enhanced efficacy. "We have received comments from stakeholders on the draft patent rules; these are under examination. Based on the changes, the Patents (Amendment) Rules 2015 are expected to be notified in January," he added.

2. [How changes in National List of Essential Medicines will impact prices](#) – Business Today

The health ministry has revised its National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) to include 376 drugs in the new NLEM 2015 list.

While a total of 106 medicines have been added, 70 medicines have been deleted to finalise the new list. Pharmaceutical market research entity-AIOCD Pharmasofttech AWACS Pvt Ltd - looks at the new list and compares it with the old one to understand the possible impact of NLEM 2015 on drug prices.

Broadly, it suggests that only 18% of Indian Pharmaceutical Market (IPM) by value will come under price control if the government decides to bring in all NLEM 2015 drugs under price control.

It used to be 17% earlier, and hence is not a significant increase in the span of coverage on the overall IPM.

3. [Govt. to amend patent rules](#) – The Hindu

The Centre plans to amend patent rules to speed up patent filing and approvals to give a boost to the government's ambitious slogans of 'Make in India' and 'Startup India,' a top official said.

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2. [How changes in National List of Essential Medicines will impact prices](#) – Business Today
3. [Govt. to amend patent rules](#) – The Hindu
4. [We need innovation and entrepreneurship beyond e-commerce](#) – Mint
5. [New IPR policy to go before Cabinet in a month: Amitabh Kant](#) – Economic Times
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7. [2015 Marks Mixed Trend For Pharma Sector](#) – Business World
8. [Health Min, IMA to set up working group](#) – Economic Times
9. [NLEM REVISION & DRUG PRICES](#) – Pharmabiz
10. [Health for All: Looking Back to Plan for the Future](#) – Business Today
11. [Despite budget cuts, science in India is surging ahead: Lesson is clear, govt should invest more in R&D](#) – FirstPost

Apart from amending the patent rules, the Union Government is also planning to outsource the job of patent agents to about 1,000 professors in various Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country.

“India has become the centre for research and development in the last five years,” said Amitabh Kant, Secretary Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). “India needs to be made into a nation of innovation, design for which patents are important.

“The government is in the process of amending the patent rules so that Make in India and startup’s patents are put on a fast track,” he said.

4. [We need innovation and entrepreneurship beyond e-commerce](#) – Mint

If sectors like healthcare are ripe for entrepreneurial disruption, then why is the reality different? The reasons are many. One, areas like healthcare require one to know the problem and the context deep enough. And, they are not as intuitive as a consumer tech business. We need to step out of our cities to where most of India lives to understand the problems. Second, many solutions that are readily available reside within research labs. We need to excite more inventors and scientists to get their research out of the labs to solve real problems. Third, many tech entrepreneurs who have built technologies are not aware that their solutions can solve the problems in areas like healthcare. We need to focus the attention of our entrepreneurs to take up these challenges.

5. [New IPR policy to go before Cabinet in a month: Amitabh Kant](#) – Economic Times

The draft of the new Intellectual Property Rights policy will go before Cabinet in a month's time for approval, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Secretary Amitabh Kant said today.

"India is becoming the centre for research and development. In the last five years, over 1,500 companies, multinational corporations have relocated their R&D wing out of their head offices to Bengaluru and Hyderabad," Kant told reporters here.

He said: "They are employing close to 150,000 Indians for research and development, but we have to spread this movement for Indians to register their patents."

Also appeared in [Business Standard](#), [India Today](#)

6. [EU to discuss ban on drugs tested by GVK Bio](#) – Hindu Business Line

The European Union (EU) has agreed to meet Indian officials to sort out concerns related to the ban on 700 drugs tested by GVK Biosciences earlier this year and reach an understanding for the future.

“The meeting with officials from the EU’s health and food safety department will take place in January. The EU had sent us an agenda and background paper for the meeting and we have already sent our comments on it, pointing out where we do not agree. This will be discussed in detail at the meeting,” an official told BusinessLine.

While there is not much chance of the ban on the drugs getting revoked soon, the January meeting will serve to set things straight for the future and ensure that bans are not enforced on the same grounds again, the official added.

7. [2015 Marks Mixed Trend For Pharma Sector](#) – Business World

India's pharmaceutical industry, which began the year 2015 with the implementation of the uniform code of marketing practices (UCPMP), has had mixed trends that had least uniformity when the year comes to a close. But, the year, though didn't give any major surprises for the sector, saw quite a few developments that would have a bearing on 2016 and the future.

While consolidation in the highly fragmented industry continued in 2015, the year also saw almost the same pace of foreign direct investments flowing into the country as it has been in

the last few years. And the regulatory challenges, mainly by the US, the largest export market for Indian drug makers, remained a big concern for the industry this year too.

8. [Health Min, IMA to set up working group](#) – Economic Times

Health Ministry in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) will form a first of its kind working group to evaluate and address the major healthcare problems in the country.

This was announced by Health Minister J P Nadda, who also sought help of IMA members to fight the major health battles being faced by the Indian population, during his address at IMA's annual Central Council meeting the NATCON 2015, an IMA statement said.

"This will be a great boon for the Indian consumer at large for now medical devices will become more affordable and accessible even to the lower strata of the society. We believe that access to healthcare is a basic fundamental right of each and every Indian citizen under article 21 of the Indian constitution and no person must die of disease just because they cannot afford treatment," Dr KK Aggarwal, Secretary General of IMA, said.

Also appeared in [Business Standard](#)

9. [NLEM REVISION & DRUG PRICES](#) – Pharmabiz

Last week, the Union health ministry revised the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) raising the total number to 384 from 348 existed in the NLEM-2011. The new list will be operational with immediate effect requiring their price fixation by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. Currently, only 348 drugs are in the NLEM-2011 and are subject to price control as per the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy 2012. But, after the announcement of the DPCO 2013, it was felt that many life saving medicines including anti-cancer drugs, expensive antibiotics and drugs needed for organ transplantation have been left out of price control. In fact, the prices of a number of essential and non essential drugs have gone up after the notification of new DPCO. And the government already admitted this fact in an affidavit filed in court stating that the market value and share of medicines covered by new DPCO is just 18 per cent of the country's pharma market. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, therefore, decided to constitute a core committee some time back under the chairmanship of Dr. V. M. Katoch, former secretary of Department of Health Research for reviewing and revising the NLEM-2011. The core committee submitted its report to the government on December 9 and after examination of the report, the government accepted the recommendations of the committee and adopted the NLEM-2015. In the revised list, a total of 106 medicines have been added while 70 medicines have been deleted as per the proposal of the committee.

10. [Health for All: Looking Back to Plan for the Future](#) – Business Today

In many of our urban areas, health-care facilities rank with the best in countries like the US and the UK. But problems start cropping up as you move away from the cities and deeper into rural India. Despite over six decades of effort, the Indian government - and voluntary organisations working in the field - have not been able to reduce the disparity between health-care facilities in big cities and those in remote areas. But now, technological advancements hold out some hope. Robyn Norton, Principal Director, Professor of Global Health and James Martin Professorial Fellow, University of Oxford, and Professor Vivekananda Jha, Executive Director of George Institute of Public Health, India, share their thoughts in this article.

11. [Despite budget cuts, science in India is surging ahead: Lesson is clear, govt should invest more in R&D](#) – FirstPost

India's achievements in space science such as low-cost inter-planetary mission to the Mars and multi-wavelength space observatory are well recognized at home and abroad. However, the work of scores of scientists working in several other disciplines does not even get mentioned forget the limelight. Their work may not be as catchy as a space mission but is certainly good enough to place India in the top 15 countries doing high quality research, as revealed by a new study.