

1. [Intellectual property vs competition law](#)
– Mint

Given that we just celebrated yet another honorific day on 5 December—the World Competition Day—I want to pose a fundamental question on the interface between intellectual property (IP) and competition law. To what extent should competition law be permitted to intrude into the hallowed halls of IP?

IP purists argue that IP regimes are good enough to internally sort out the negative fallouts of excessive monopoly power typically engendered by avaricious IP owners. An egregious example is excessive pricing or a refusal to supply the patented invention in quantities sufficient enough to satiate the market. It is thus that the Indian patent regime (and many other similarly situated regimes) stipulates that in such situations of abuse, the IP owner could be hit with a compulsory licence.

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2. [Trump's corporate tax holiday could spur pharma M&A](#) – Reuters.com

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's plan to incentivize U.S. companies to repatriate their swelling overseas cash piles could spur a new wave of dealmaking in a pharmaceutical industry seeking to buy its way into growth. For years, big U.S. drugmakers have turned to acquisitions of foreign companies to put their overseas cash to work, rather than bring it home at a 35-percent tax rate. Trump has proposed allowing repatriation of this cash at a 10-percent tax rate, hoping some of it will be spent on hiring and investing in their businesses.

However, drug makers are much more likely to spend this money on acquisitions that could revive their drug development pipeline by acquiring smaller peers with promising offerings, as opposed to risking more of their own dollars on research and development, corporate executives and dealmakers say.

3. [Pharma industry gets ultimatum to employee qualified personnel](#) – Daily News and Analysis

To bring the Indian pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry at par with international standards, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will seek only qualified candidates in the workforce. Those already working in the area will receive special training. “With effect from January 1, 2018, no person shall be employed in any pharmaceuticals/bio pharmaceutical manufacturing units unless he has obtained a formal diploma or degree in the relevant area, or has been certified by the Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council or equivalent organisation in the area in which he has

been deployed,” said Dr GN Singh, Drug Controller General of India. The Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) under the Union Health Ministry has written to all the pharmaceutical manufacturing units in the country to take steps for ensuring that persons employed by them are duly trained and certified.

4. [Global prescription drug spend seen at \\$1.5 trillion in 2021: Report – The Indian Express](#)

Global spending on prescription medicines will reach nearly \$1.5 trillion by 2021, although the annual rate of growth will decrease from recent years, according to a forecast by Quintiles IMS Holding released on Tuesday. That figure, based on wholesale pricing, is up nearly \$370 billion from estimated 2016 spending. The United States will account for up to \$675 billion of the \$1.5 trillion. When accounting for anticipated discounts and rebates to health insurers and other payers, 2021 net spending will be closer to \$1 trillion, the Quintiles IMS Outlook for Global Medicines through 2021 report found. Annual spending growth over the next five years is forecast at 4-7 percent, primarily driven by newer medicines for cancer, diabetes and autoimmune diseases in developed markets. That compares with spending growth of nearly 9 percent in 2014 and 2015 fueled in part by surging demand for new hepatitis C cures that has since leveled off. “After two years of unexpectedly high levels of growth, we are returning to a more balanced and sustainable level of expansion that we think health systems and payers will be able to manage,” Murray Aitken, executive director of the QuintilesIMS Institute which compiled the data, said in an interview.

5. [Stop portraying us as quacks: AYUSH doctors – The Hindu](#)

Taking exception to reports and programmes on the electronic media allegedly portraying AYUSH doctors as quacks, the State unit of the AYUSH Federation of India (AFI) recently said these doctors were qualified and registered. Addressing reporters, unit president N.A. Magadu, general secretary Mahaveer Haveri, RGUHS senate members Shrinivas Bannigol and others clarified that the federation supports taking action against quacks. Speaking about the framing of the curricula of AYUSH courses and the rules and regulations governing AYUSH practitioners, Mr. Magadam said the curricula is designed and approved by Central councils of medical education. The doctors are allowed to practice only after registering with the competent authorities at the State level. “And as per the curricula, they get training in allopathy as well as their respective systems of medicine,” he said.

6. [Jan Arogya Abhiyan on state lapses: ‘2 yrs on, Maharashtra govt unable to resolve healthcare issues’ – The Indian Express](#)

The two years of Devendra Fadnavis government has done little to alleviate problems in the healthcare sector. From their inability to tackle malnutrition to non-implementation of the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), the government has been unable to adopt a pro-active role in solving the grievances of the people, the Jan Arogya Abhiyan (JAA) said on Tuesday.

JAA is a people’s health movement. Talking to the media, JAA activists Dr Anant Phadke and Dr Abhijit More further pointed out that the number of severely underweight children in the state has increased from 78,473 in 2014-15 to 83,068 in 2015-16. The number of deaths of children under 5 years age in Maharashtra has increased from 4,101 in 2014-15 to 4,913 in 2015-16. The number of children who are severely underweight has increased in 2015-16, compared to 2014-15, especially in the districts of Amravati, Beed, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Jalgaon, Latur, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nanded, Nashik, Sangli, Wardha and Washim.

7. [IMA to propose amendments in IMC Act to avoid replacement of MCI with NMC – Pharmabiz.com](#)

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) will soon propose amendments in Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act to the Union health ministry, to avoid replacement of Medical Council of India (MCI) with National Medical Commission (NMC). The association has recently met the Union minister for health

and family welfare J P Nadda to highlight the issues that medical professionals may face with the constitution of the NMC. The health ministry has assured the IMA that the proposed amendments will be given a thought. The ministry itself has suggested the association to submit their suggestions that is needed in the current IMC Act, to avoid the abolition of MCI.

8. [IPA urges health ministry to end speculation over refresher course to be started for unqualified persons in medical stores](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Demanding the Union government to put an end to the speculations, arising out of the recent meeting between the government, AIOCD and the PCI, that the union health ministry is planning to start a refresher course for unqualified medical store workers, the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) has wanted the government to take steps to stop such rumors and ensure qualified pharmacists in pharmacies while medicines are dispensed.

The Association has written to the government in the context of certain pharmaceutical trade bodies approaching the union health ministry with a proposal for refresher course for non-pharmacist medical store workers to enable them to be licence holders for retail pharma business, sources from IPA informed Pharmabiz.