

1. [How patent delays are threatening 'Make In India'](#) – Business Standard

A patent application takes, on average, six years to get approved in India, according to an IndiaSpend analysis of 68,000 patents granted over the past 10 years, a process that threatens the innovation required for the Prime Minister's industrialisation push.

As many as 98% of patents granted in 2015 were for applications more than five years old. Compared to that, only 42% of patents granted in 2009 were for applications five years old or older. There was even a patent granted in 2015 for an application filed 19 years ago.

The average approval time for patents in the US and UK is three years.

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10. [Only 8 patents granted to Punjab University inventors since 2007](#) - Indian Express

2. [Government showcases low-cost medical innovations](#) – Economic Times

The government today showcased several low-cost medical innovations including home kits for measuring blood glucose, hemoglobin levels and real-time diagnosis of malaria, dengue.

The innovations have been developed by the Centre's Department of Biotechnology (DBT) as well as by start-ups supported by the government.

3. [Rational compensation guidelines, predictable approval timelines to lead clinical trials in India](#) – Pharmabiz

A series of developments in the recent past relating to clinical research in the country has to a great extent helped bring balance in the regulatory environment. The compensation guidelines are rational and more predictable approval timelines are likely to take shape with the expansion of the Subject Expert Committees (SECs). These were some of the relevant points expressed at the 9th Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Clinical Research (ISCR) in Mumbai from 7 to 9 January, 2016.

Over 400 clinical research professionals from across the stakeholder spectrum were drawn together to discuss and deliberate on the theme 'Clinical Research in India: Patients First and Research for India' and what more needs to be done to create a more enabling environment for the conduct of clinical research in the country.

4. [Subir Roy: Is there a coherent science policy?](#) – Business Standard

The Indian Science Congress, which has just concluded a session, has been described as both a circus and a highly useful gathering which helps scientists network and, critically, encourages and inspires young people into a life of scientific enquiry. However, all are agreed that there is excessive focus on the prime minister and his speech. This is an Indian phenomenon. An event worth the name must be able to call in a VIP and you can't do better than the prime minister. Since this is a given, can we make the best use of it? Can we look at what the prime minister has to say as a guide to the government's science policy? Does it have a coherent science policy?

5. [India poised to capture 10% of global medical tech market, says Minister](#) – Hindu Business Line

Highlighting that some of these innovative and 'affordable' products had received USFDA clearances, and about 51 patents had been filed, Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan said India was set to capture 10 per cent of the estimated \$600 million global market share of medical technology by 2025.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Vardhan said under the 'Make in India' initiative led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi innovation in health care and medical technology was of paramount importance.

Some of the products developed by the Department, in association with scientific institutions, industry and public health organisations, include "low-cost" catheters, scanning devices, bandages, diagnostic devices, orthopaedic tools among others, which have been in the making for the past 9-10 years.

6. [NGOs seek more funds for health care in next budget](#) – Financial Chronicle

Non-governmental organisations have sought doubling the budget allocation for the health sector so that free medicines and treatment could be provided in government hospitals.

In their pre-budget meeting with finance minister Arun Jaitley here on Tuesday, representatives from social sector sought higher rate of sin tax on tobacco products and alcohol in the 2016-17 budget.

7. ['Patient safety tops clinical research agenda'](#) – The Hindu

Nearly six months after amendments to clinical trial guidelines were implemented, changing the perception of India's regulatory system remains a key challenge for clinical research in the country.

Speaking to The Hindu, Suneela Thatte, president of the Indian Society for Clinical Research (ISCR), said while clinical research had picked up but its scale neither reflected India's capability nor did it address the country's need.

8. [Abraxis denied patent for combination of Taxane](#) – Financial Express

In a setback to US-based Abraxis Bioscience, the country's patent office has refused to grant a patent to the company's invention related to a combination of Taxane – a type of cancer drug that blocks cell growth by stopping cell division in the body – with an additional chemotherapeutic agent.

Abraxis Bioscience, a fully integrated biotechnology company which was acquired by Celgene Corporation in 2010, had applied for patent in 2007 in India claiming that the instant application suggests to solve the posed problem by combining Abraxane with an additional chemotherapeutic agent.

9. [DBT invites Indo-US joint proposals to develop low cost medical devices](#) – Pharmabiz

Under the Indo-US Collaborative Programme on Low-Cost Medical Devices, the department of biotechnology (DBT) has invited Indo-US joint project proposals from interested scientists, engineers and scientific organisations to develop low cost medical devices.

The Indo-US Collaborative Programme on Low-Cost Medical Devices was established by a Joint Statement between the department of biotechnology of the ministry of science and technology of India and the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) of the US on October 4, 2007.

The goal of this programme is to foster joint activities between US and Indian scientists for the development of low-cost medical devices; address medical needs in low-resource settings; and take advantage of opportunities and technological advances through the development of appropriate, low-cost medical devices.

10. [Only 8 patents granted to Punjab University inventors since 2007](#) – Indian Express

WITH A significantly low number of patents filed by inventors at the varsity in the last few years, Panjab University is yet to take off in the field of research applications. According to the data from the Centre for Industry Institute Partnership Programme (CIIPP) at PU, only eight patents have been granted to inventors from the varsity since 2007. In addition to this, 44 other patents have been filed by the university researchers since 2003.