

1. [Govt task force recommends stringent rules for online pharmacies](#) – Business Standard

Worried over the lack of regulation on the growing number of online pharmacies, a task force set up by the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has recommended stringent rules such as complete ban on high-risk drugs and mandatory licensing of the physical premise where such online orders are processed.

However, the task force's sub group - which proposed these regulations on Wednesday for generic ecommerce marketplaces - did not have a single online pharmacy as its member.

1. [Govt task force recommends stringent rules for online pharmacies](#) – Business Standard
2. [ICMR to revise clinical trial guidelines](#) – Press Trust of India
3. [USIBC Convenes Conference on Expanding Healthcare Access in India](#) – ET Health World
4. [UN agency to help India bolster IP enforcement](#) – Hindu Business Line
5. [Govt cuts health research fund by 25 pc](#) – Indian Express
6. [Model pact restricts MNCs' redress space](#) – Financial Chronicle
7. [Task Force asks govt to enhance access to safe, affordable drugs to address burden of communicable & non communicable diseases](#) – Pharmabiz

2. [ICMR to revise clinical trial guidelines](#) – Press Trust of India

In an effort to streamline clinical trials in the country, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) today said that it has taken up revision of its guidelines to create a conducive environment for conducting such trials.

"We are working on the revised guidelines on biomedical ethics and research as it is important for public health as well as for manufacturers and pharma companies to conduct clinical trials in India," ICMR Director General Soumya Swaminathan said today.

Clinical trials across the country came to a halt few years ago due to a case in the Supreme Court for bringing stringent rules and greater transparency into the process.

3. [USIBC Convenes Conference on Expanding Healthcare Access in India](#) – ET Health World

The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) in partnership with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and the Investment and Technology Promotion Division (ITP) of the Ministry of External Affairs is convening policymakers, global experts, industry leaders, and relevant stakeholders on January 14, 2016 in New Delhi for a conference entitled "Growing the Innovative Bio-pharmaceutical Industry and Expanding Healthcare Access in India".

4. [UN agency to help India bolster IP enforcement](#) – Hindu Business Line

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) plans to strengthen cooperation with India to help improve enforcement of intellectual property laws in the country.

"The year before last we had started an activity in cooperation with the Central Bureau of Investigation in Ghaziabad to create awareness and assess needs, together with government officials, of issues like this (improving enforcement and checking infringement of intellectual

property). I will talk with Indian officials during my present visit on what can be done to further the initiative,” said Louise Van Greunen, Director, WIPO, in an interview with BusinessLine.

Van Greunen is in New Delhi to participate in a FICCI seminar on Illicit Trade – A Threat to National Security and Economy.

5. [Govt cuts health research fund by 25 pc](#) – Indian Express

With revised estimates for rest of the financial year starting to come in, the Department of Health Research (DHR) has seen a 25 per cent reduction in funds at its disposal. In Union Budget 2015-16, the department was allocated Rs 1,000 crore by the government. However, now it has been told it will get only Rs 750 crore.

The DHR secretary, meanwhile, claimed that fund crunch and tougher clinical trials norms were adversely impacting critical research. “Finances are crucial to conduct world class research. Field studies too are cost intensive, requiring investment in manpower technology etc. Budget cuts across the board in the last few years have affected research. In the 12th five-year plan, DHR was allocated Rs 10,000 crore but only 50 per cent of that has been released so far.

6. [Model pact restricts MNCs' redress space](#) – Financial Chronicle

The government wants to hold the upper hand in dealing with multinationals. As cases of global firms seeking protection from government and regulatory action under investment pacts mount, the finance ministry has said that while negotiating such agreements in the future, companies should not be allowed any cushion on tax matters.

The one area where the government does not want to offer protection to foreign companies includes compulsory licensing of intellectual property, government procurement and subsidies.

If the Indian government decides to allow others to use intellectual property of an investor as per World Trade Organisation (WTO) norms, then such companies should not be allowed to claim compensation under BIPA for any losses they might suffer.

7. [Task Force asks govt to enhance access to safe, affordable drugs to address burden of communicable & non communicable diseases](#) – Pharmabiz

A high powered Task Force, constituted by the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) in December 2014, on 'Development of Manufacturing Capabilities in each Medical Vertical in Pharmaceutical Production' has asked the government to enhance access to safe and affordable medicines to address the burden of communicable and non communicable diseases (NCD).

“Cost-effective medicines to treat both types of diseases are available in India, yet they remain inaccessible and unaffordable to many who need them. Government needs to take up the responsibility to provide needed medicines in the public sector at affordable prices and in the required quantities. Scaling up manufacturing of medicines is not a hindrance for the robust domestic pharma industry players in India”, the Task Force in its recommendation to the government said.