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1. [Brand-conscious doctors give generic drugs a go-by](#) – Hindustan Times

IPR and Innovation

1. [Better innovation](#) – Business Standard
July 20, 2015: Most businesses lack sufficient data to inform their decisions pertaining to innovation. [Big Data](#) can provide clues about the past behaviour of customers, but not about how they will react to bold changes. As a result, managers often tend to rely on their experience or intuition in making decisions. But ideas that are truly innovative - the kind that transform industries - typically go against the grain of executive experience and conventional wisdom.
2. [Innovation remains a distant dream for Indian entities](#) – Business Standard
July 18, 2015: Data says of the 214,500 applications filed last year, Indian companies or academic institutions accounted for only 1,394 patent cooperation treaty applications. Data from the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organisation show of the 214,500 applications filed last year, Indian companies or academic institutions accounted for only 1,394 patent cooperation treaty (PCT) applications. While that was an increase of 5.6 per cent over the previous year, the number is dwarfed by the 45,090 and 25,539 patents filed by the US and China, respectively. A regional comparison shows India accounts for only 1.2 per cent of the overall patents filed from Asia.

3. [IPR is a means, not an end](#) – The Financial Express
The Indian government is preparing the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy as a presumed base for the unleashing of Indian creativity that will drive...
The Indian government is preparing the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy as a presumed base for the unleashing of Indian creativity that will drive the government's development agenda. But as the first of many reports by patent lawyers and the lobbyists of MNCs begin to emerge, it is already clear that the IPR policy will be about propagandising the interests of global patent holders rather than the needs of Indian people.

Access to Healthcare

1. [Drugs under price control: Increasing access not addressed](#) – The Hindu
The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's (NPPA) decision last week to expand the number of drugs under price control by a further 39 drugs has no doubt increased scope of price control but the pharmaceutical industry feels the overarching objective of increasing access to medicines is not being adequately addressed. **Price control on drugs, mandated by the 2013 Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) has not helped in improving access of these medicines in the country, IMS Health, a healthcare information and technology services company for Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) said in its report, "Assessing the Impact of Price Control measures on Access to Medicines in India."**
2. [CORRECTED - India expands medicine price control list to include 2 antibiotics](#) – Business Standard
(Corrects July 16 story to say two drugs added in price control list in headline and first paragraph, removes third paragraph, adds new second and third paragraphs). [India](#) has extended price caps to an additional two antibiotics, in the government's latest effort to improve the affordability of medicines. India's National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said in a notice that it had put price caps on the 250 mg strength of ciprofloxacin hydrochloride and the 250 mg and 500 mg strengths of cefotaxime.
3. [Medicines to be cheaper at govt stores](#) – Hindustan Times
July 17, 2015: Medicines in state civil supplies corporation-run shops will cost cheaper as the corporation has decided to hike the discount from 7.5% to 10.15%. Medicines in state civil supplies corporation-run shops will cost cheaper as the corporation has decided to hike the discount from 7.5% to 10.15%.

Medical & Regulatory

1. [WHO issues draft norms for surveys to assess drug quality & efficacy of medicines](#) – Pharmabiz.com
July 18, 2015: In an effort to ensure access to high quality drugs in the market, the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued draft guidelines outlining steps to consider when preparing and conducting a survey of medicines quality. The draft guidelines provide recommendations and examples of various methodological approaches with the advantages and disadvantages. WHO expects the comments on the same before September 30,2015. After this it would make a presentation at the 50th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations held between October 12-16,2015.
2. [Strict penalties for faulty medical devices being considered](#) – Hindustan Times
July 18, 2015: Penalties on manufacturers of medical devices may go up by over 50% in case of failure of devices and non-compliance to norms. The government, in the upcoming Drugs and Cosmetics Act Amendment Bill 2015, has proposed the increase in penalties, which could take the quantum over Rs 1 lakh. "While drafting the proposal the clear mandate was to align the bill with requirements of Make in India," said an official from ministry of health and family welfare. "Harmonisation of medical devices standards and compliance with the international

benchmarks is at the core of the bill (and section on medical devices).” The new section on medical devices will help bring the 14,000 odd devices under the ambit of the new law.

3. [IPC to test samples on spurious, NSQ drugs from 9 notified ports](#) – Pharmabiz.com
July 18, 2015: Around 350 drug samples collected from 9 ports as a part of the survey on spurious and not-of-standard quality (NSQ) drugs are in the process of being sent to the lab of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) based in Ghaziabad for final testing. Sampling of formulations and APIs imported into the country through its 9 notified ports recently being started by National Institute of Biologicals (NIB) will take three months time. Drug sampling done at ports in Delhi, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata in collaboration with Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad will cover 224 molecules under 15 therapeutic categories.
4. [Gujarat FDCA takes action on 2 medical device cos for flouting Section 18\(c\) of D&C Act](#) – Pharmabiz.com
July 18, 2015: The Gujarat Food and Drugs Control Administration (FDCA) recently raided two medical device manufacturing units in the state for making and selling medical devices without requisite license. These Ahmadabad based companies, SCM Orthocare and Zedac Orthocare, were found to be flouting the provisions under Section 18(c) of the Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Act.
5. [Govt should define role of wholesalers in DPCO 2013, frame norms for drug substitution: AIOCD](#) – Pharmabiz.com
All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) insists that the Union government would need to define the role of the wholesalers in the pharmacy trade and also provide clear cut guidelines for drug substitution. Following the omission of these in the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013, AIOCD is resolved to impel the government to deal with the same. There are also issues of no payment policy where the manufacturers do not have any time frame to withdraw the drugs labelled with old prices which should be at least within 45 days.
6. [There is no budget cut for health. We have money, states don't have a plan: JP Nadda](#) – The Financial Express
Union health minister JP Nadda rejects reports of rise in prices of essential drugs, and says the government plans a 'holistic approach' to cut tobacco use. The prices of essential drugs are decreasing. What had happened is that the western countries wanted an oversight of the Indian pharmaceutical industry and the Indian pharmaceutical industry has done tremendous work not only in India, but even in the African countries. We saw to it that there was no oversight of India and other countries as well, and we have tried to align drug policies in such a manner that prices do not increase. If there is need for any other intervention, we will do that too. As far as pricing by pharmaceutical industries is concerned, we are in close coordination with them to see to it that prices of drugs don't increase, but decrease.

Others

1. [Brand-conscious doctors give generic drugs a go-by](#) – Hindustan Times
July 18, 2015: The authorities at the state-run Doon district hospital said that they are keeping a tab on doctors who are not prescribing generic drugs to the patients but cannot stop the practice.

There was no other mechanism than to sensitise doctors to prescribe generic drugs and not branded medicines, said Dr RS Aswal, the chief medical superintendent at the hospital. “We can only request them (doctors) to prescribe generic medicines. But, we cannot take serious action against them. We are keeping track of doctors who are not prescribing generic medicines at the hospital,” he said.