

IPR & Innovation

Now, practice of awarding prizes to spur innovation makes its way to India, [The Economic Times](#)

Nishant Kumar does not mince words when talking about his long-term vision: "We want to be the Google of the medical devices industry." This 29-year-old engineer founded Embryo Technologies in Pune and immediately set to work on an innovative way of funding it. As innovations pick up in healthcare, a set of individuals are trying to tackle another serious problem: low levels of innovation in government projects. Since the government is expected to spend large amounts of money in infrastructure projects, some tech industry observers are trying to bring in innovation through attractive prizes. "We are trying to get the private sector or philanthropists fund the prizes," says Lalitesh Katragada, former country head of India products at Google.

MPP doubles its generic partners, adds more domestic drug firms [The Times of India](#)

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) announced the expansion of its network of generic manufacturers to 14 companies now working on over 50 projects to develop MPP-licensed antiretrovirals (ARVs). New companies Lupin and Strides Arcolab recently signed agreements to produce dolutegravir (DTG), a promising new HIV medicine the MPP licensed from ViiV Healthcare, two months after its approval in Europe. The agreements follow MPP's June 9 announcement of sub-licences with Chinese firms, HEC Group and Huahai Pharmaceutical, for the generic production of Gilead Sciences' medicines.

Access to Healthcare

Assocham suggests telemedicine to improve quality of rural health care in India, [Financial Express](#)

Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industries has suggested that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India Programme, telemedicine be reached to a vast population of the country which is still not covered with the basic health facilities. A sectoral paper prepared by Assocham on the issue said that the key issues which could make the programme a big success, would be costs and adequate availability of internet bandwidth.

'Rural populace denied access to healthcare' [Deccan Herald](#)

Nine doctors presented with 'Vaidya Rathna award' "Access to healthcare is being denied for a majority of the rural population, especially women, and so, they need to be sensitised and provided with health facilities," said Additional Regional Commissioner M R Ravi during the Doctors' Day celebrations, organised by Mysore Clinical Society, here, on Wednesday. After unveiling a portrait of Dr B C Roy, Ravi informed that hundreds of children are suffering from malnutrition in Mysuru even though crores of rupees is being spent on the health of children and various schemes are being introduced by the government.

Strike by 4,000 resident doctors will leave public healthcare limping [DNA](#)

Over 4,000 resident doctors from 14 government medical colleges and three BMC-run hospitals will go on indefinite strike from Thursday, following the failure of talks with the state Medical Education ministry. The Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) had conveyed a list of their demands in a letter to the state ministry of Medical Education and the Chief Minister last week.

Get well soon [The Times of India](#)

Public health care in India is overburdened, understaffed and underfunded. Analysing what ails government hospitals, senior paediatrician Dr Satish Deopujari said, "State-run hospitals are good, but

they have no money. Why do we have to subsidize education in government medical colleges? If these students are given 100% loans, it will ease the financial crunch at government hospitals and help them improve their infrastructure. In Sri Lanka, 90% patients go to government hospitals," he said, indicating how public health care system in the island nation is doing well.

Ethics & Compliance

'Medics dream of minting money as medical education cost rises', [The Times of India](#)

Consumer activist Asha Idnani has a pet peeve against doctors. "Why do they charge thousands of rupees from a patient for a post-operation visit to his/her hospital room when all they do is ask the patient how he or she feels, check the file and breeze out," she asked. Dr Abhay Shukla of the Network of Doctors for Ethical, Rational and De-commercialised Healthcare said, "The growth of corporate hospitals and the proliferation of private medical schools are responsible for distorting medical practice in such a way that costs have all gone up." Doctors in corporate hospitals are given a target of, say, admitting five patients every day. "So the minute a patient walks in, the doctor is wondering about ways to get him admitted," he added. Moreover, medical students in private colleges have to pay a donation of Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore for a seat. "Such a doctor will only dream of minting money," added Dr Shukla.

Health ministry to study foreign regulatory modules for consistent quality of drugs from India [Pharmabiz](#)

In order to strengthen the drug regulatory system in India, health ministry is currently in the process of studying a set of regulatory modules from regulators of foreign countries to create and set a benchmark in terms quality and good manufacturing practices globally.

Considering the fact that certain Indian companies have got critical global attention due to certain evasions, violations and avoidances during US FDA inspections in the last couple of years, government regulatory agencies have started emphasising the need to ensure consistent quality of drugs manufactured in India.

Medical & Regulatory

PM Modi launches Digital India campaign; asks why can't Google be made in India [The Economic Times](#)

Pitching India as the world's destination for the next big idea, Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) on Wednesday asked, "If Indians can work in Google. Why can't Google be made in India?" Talking about his dream of digitally connecting India, PM Modi launched his ambitious Digital India project. The project aims to create a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

New private medical colleges, pharma companies soon, [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Eyeing the ensuing Global Investors Meet (GIM), the Tamil Nadu government has come up with a new medical and pharma policy under which 10 new private medical colleges and several pharmaceutical companies are to be set up across the state in a phased manner, a top official said. The plan also proposes to set up a special economic zone over an area of 365 hectares. Land for the project had been identified at Denkanikotta and Hosur taluks in Krishnagiri district by the government.

Govt places highest priority on strengthening health sector: J P Nadda [Financial Express](#)

Seeks partnership of private sector to provide accessible and affordable healthcare "The government places the highest priority to strengthening the health sector in the country. There is the highest level of political commitment for this," stated J P Nadda, Minister for Health and Family Welfare while delivering the keynote address at the Health and Immunisation Conference organised by the CII, at New Delhi yesterday.

"Realistic health policy must to ensure healthcare to all" [The Hindu](#)

Indian Medical Association's appeal to government

The Indian Medical Association, Cumbum Valley branch, has appealed to the government to roll out a realistic health policy with a view to providing overall benefits to the entire population of the country, and to increase the allocation for healthcare in the Union budget to at least 2.5 per cent of the GDP, keeping in mind the increasing treatment costs. A Central Act to protect doctors while on duty and medical establishments from public outrage is the need of the hour, according to N.R.T.R. Thiagarajan, honorary secretary, IMA Cumbum Valley branch.

Health ministry to study foreign regulatory modules for consistent quality of drugs from India, Pharmabiz.com

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Karnataka govt sets up exclusive Ayush Drug Licensing Authority to bolster inspection of mfg units,, Pharmabiz.com

Karnataka government has set up a full time Ayush Drug Licensing Authority to strengthen inspections of the Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani and Siddha medicine manufacturing and marketing activities in the state. A notification via No. HFW 310 PIM, states that the government has now appointed an assistant drugs controller under Section 33 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and under Rule 152 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945. The Ayush Drug Licensing Authority is now led by Dr HY Rathod who will report to the director of department of Ayush. There are five inspectors supporting Ayush Drug Licensing Authority: Dr. Naradamuni for Mysore division, Dr Shiv Kumar for Bengaluru, Dr Arun Kumar for Belgavi division, Dr Eshwar Kaolagi for Kalburgi division and Dr Jana Goud for Homoeopathy.

Lack of inspection at ISM stores & companies poses threat of adulteration and spread of spurious dru, Pharmabiz.com

The complaint filed with Kerala drugs control department against the Chennai-based Pothigai Pharma alleging adulteration and admixture of 'sildenafil citrate' in their ayurvedic capsule, Sulthan Forte, establishes one fact that the inspection mechanism under the department of Indian System of Medicines (ISM) in Tamil Nadu is feeble and inadequate. Neither the department of health and family welfare nor the department of Indian System of Medicines is taking any positive and reliable step towards strengthening the enforcement of chapter 4 (a) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act which deals with Indian medicines, sources alleged.

Maha FDA asks Union health ministry to address short supply of human albumin, Pharmabiz.com

To address the shortage of human albumin in the country, Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) is planning to write to the Union health ministry to look into the issues associated with the availability, supply and shortage of human albumin. Country's drug pricing regulator - National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had also held elaborate discussions with the manufacturers in the past to address the shortage on an urgent basis. The drug pricing regulator has also approached the Union health ministry to look into the issues associated with the availability, supply and shortage of plasma, which is scarcely available and required on a large scale for producing human albumin at an optimum level.

The KIDS' Proposal, Pharmabiz.com

Drug administration has turned into a hard task to the regulatory authorities in the country with the growth of the pharmaceutical industry and with the incorporation of various amendments to the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and other statutes over the years. This job has become more challenging for the drug control machinery especially after India emerged as a major supplier of generic drugs to the world markets. Absence of a uniform implementation of various drug laws and directives by the state drug control departments is, perhaps, the key issue Indian drug regulatory system is facing today and that

needs to be addressed urgently. For meeting this challenge, there is a need for regular upgradation of regulatory manpower and infrastructure across the country. The Central government has, of late, started acting on this front.

Other News on Pharma

'Antibiotic resistance alarming threat to global public health, [Business Standard](#)

Former President of India A P J Abdul Kalam today called for an urgent and coordinated action across all government sectors and society to prevent the threat posed by 'antibiotic resistance' in health care. Speaking on the eve of 'Doctors Day', Kalam discussed about how the world was moving towards "post-antibiotic era", in which common infections and minor injuries, which have been treatable for decades can once again become serious.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[The New Indian Express](#)

Healthcare innovation challenge, [The Hindu Business Line](#)

HealthStart, a healthcare-focussed incubator, will partner with HITLAB to organise HITLAB World Cup India 2015. HITLAB World Cup is a global healthcare innovation challenge to promote spread of health technology-based start-ups to improve global public health. HITLAB is a healthcare innovation and teaching lab with a presence in the US, Ghana, the Netherlands and India. The HITLAB World Cup India will be held at IIT Delhi on August 7.

Team Trust + wins USAID Grand Challenge Award on Reproductive Health at second Jugaad-a-thon, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

Team Trust+ bagged the USAID Grand Challenge Award on Family Planning and Reproductive Health at the second Jugaad-a-thon to develop affordable health technologies that address reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) in India. The Team won the prize for developing a mobile platform for adolescents and adults that encourages effective communication about family planning. CAMTech and USAID awarded prizes to the top three teams across all categories led by Team Slow Forward for an effective video consultation for rural areas with low bandwidth.

IMA tells its members to work harder for nation [The Times of India](#)

As many as 2.5 lakh members of Indian Medical Association (IMA) took pledge to reinstate their commitment towards overall healthcare benefit of the nation on Wednesday to mark Doctors Day. The national body of medical professionals also directed doctors to follow several practices in public interest, including devoting an hour every week towards promoting the idea of Swachh Bharat-Swastha Bharat, providing medical concession to the elderly and eradicating discrimination against girl child,...

Why wasn't entire UNICEF report published, asks Ahmed Patel [Business Standard](#)

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel on Wednesday questioned the government for not publishing the entire contents of a UNICEF report on the state of child health in India. "I find it surprising that in October 2014, the women and child development ministry chose to publish only a part of this report, but excluded states such as Gujarat which has a chronic problem of malnutrition and child immunization," Patel said in a letter to Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi.

When in doubt, don't use antibiotics [Deccan Herald](#)

After love for the game of cricket, what can be the next best love we have? It would be a narrow miss for any other response compared to the love for indiscriminate use of antibiotics. Instead of using against only proof of germs invading the body, the implicit cliché in vogue is, "if you are in doubt, use antibiotics". Is this vindicated?

Antibiotics are substances that control the growth or kill micro-organisms. If used judiciously, these amazing drugs can benefit the infected person and can save lives. Otherwise, they are rendered useless

and deleterious in the long run particularly when uninfected people use for the love of it. This is called as anti-microbial resistance.

Pharmexcil south zone office to be opened at 'Pharmac South', inaugural ceremony on July 3 in Chennai [Pharmabiz](#)

The fourth zonal office of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) will be opened for the export promotion services of the south Indian pharma companies on July 3, at the inaugural ceremony of 'Pharmac South 2015', the second edition of the south Indian pharmaceutical products exhibition.

The two-day event will be held at the Chennai Trade Centre on the 3rd and 4th of this month and is expected that the exhibition will bring participants from all the six south Indian states and give exposure to more than one hundred manufacturing companies to showcase their products.

Centre asks Delhi hospitals to gear up for dengue outbreak [DNA](#) -

The government has asked all the central government-run hospitals in Delhi including AIIMS to "buckle up" to tackle an outbreak of dengue during the monsoon season and prepare an action plan within a week to combat the vector-borne disease. Union Health Minister J P Nadda chaired a review meeting with the Medical Superintendents (MS) of AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital and asked them to make assessments of availability of blood and testing kits. He also asked the hospitals to run awareness campaigns at their own level.
