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2. [The missing discovery: CSIR's open source drug development making waves everywhere except India](#) – The Economic Times

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3. [DCGI needs to examine branded drugs in circulation: Dr BR Jagashetty](#) – Pharmabiz.com

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## IPR and Innovation

1. [Low on innovation](#) – Business Standard  
A sharp recent speech by [Infosys](#) co-founder [N R Narayana Murthy](#) has once again raised the question: what ails Indian innovation?

In one way, India's low score in global surveys of innovation should not be surprising, since such surveys draw heavily on the number of patent applications filed. But, given India's relatively idiosyncratic approach to intellectual property, the incentive to research and file patents is not great enough. Nor can there be any dispute about the need to improve the intellectual property administration. Infringements, as also applications for patents, have to be dealt with swiftly. Research collaboration between industry and academia has to improve and for that the foremost need is to improve the quality of higher education and research institutions in the country.

2. [The missing discovery: CSIR's open source drug development making waves everywhere except India](#) – The Economic Times

It is an idea that has not set the country on fire, but has been noticed all over the world. For a few years now, it has been knocking at the doors of international technology awards, but losing out in the end to far more extraordinary innovations. It has also been among the few, if not the only, ideas from India to get an entire session at an American Chemical Society meeting. It is called the Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD) model. With a bit of luck and commitment, it could break new ground in drug discovery and development.

## Access to Healthcare

1. [Health problems second largest cause of suicides in India](#) – The Times of India  
According to NCRB data for 2014, various kinds of illness accounted for 18% of suicides during 2014, whereas bankruptcy or indebtedness- considered a major reason behind farmer deaths - accounted for only 1.8% of suicides. Farmer deaths may hog the headlines, but the latest National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data feature health issues or illness as the second largest cause of suicides in the country after family problems.
2. [NHRC issues notices to Union Health Secy, Delhi Chief Secy](#) – Business Standard  
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Union Health Secretary and [Delhi](#) Chief Secretary over the reportedly pathetic conditions of patients awaiting treatment in the hospitals here. The commission has also sought a report on the matter within four weeks. "Taking a serious view of the pathetic condition of the patients awaiting treatment in Delhi Hospitals, as reported by media, [NHRC](#) has issued notices to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Chief Secretary, Delhi Government calling for reports on the steps being taken to address this precarious situation," the commission said in a statement today.

## Medical & Regulatory

1. [In 90 days, 35 firms given notices over sub-standard medicines](#) – The Times of India  
Sub-standard medicines are flooding the medicine market. In the past three months, notices have been issued to 35 drug manufacturing companies for allegedly manufacturing drugs of sub-standard quality and supplying them in the state. From July 1 to July 15, four more drugs were declared as not of standard quality after test. The drug controller immediately issued direction to ensure that the stock of these drugs are not consumed anymore and appropriate safeguard to the consumers is provided by withdrawing the available stock and take action as per provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. Sub-standard medicines are flooding the medicine market. In the past three months, notices have been issued to 35 drug manufacturing companies for allegedly manufacturing drugs of sub-standard quality and supplying them in the state.
2. [IPC recommends caution on 3 life saving drugs in market to CDSCO based on ADRs](#) - Pharmabiz.com  
Indian Pharmacopeia Commission's (IPCs) signal review panel recently submitted strategic recommendation to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on the 3 important life saving drugs running in the market. These reports were submitted based on the detailed observation made by the expert panel following the adverse drug reaction (ADR) report generated from different ADR centres across the country.
3. [DCGI needs to examine branded drugs in circulation: Dr BR Jagashetty](#) – Pharmabiz.com  
Union government should take a serious view on the existence of large number of branded drugs as these branded drugs are in market despite government directions against them. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on October 1, 2012 under section 33(P) of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, has intimated all state health secretaries and drugs controllers to grant and renew manufacturing licenses of drug formulations in proper generic name only said, Dr BR Jagashetty, former national advisor ( drugs control) to ministry of health & family welfare, and former Karnataka drugs controller.

## Others

1. [Indian pharma players are yet to become digital savvy: report](#) – Business Standard  
Indian pharmaceutical companies, particularly homegrown players, are yet to catch up with the usage of digital media in terms of presence and engagement even as practitioners are increasingly using the medium to access treatment information. Indian Pharma Digital Health Report 2015, a study released on Wednesday by digital media firm D Yellow Elephant, covering 40 companies in India across 10 key digital parameters ranging across websites, apps and 10 social media platforms, says most companies are reluctant to engage with their stakeholders digitally.
2. [Two ends of the pharma spectrum](#) - Mint  
There were two pieces of news in the same sector that caught the eye this week. One told the story of how a French teenager has been effectively cured of AIDS, thanks to early use of drugs made by [Gilead Sciences Inc.](#) and [GlaxoSmithKline Plc.](#) The other news was far from good—[Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd](#), Asia's largest generics drugmaker, said revenue for 2016 could decline as it struggles to fix manufacturing problems at some of its plants.
3. [Electricity outages leave medicines powerless](#) – The Times of India  
The power outages in the country are having a unique side-effect. Several life-saving drugs that need to be stored in refrigerators or in a cool place are losing their effectiveness and expiring quickly in pharmacies across the country due to lack of power back-up during outages. "Power cuts are an inevitable phenomenon, but it is also a fact that the efficacy of medicines is considerably lost when they are not stored as per prescribed conditions. Such medicines, when sold even before their normal expiry date, are not yielding the desired results for patients," said J S Shinde, AIOCD national president.