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IPR and Innovation

1. [India rejects Swiss drug maker Roche Patent claims on Valcyte again](#) – The Economic Times
Indian authorities have for the second time rejected Swiss drug maker Roche's patent claims on valganciclovir, or Valcyte, used to treat an eye infection affecting AIDS patients. The Indian Patent Office in a ruling on July 1 dismissed Roche's patent pleas mainly on grounds of "obviousness" and Sec 3(d) of the Indian Patent Act, which denies claims to incremental innovations if therapeutically significant efficacy is not proven.
2. [Policy flip-flops? No way](#) – The Hindu Business Line
There has been no trade-off with the US on food security and IPR laws, says the commerce minister. In the article, 'Tripping up on sloppy policy flip-flops' (July 21), Rajrishi Singhal commented on the functioning of the government alleging that "its actions seem inconsistent", characterised by "policy backtracking". Since the author has made such sweeping judgments about the government, a rejoinder is in order to prove why his claims are terribly misplaced.
3. [Filing patents not a priority for Indian innovators yet](#) – The Asian Age
Despite the booming startup market in India, India ranks 8th in patent filing, where 75 percent of patents are filed from U.S. According to the latest data provided by the Office of the

Controller General of Patents, Design, Trademarks and Geographical Indications, only one Indian entity features on the list of the top 10 recipients of Indian patents. World Intellectual Property Organization's statistics show that India filed for only 1,394 patents in 2014, while China filed 25,539 and the patents filed in the U.S. reached around 61,492. Ameen Sayeed, the founder of Waferlabs a Bangalore-based startup, that created a phone-to-phone charger, a unique 10 gram device that aims to solve the emergency charging problem, said that he was in the process of filing a patent for the device, but realized that the process of cumbersome and time-consuming. "We pretty much believed the myth that patent filing involved a lot of money and time. But it gets easier if you involve experts help" Sayeed said. GrowthEnabler, a startup mentoring organization, does not emphasize the need of filing patents as a part of mentoring businesses. Their reason—it's very simple to break a patent.

Access to Healthcare

1. [Access to affordable medicines in middle incomes countries under threat: MSF](#) – The Financial Express

At the International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) warned that middle-income countries (MICs), which will be home to 70 per cent of people living with HIV by 2020, face increasing threats to their ability to access affordable generic medicines, which are crucial to countries' ability to reach the global UNAIDS 90/90/90 targets.

Leena Menghaney, Head of MSF's Access Campaign in South Asia said, "Multiple threats on MICs are converging to form an unprecedented assault on access to medicines. Amongst other threats, some of the most acute come from trading partners – like the US and Japan – who seek to impose intellectual property rules that will block access to generic medicines; and from several donor agencies, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, whose discriminatory policies are moving towards reducing funding for MICs at a time when global HIV targets call for increasing the pace of treatment scale-up."

2. [Over-dependence on state govts & poor supply chain management reasons for failure of Jan Aushadhi: Study](#) – Pharmabiz.com

A study conducted by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) has found that over dependence on support from state governments and poor supply chain management are main reasons for the failure of the department of pharmaceuticals' (DoP's) ambitious 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme', launched by the department way back in 2008.

Against a target of more than 1000 stores, just 182 Jan Aushadhi stores have been opened across 16 states/UTs, out of which only 111 stores are in operation as on 13.07.2015. As the scheme was progressing at a snail's pace, the PHFI was asked by the DoP to study the scheme and suggest remedial measures.

Medical & Regulatory

1. [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.

2. [SC order on drug pricing welcome](#) – Deccan Herald

The Supreme Court has done well to ask the Central government to review its drug pricing policy which it has termed as unreasonable and irrational. It is not the first time that the court has addressed the issue of drug pricing on the basis of petitions from social organisations which have campaigned to make drugs, especially essential medicines, affordable to common people. Last year also, the court had criticised the government for dilly-dallying on formulating a sound pricing policy which would ensure that essential drugs are within the reach of the poor people. Many committees, including parliamentary panels, have gone into the matter and made suggestions but there is still no effective policy which would protect the interests of all patients who need the drugs. The court has said that it is not the best judge of prices but it noted the unjustifiably high prices of many drugs, which were brought to its attention.

3. [DCC 48th session to discuss on e-pharmacy, govt labs test timelines, diclofenac monitoring among other issues](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The 48th session of the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) to be held on July 24, 2015 at New Delhi is gearing up to deliberate on concerns and proposals put forth by state licensing authorities (SLAs) to create an efficient and transparent regulatory environment. There is also a separate set of suggestions put forth by the various SLAs including Maharashtra, Goa, Odhisha. The session which is to be chaired by Dr. GN Singh, Drugs Controller General of India will have Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) along with the Directorate General of Health Services and ministry of health and family welfare to be part of the deliberations.

Others

1. [Governor Pitches for Minimum Support Price to Aam Admi](#) – Pharmabiz.com

A system of giving a specified amount to the people towards their health expenses on the lines of minimum support price given to farmers should be introduced in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, said Governor ESL Narasimhan. “Indian health sector is growing at a tremendous pace. But it is also facing the challenges of accessibility and affordability. doctors, pharma entrepreneurs and government should focus on taking health facilities closer to the people as still, a large section of the population lives in rural areas,” said Robert Wah.