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## IPR and Innovation

1. [Innovations will help better health services in India: JP Nadda](#) – The Economic Times  
NEW DELHI: Union Health Minister [JP Nadda](#) today appealed to states to give "priority" to innovations and adopt best practices for achieving "superior outcomes" in the health care sector of the country.

"Superior outcomes in health care in India will be better achieved with innovations in health practices and

products, and I urge states to give priority to innovations and best practices," Nadda said.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the three-day national summit on 'Best Practices and Innovations in Healthcare in India' in Shimla today.

2. [Six years on, IPR academy still on paper](#) – The Times of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A proposal mooted six years ago for an intellectual property rights (IPR) academy in the state and announced by the government after an in-principle approval still remains on paper. It was part of the draft IPR policy of the state and the government had declared that it would be finalized and implemented soon.

It may be recalled that governor R L Bhatia had, in 2012, announced in the assembly that the draft IPR policy would be finalised soon while finance minister K M Mani had stated that the proposal would be speeded up.

The draft IPR policy of the state had envisaged to create an enabling environment that recognizes and values creativity and innovation while preventing the private appropriation of traditional knowledge.

3. [US to collaborate with India to advance research on cancer, anti microbial resistance and occupational health](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The US is considering India to advance much of its research and development efforts in the area of cancer, anti microbial resistance, environmental-occupational health and related injury prevention.

The partnerships with institutes and healthcare providers are an effort to take drug development and treatment modalities in cancer and anti microbial resistance to a new realm in the Indian healthcare landscape.

4. [State Lax in Linking Products with GI](#) – The New Indian Express

KOCHI: Though Kerala is renowned for its unique bio-diversity and rich natural resources, it has been lax in efforts to protect its natural products and industrial skills by registering them with the unique GI registry of India. The state, which shared the top position along with West Bengal and undivided Andhra Pradesh in the 2003-04 period, has dropped to the third spot in the number of products registered with the Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) of India.

First in the list is Karnataka, which has registered 33 products. Coming a close second is Tamil Nadu, with 24 GI products to its credit. Kerala could register only 22 products with the registry, since the introduction of protecting Intellectual Property (IP) rights in the country in 2003. So far, 235 products have found their way to the registry and the GI tag, which is an IP tag on natural and industrial products and traditional skills that is associated with a particular place of origin, and conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness.

#### Access

1. [App launched to map assets of gram panchayats](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The Rural Development Ministry on Thursday launched a mobile App (m-Asset) to map physical assets such as schools, primary health centres, among others of over two lakh gram panchayats.

"This is the government's bid to "electronically unify" the country under the Digital India mission and directly engage with citizens," Rural Development Minister Rao Birender Singh said while launching the App, designed by National Informatics Centre.

The App, initially available in English, can be used by citizens to capture photographs and geographical coordinates (latitude, longitude) of various assets at the gram panchayat level...and will be useful for planning by panchayats and government, the Ministry said.

2. [24X7 helpline on health sector launched](#) - The Economic Times

NEW DELHI: Getting health tips and information on diseases is now just a call away as the government today launched a 24-hour toll free [helpline](#) to enable people to get details about various health issues, policies and programmes.

Union Health Minister [J P Nadda](#) today unveiled a voice web of National Health Portal (NHP) during the inauguration of a three-day national summit in Shimla, a day after Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) launched [Digital India Week](#).

"The NHP Voice Web is a 24X7 toll free helpline wherein the caller can get authentic health information on various topics ranging from handy health tips, disease based information, government health policies and programmes, health facilities, career options for students and other health related information," an official statement said.

3. [Ambulances must reach every corner of state: Minister](#) – The Times of India

NAGPUR: The minister of state for health Ram Shinde has directed the public health department to reorganize the ambulance service 108 in the state in order to reach it to remotest parts of the state and even during natural calamities like floods.

Shinde was in city for a review of health services in Nagpur circle covering six districts. The minister suggested the ambulances should be relocated in a manner that no one is stuck up due floods in their village. During monsoon, he said the ambulances should be placed such that they could reach patients to the nearest hospital in case of flooding in rivers and nullahs.

Dr Sanjay Jaiswal, deputy director health services (DDHS) and Dr Purushottam Madavi, assistant DDHS presented the complete scenario of the Maharashtra Emergency Medical Services (MEMS) in Nagpur circle to the minister.

4. [SBTC directs hospitals to make blood available to patients in need](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Against the backdrop of hospitals facing acute shortage of blood in the state, the State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) has issued directions to the hospitals to arrange for blood for patients in need and not to hold them responsible if they can't arrange for it. According to the National Blood Policy, hospitals have to arrange for blood, an SBTC official stated.

Relatives can approach the SBTC, said an official, if any hospital is found flouting rules and can approach it for redressal of their grievances.

In order to bring in more accountability towards making safer blood available at the point of care, Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the past had suspended the licenses of 7 blood banks and cancelled one based on 369 inspections done during 2013-14 across Maharashtra. The state today has 303 blood banks and 3 cord blood banks.

## Ethics & Compliance

1. [Healthcare professionals adopt new ethical principles for times of unrest](#) – Financial Express

*The new code of ethics can be used as a significant negotiation tool for healthcare personnel*

An important step towards the protection of healthcare workers and patients in situations of unrest was taken yesterday evening when major global organisations for doctors, nurses and pharmacists adopted a set of new ethical principles.

'Ethical principles of healthcare in times of armed conflict and other emergencies' is a first-of-its-kind code of ethics that provides a common core for these healthcare professions. Organisations signing the code in Geneva, Switzerland, last night were the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Committee of Military Medicine and the International Federation of Medical Students Association, representing over 30 million healthcare workers.

## Medical & Regulatory

1. [Pharmaceutical sector's outlook looks positive on better regulatory compliance](#) - Mint

Indian pharmaceuticals market is third largest in terms of volume and thirteenth largest in terms of value. The sector accounts for about 1.4 per cent of the global pharmaceutical industry in value terms and 10 per cent in volume terms. The country's pharmaceutical industry is expected to expand at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.5 per cent over 2009-2020 to reach \$55 billion. With 72 per cent of market share (in terms of revenues), generic drugs forms the largest segment of the Indian pharmaceutical sector.

Patented drugs worth around \$170 billion is expected to go off by 2015, leading to a huge surge in generic products, which would also provide remarkable opportunities to the Indian companies. Therefore, Indian generic drugs segment is likely to grow at a robust pace in the near future. Referring to other segments, patented drugs represent only 9 percent share, while over the counter medicines, which are sold directly to a consumer without a prescription from a healthcare professional, constitute 19 per cent share in the industry's total revenue.

2. [2 bodies oppose cap on medical device prices](#) – The Times of India

NEW DELHI: Even as the government is trying to tighten the regulatory noose around medical devices such as stents, catheters and implants to bring down their prices, some of its departments have opposed the move saying it may impede potential foreign investment in the sector as well as weaken the 'Make in India' pitch, official sources said.

In a recent review meeting at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), two key departments of the government - department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP), and department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) - dealing with medical devices - have raised concerns on the government's initial proposal of having a separate pricing policy for medical devices, in line with that of medicines.

"DIPP and DoP are of the view that price caps on medical devices at this point in time are likely to hamper the growth of the sector which is too new and have limited players. Moreover, price regulation has the potential to dissuade foreign investors who have committed investments in the sector," the official, privy to developments, told TOI.

3. [DCGI tightens control on cosmetics tested on animals](#) – The Asian Age

To further tighten noose on the import of cosmetics tested on animals and ensure that such products do not enter the country the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr G.N. Singh has made it mandatory for the importers to submit an undertaking stating that the products have not been tested on animals for getting their consignments cleared at the port offices.

In a recent communication to the port officers, beauty and hygiene association, the DCGI has directed that importers will have to submit original undertaking from the manufacturer of the already registered products stating that "cosmetic products to be imported into the country have not been tested on animals on and after 12 November 2014," it said.

For the new applicants, the DCGI calls for an undertaking along with the import registration dossiers. "The acknowledgement copies can be produced at the port offices for clearing their consignments imported," it further adds.

4. [Rs 102 cr sanctioned for NHM schemes: Nadda](#) – The Times of India

SHIMLA: Promising all possible help in the health sector, Union health minister Jagat Prakash Nadda said on Thursday that there would be no paucity of funds to the state under the National Health Mission (NHM). He was speaking after inaugurating three-day national summit on "Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems" in Shimla. He asked the state to send proposals under various schemes of NHM and said the Centre would provide full support for funding these projects. The Union government has already sanctioned to release Rs 102 crore to the state under NHM, he added.

5. [Karnataka govt sets up exclusive Ayush Drug Licensing Authority to bolster inspection of mfg units, trade outlets](#) – 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.

6. [Untested Ayush medicines being supplied to govt hospitals, ESI dispensaries in TN: CTMR](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Many of the Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani drugs supplied to the government hospitals, ESI hospitals and CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu are not completely tested before they are distributed through the public health delivery systems, according to a study conducted by the Centre for Traditional Medicines and Research (CTMR), Chennai.

The Centre, in a statewide study, has found that out of the more than 200 ISM drugs manufacturing units across the state, majority of them are not even following the GMP regulation, Schedule-T, and the

directorate of Indian Medicines is not initiating any action against any company. The office of the ISM Commissioner remains a silent spectator to the malpractices of the manufacturing companies.

While briefing Pharmabiz about the study report, the secretary of CTMR, Dr T Thirunarayanan, said, "The life of common man is at stake when spurious and adulterated medicines reach government hospitals and ESI hospitals. Proprietary medicines are being pushed into ESI dispensaries and CGHS dispensaries without proper testing for personal gains."

7. [SC to examine doctors' liability for negligence in case of free treatments](#) – The Economic Times  
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court will examine if [doctors](#) can be held liable for medical [negligence](#) if they provide services free.

The issue arose on Wednesday in a case involving a 12-year-old girl in [West Bengal](#) who died after she was allegedly injected with a wrong drug to control vomiting. A bench, comprising Justices Dipak Misra and PC Pant, was dealing with an appeal against the decision of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, which said the question of medical negligence or compensation doesn't arise since no fees had been paid to the doctor.

The family had earlier approached the Hooghly District Consumer Forum and the State Consumer Disputes Commission to no avail. [Mihir Banerjee](#), the father of the girl, claimed that he rushed his daughter Ishita to Dr [Abhijit Roy](#) on May 22, 2001, after she had repeated bouts of vomiting. Dr Roy ostensibly asked his compounding to administer an injection of [Zofer](#) (Ondansetron), an anti-emetic for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, and Rantac (Rantidine), an antacid.

#### Others

1. [People prefer to go for private education, healthcare](#) – Business Standard  
The latest round of survey, conducted by the [National Sample Survey Organisation](#) (NSSO) during the first half of 2014, has come out with data that offer significant insights into the current state of affairs in the country in important socio-economic sectors like [education](#) and health. There is an overwhelming trend of people going in for private delivery of services in these two sectors, as opposed to those delivered in the public sector. In education this is happening across rural and urban sectors, though the trend is more pronounced in urban areas. It is the same case in healthcare, with as many as 70 per cent of Indians going in for private [healthcare](#) services. In the process they are paying over four times more per hospitalisation for private care. Most of this money comes out of pockets as only 12-13 per cent of the population is covered by the public health insurance plan, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. It is obvious what this is doing to the fight against poverty and the effort to raise Indian achievements in terms of human development indicators.

2. [An endless road to reintegration for mental health patients](#) - Mint  
**New Delhi:** It's 6.30 pm. In 30 minutes, it will be dinner time for patients of Ward C, the women's ward at the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) in Delhi. Pre-monsoon showers had brought down the heat in the national capital. So, many patients have stepped out. Some were sitting in the courtyard and some in the corridor.

A few like Shalini Mehra, however, chose to remain indoors. A slightly built woman, she will soon get busy helping the nursing staff serve dinner to other patients. "I have a hotel industry background. It is a good way to stay busy and involved," she says in a soft undertone.

3. [Unicef envoy, actor Priyanka Chopra bats for anaemia prevention in adolescents](#) – Hindustan Times  
Goodwill ambassador of UNICEF, actor Priyanka Chopra on Thursday raised the pitch for iron and folic acid supplements for adolescent girls and boys to prevent anaemia.

"India is a young country and it can achieve progress only when the young people are healthy and able to chip in to the development process," the actor said, while interacting with reporters in Bhopal on Thursday.

"But when I find that more than 50% of young boys and girls are anaemic and are not growing physically or mentally, as they should, I wonder whether we are able to ensure that they would grow to be healthy citizens?"

4. [Boom times for healthcare mergers bring bankers 59% rise in fees](#) – The Economic Times

LONDON: A surge in mergers and acquisitions in the healthcare sector has been a windfall for investment bankers, with fees from activity in the sector up 59 per cent in the first half of 2015, according to [Thomson Reuters](#) data.

[Goldman Sachs](#) commanded 11.8 per cent of all healthcare fees, followed by [JP Morgan](#) with 11.2 per cent and [Morgan Stanley](#) with 6.9 per cent.

Healthcare has seen a record wave of deal-making since the start of 2014, stretching from large drugmakers buying up smaller rivals to consolidation among makers of generic medicines to tie-ups between insurers.

5. [ICMR to begin research in 'Quality of care in pregnancy and childbirth' soon](#) – Pharmabiz.com  
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will soon begin research in the area of 'Quality of care in pregnancy and childbirth'.

The research areas under this project include interventions using quality maternal health indicators as an outcome; evidence on the sustainability of proven interventions including evidence on feasibility of implementation and scale up in a variety of settings; standardization of indicators of quality care that would facilitate the evaluation of quality improvement efforts; affect of initiatives to improve providers' performance on client outcomes e.g training, provision of job aids, self-assessment tools, enhanced supervision and ongoing evaluation, and improved infrastructure and facilities; mixed method approaches to determine barriers and supporting factors for implementation and scale up of best practices; and strengthening health information systems to evaluate effectiveness of interventions.

6. [Health hub on wrong foot](#) – Telegraph India  
A doctor of Patna Medical College and Hospital allegedly picked the "wrong'un" and plastered the right leg instead of the left of a middle-aged woman, leaving her in excruciating pain.

Darab Devi (55) of Chhapra was at the receiving end at the state's biggest government hospital on Wednesday. When her relatives questioned the doctor concerned, he said he had put the plaster on the wrong leg because he was trying to strike a balance between both the legs before starting the actual procedure.

In cricket, "wrong'un" is a delivery which looks like a normal leg-spinner but actually turns towards the batsmen, like an off-break, rather than away from the bat. Batsmen often fail to pick the delivery like the doctor concerned plastered the wrong leg of Darab.