

1. [Fixing drug prices helped consumers save Rs 5,000 crore: Government](#) – **The Economic Times**

Consumers have saved nearly Rs 5,000 crore on account of the government fixing the prices of medicines under the Drugs Price Control Order 2013, government said today.

It had fixed ceiling prices of 530 scheduled formulations in accordance with DPCO 2013 including medicines for diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and cancer till February 29, 2016, Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Ananth Kumar said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

*Also appeared in-*

[Fixing drug prices helped consumers save Rs 5K cr: Govt](#) – **The Times of India**  
[Fixing drug prices helped consumers save Rs 5K cr: Govt](#) – **Business Standard**  
[Capping drug prices saved consumers Rs 5k crore](#) – **The Indian Express**

2. [MRP for coronary stents to be announced in three months](#) – **The Hindu**

Within three months, the general public can expect the government to announce the maximum retail price for coronary stents, which has recently been added to the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) 2015, effectively bringing them under price control.

While patients, doctors and Indian-stent manufactures have welcomed the move, others aren't celebrating the announcement.

1. [Fixing drug prices helped consumers save Rs 5,000 crore: Government](#) – The Economic Times
2. [MRP for coronary stents to be announced in three months](#) – The Hindu
3. [MSF and Pfizer battle over patent application for life-saving pneumonia vaccine](#) – The Economic Times
4. [Drug makers need to jointly address quality issues, says Dr Reddy's chairman](#) – Mint
5. [Forum expresses serious concern about inclusion of stents in NLEM](#) – The Times of India
6. [Awareness meet on IPR rights for SMEs today](#) – The Hindu
7. [Rs 1,431 crore given to UP under NRHM remained unspent: Nadda](#) – The Economic Times
8. [India should double coverage of HBV vaccine at birth: WHO](#) – The Indian Express
9. [New IPR policy to benefit MSMEs pharma sector with innovation: Dr Gopakumar Nair](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. OPINION PIECE: [Pay now or pay forever](#) – The Hindu
11. OPINION PIECE: [Time to ensure a new National Medical Commission](#) – The Economic Times (Blogs)
12. OPINION PIECE: [Time to ensure a new National Medical Commission](#) – The Economic Times (Blogs)
13. [PU apprises students of IPR issues](#) – The Times of India
14. [Ethypharm receives patent for crush resistant oxycodone](#) – Business Standard
15. [73 percent of patent requests in India filed by foreigners](#) – The Times of India
16. [Pharma players bet on injectables in US](#) – The Telegraph

3. [MSF and Pfizer battle over patent application for life-saving pneumonia vaccine](#) – **The Economic Times**  
Medecins Sans Frontieres, also known as Doctors without Borders, on Friday argued against US drug giant Pfizer's application to patent its pneumonia vaccine at the Indian patent office. Pfizer's vaccine, sold under the brand Prevnar13, should not be patented in the country because it lacks the originality needed for one, argued the aid agency.

MSF filed declarations at the Delhi patent office to point out that Pfizer's 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) was obvious and predictable.
4. [Drug makers need to jointly address quality issues, says Dr Reddy's chairman](#) – **Mint**  
Satish Reddy, who is also former chief of industry lobby Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, says steps being taken to enable firms to evolve a common quality strategy. He has urged Indian drug makers to work together to address quality and regulatory issues faced by the industry.
5. [Forum expresses serious concern about inclusion of stents in NLEM](#) – **The Times of India**  
NATHEALTH, a unique forum comprising of both healthcare providers and medical technology companies, have strongly opposed inclusion of cardiac stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). The forum has underlined that the inclusion is contradictory to the government's recently expressed desire to separate medical devices from drugs by proposing a new Act which is proposed to be tabled in the upcoming winter session.
6. [Awareness meet on IPR rights for SMEs today](#) – **The Hindu**  
An awareness meeting on the intellectual property rights (IPR) for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is being organized by the Federation of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPTCCI) at Hotel DR Uthama here on July 30.
7. [Rs 1,431 crore given to UP under NRHM remained unspent: Nadda](#) – **The Economic Times**  
An amount of Rs 1,431 crore allocated to Uttar Pradesh under the National Rural Health Mission has remained unspent, Health Minister J P Nadda said in Lok Sabha today. NRHM is the flagship centrally-sponsored health programme of the Union Health Ministry under which funds are allocated state-wise.
8. [India should double coverage of HBV vaccine at birth: WHO](#) – **The Indian Express**  
Coverage of Hepatitis B vaccine at birth in India should be doubled by 2020 from the current 45 per cent by addressing the administrative and logistic issues to safeguard the young against the deadly disease, according to the World Health Organisation.
9. [New IPR policy to benefit MSMEs pharma sector with innovation: Dr Gopakumar Nair](#) – **Pharmabiz.com**  
Medium and small scale pharma units in India need to update themselves to survive in changing regulatory and intellectual property environment. The government through the new IPR policy and amendment to the Rules (2016) is sending out clear signals that patents will be enforced in India to protect the patentee's rights, according to Dr. Gopakumar G Nair, CEO, Gopakumar Nair Associates.
10. **OPINION PIECE:** [Pay now or pay forever](#) – **The Hindu**  
Sixteen years ago, the historic AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa — the first in Africa — brought together governments, UN bodies, researchers, health workers, people living with HIV/AIDS and marginalised communities on the same platform. People living with HIV/AIDS and activists led by Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) stormed the conference to confront governments and leaders to “break the silence” about HIV and Big Pharma’s propaganda that HIV treatment in developing countries was not feasible.

**11. OPINION PIECE: [Time to ensure a new National Medical Commission](#) – The Economic Times (Blogs)**

The World Health Organization norm is one doctor for every 1,000 of the population. India has a ratio of 1:2000. Blame the Medical Council of India (MCI), the apex regulatory authority overseeing medical education and the supply of qualified and trained personnel. It is time to disband the MCI. The government, which signalled its intent to reform the regulatory framework by appointing the Ranjit Roy Chaudhury committee in July 2014, must now follow through. The Niti Aayog's green signal for the framework set out by the committee and the support for it from the parliamentary standing committee should pave the way for a new regulatory mechanism.

**12. OPINION PIECE: [Why govt should worry about impact of pharma control](#) – The Financial Express**

With the bigger players not as interested in the local market due to the large number of medicines being put under pricing control, this has paved the way for low-quality or spurious drug manufacturers. Savings of Rs 4,988 crore, which chemicals and fertilizer minister Ananth Kumar said accrued to consumers from the government bringing in 1,040 medicines under the essential category, are not insignificant, but need to be put in perspective.

**13. [PU appraises students of IPR issues](#) – The Times of India**

A two-day workshop on 'Innovations: A key to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)' organized by Cluster Innovation Centre in Biotechnology (CIC-B), Panjab University, concluded here on Saturday. As many as 80 students participated in the workshop. PU vice-chancellor Prof Arun K Grover provided genuine portrait of the IPR awareness available to previous generation and encouraged the young researchers to recognize the innovation we do every day and protect it through increasing our awareness and understanding of IPR issues and spreading the awareness about it.

**14. [Ethypharm receives patent for crush resistant oxycodone](#) – Business Standard**

French pharmaceutical manufacturer Ethypharm has received an Indian patent for a crush-resistant, water insoluble form of pain killer drug oxycodone. The invention prevents accidental intake, misuse and unlawful diversion of the medicine, claims the company.

**15. [73 percent of patent requests in India filed by foreigners](#) – The Times of India**

Seven out of 10 patents in India are filed by foreigners or foreign entities. A total of 1.45 lakh patents were filed between 2013 and 2016, according to the information submitted to the science and technology ministry. Of these, 1.05 lakh — or 73% of them — were filed by foreign natural persons (inventors and applicants) and other foreign applicants (legal entities or organizations). Indian inventors or other Indians account for 27% or 39,318 patents, according to the Controller General Patents Designs and Trademarks.

**16. [Pharma players bet on injectables in US](#) – The Telegraph**

Domestic pharma companies are banking on alternative dosage forms such as injectables to offset the impact of price erosion in the US generic drugs market. Intense competition in the market for oral medicines has reduced margins for players. As much as 15 per cent of Lupin's 256 products are injectables. In 2014, the Mumbai-based company acquired Nanomi BV to strengthen its presence in the segment.