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IPR and Innovation

1. [Rx Patents for the Patient](#) – The Economic Times
A Laggard in innovation, India needs to diversify its pharma-centric portfolio. India is becoming an 'innovation destination', according to Nasscom chairman R Chandrasekaran. Really? Patent grants are a straightforward indicator of innovative capability. India has registered a seven-year decline in patents granted and a concurrent rise in applications. This gap signifies the deterioration in the quality and legitimacy of India's innovations in independent estimates. Patently Straggler India has also been described as a 'bit player' in the global patent race, with its lack of intellectual property (IP) activity growth and absence in the top-50 corporations by patent volume.
2. [IPAB sets aside order passed against Lupin](#) – Business Standard
The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has set aside an order of the Assistant Controller of Patents and Designs, Mumbai, which refused patent for domestic drug major [Lupin](#) for its chewable antibiotic drug Cefixime. Lupin has its brand Suprax with Cefixime as ingredient and is sold in chewable tablets and suspension forms. Observing that the order passed by the patent official is "flagrant violation of the principles of natural justice", the bench comprising of [IPAB](#) Chairman [Justice K N Basha](#) and Technical Member (Patents) DPS Parmar, asked the [Patent Office](#) to consider the matter afresh.
3. [AstraZeneca not importing enough of diabetes drug: Lee Pharma](#) – Business Standard
The move was a sign of the evolution of compulsory licensing in India, say experts
Hyderabad-based Lee Pharma, which applied for a [compulsory licence](#) of international drug major AstraZeneca's patented diabetes medicine [Saxagliptin](#) last month, said this was the most efficient substitute for insulin injectables. The multinational company was not able to meet the demand for Saxagliptin, sources at [Lee Pharma](#) said. Lee Pharma, a Rs 200 crore drug manufacturer, filed an

application on June 25 with the Controller of Patents, Mumbai, seeking a compulsory licence in its favour for Saxagliptin sold as Onglyza as a standalone drug and Kombiglyze as a combination with Metformin. The patent was granted to Bristol-Myers Squibb in April 2007 and was transferred to [AstraZeneca](#) AB.

Access to Healthcare

1. [Can CSR funds make a difference in healthcare?](#) - Mint

The statistics tell a grim story. India carries 20% of the world's disease burden, according to data from the World Health Organization (WHO). About 75% of deaths globally are caused by communicable diseases, of which India accounts for 17%. A report published in May by British charity Oxfam says India records the highest number of maternal deaths in the world. Yet, India also is the third largest manufacturer of pharmaceuticals and according to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India's monthly internal report for June, has the largest number of medical schools globally (381) and produces the most medical graduates each year (50,000).

1. [Patients Suffer as GH Runs Out of Medicine](#) – Indian Express

COIMBATORE: The pharmacy at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) has been running short of Atorvastatin drug, used for the treatment of high cholesterol, for the last one week, forcing patients to buy the drug from private pharmacies at a price of ₹65 per tablet. Sources said, the CMCH received the stock of the medicine on Monday evening. However, no measures had been taken to distribute it at the pharmacy till Tuesday afternoon. "I have been coming to the pharmacy for Atorvastatin cholesterol tablet for the last one week but have not received it so far. Buying it from private pharmacy is not affordable for poor people like us," said Shubha Lakshmi (70) of Veerakeralam.

2. [Free drug scheme to introduced in Odisha's Community Health Centres by August](#)-end - DNA

Health Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak on Monday shared that Nirmaya, free drug distribution scheme, will be expanded to all community health centres (CHCs) by August-end. The scheme that was launched in May has been operationalised in three medical colleges and hospitals – Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre (AHRCC), Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Paediatrics, Cuttack – along with all 32 district headquarters hospitals and 27 sub-divisional hospitals by June-end.

Medical & Regulatory

1. [India drafting drug quality norms to match US FDA standards](#) – Hindustan Times

After facing harsh criticism over drug manufacturing quality in the recent past, government is now set to draft a new set of guidelines to regulate drug quality in India. Health ministry and Central Drug Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), jointly, plan to study the guidelines of global health regulators. While the new set of regulation guidelines will be referred from top global health regulators such as, the government plans to study regulations of lesser developed countries and Brics countries as well.

2. [Another Indian firm under fire for shoddy clinical trials work](#) – Firstpost

LONDON/MUMBAI Another Indian clinical research organisation, Quest Life Sciences of Chennai, is in trouble over defective trials work, including manipulation of heart readings, according to a warning issued by the World Health Organization. The action by the United Nations health agency follows an earlier scandal at GVK Biosciences, which resulted in approvals for hundreds of generic drugs being withdrawn in Europe. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is also evaluating the situation at Quest with the WHO and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

3. [Cluster Development for APIs](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The government has been talking of a cluster development programme for the pharmaceutical industry for some time now to make it more competitive and self sufficient in the wake of increasing complaints of quality by the US FDA and the industry's excessive dependence on China for its API requirements. These two issues have seriously affected India's export of generic drugs to the US and Europe in recent years. Quality and safety of pharmaceutical products get compromised because of undesirable manufacturing practices and also on account of substandard materials used for their production. The

decision of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) to launch a cluster development programme for pharma sector (CDS-PS) last month is probably one major step to meet this new challenge.

4. [DoP rejects Lifecare Innovations' review plea against revision of retail price of amphotericin B injection](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has rejected the Lifecare Innovations' review petition against fixation/revision of retail price of scheduled medicine 'amphotericin B injection (50 mg)' by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Earlier, the NPPA vide price fixation Order S.O. No. 1912(E) dated 28/6/2013 had fixed/revised retail price of scheduled formulation amphotericin B injection (50 mg) under DPCO, 2013. Aggrieved by the notification, Lifecare Innovations Pvt. Ltd. submitted review application dated 10.7.2013 under para 31 of DPCO, 2013 for the review of NPPA Price fixation Order S.O.No. 1912(E) dated 28/6/2013 fixing ceiling price of scheduled formulation amphotericin B injection (50 mg) under DPCO, 2013.

Others

1. [Startups in healthcare sector seeing a boost with increasing corporatization](#) – The Economic Times
BENGALURU: Running a startup is rather like being in an intensive care unit, said [Deepu Sebin](#). He is one among an increasing number of doctors turning to [entrepreneurship](#) as the healthcare sector fast embraces corporatisation and latest technological tools for running the business. Although doctors have been setting up clinics and hospitals for long, Sebin represents a new kind of entrepreneurs among the medical fraternity that are now emerging. "Both ICUs and startups have [high energy](#), crisis-filled atmosphere. At the end of the day, it is about making an impact," said Sebin, who is democratising access to medical information through Daily Rounds, an app that aims to be the equivalent of [GitHub](#) and StackOverflow for doctors.
2. [India has cut poverty by half, but progress is uneven: UN](#) – The Hindu Business Line
As the deadline for achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) draws to a close in September, a UN report has commended India for reducing poverty by half (from 45.3 per cent to 21.9 per cent till 2011-12). This was attributed to economic growth as well as higher social spending on interventions such as MGNREGA (rural job guarantee scheme) and the National Rural Health Mission. However, it pointed out that this progress was "uneven."