

IPR & Innovation

'Special 301 Report annual swat at India's IP policies', [Express Pharma](#)

The Office of the US Trade Representative continues to excoriate India's pro-access IP policies and proposes multiple 'solutions' that will only benefit transnational monopoly profits, especially those of the bloated US pharmaceutical industry. Although the 2015 Special 301 Watch List Report politely drops India from the USTR's Out-of-Cycle review list, the Report details in minute detail the pro-pharma, pro-IP-monopoly reforms the US seeks to coerce out of the Modi government.

India reaffirms commitment to producing affordable AIDS medication, [Business Standard](#)

India, which is facing intense Western pressure to stop making generic AIDS drugs, has reaffirmed its determination to continue providing affordable medicines to everyone with HIV. "India is committed to using all flexibilities allowed under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement of the World Trade Organization to ensure the availability of affordable and quality medicine to all people living with HIV," Deputy Permanent Representative Bhagwant S. Bishnoi told a UN General Assembly session on Monday on the future of AIDS response.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[DNA India](#)

[The New Indian Express](#)

[Yahoo! India](#)

[NDTV](#)

[Zee News](#)

Access to Healthcare

Healthcare initiatives for urban poor need more attention: Modi, [Business Standard](#)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said more attention was required on the healthcare initiatives for the urban poor. According to a release from the Prime Minister's Office, Modi was briefed on the progress of various healthcare initiatives of the central government and India's progress towards Millennium Development Goals. The prime minister said an evaluation should be made of the contribution of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan towards improvement of health indicators.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[Financial Express](#)

[The Indian Express](#)

[Yahoo! India](#)

Health, childcare tips will be on phone, web, [The Hindu](#)

With the Modi Government's thrust on a digital India, the Union Health Ministry is trying to devise interactive web portals and mobile apps for most of its flagship programmes like immunisation drives and mother and child care. The ministry has set up a web portal to provide healthcare-related information to citizens and serve as a single point of access for consolidated health information. The National Health Portal (www.nhp.gov.in) was launched in Shimla last week. The ministry has also launched a mobile application for its mass immunisation drive which is called 'Mission Indradhanush.' Apart from this, the government will soon begin a service which would inform citizens about due vaccinations and check-ups of newborns and pregnant women.

Ethics & Compliance

UCPMP: 'Code' word for pharma industry, [Express Pharma](#)

The pharmaceutical industry has always found itself in the docks with respect to ethical marketing practices. Though never accepted by industry, many companies have frequently been caught offering gifts to doctors to increase prescription and thus sales. This 'influential treatment' of doctors by pharma companies has kept them on the radar of government watchdogs as well. The Department of Pharmaceuticals's (DoP) Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP), which came into effect from January 1 this year, is aimed at detecting and stopping such malpractices.

Other News on Pharma

Medical devices like stents, implants set to come under price control, [The Economic Times](#)

Faced with complaints of overpricing of medical devices like cardiac stents and implants, the government seems to be finally getting its act together. According to a government official, in a string of measures to regulate the industry under the Draft National Medical Device Policy, it has recommended creating an autonomous body, the National Medical Devices Authority (NDMA), pricing control for medical devices by including them under the Essential Commodities Act and most importantly, floating a separate pricing division in the drug pricing regulator, NPPA.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[Pharmabiz.com](#)

Pharmacies lure customers with discounts, freebies, [The Hindu Business Line](#)

If you are buying your regular dose of medicines, you can now look for innovative discounts in cash as well as kind. Driven by increased competition, pharmacy chains and retail chemists and druggists are luring customers with a variety of offers. While discounts are not a new phenomenon, they are back now after most of the drug-sellers withdrew them for the last one year citing the regulation of essential drug prices by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
