

IPR & Innovation

MSF urges India not to "cave to pressure" on affordable drugs, [Business Standard](#)

Charity Medecins Sans Frontieres appealed to India on Thursday not to give in to pressure from Europe, the United States and Japan to make it easier for big firms to get patents in the country, potentially blocking the production of cheap generics. MSF, also known as Doctors Without Borders, said changes proposed at negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement - of which India is a part - contain "damaging provisions, all of which go beyond India's obligations under international trade rules".

Similar reports have appeared in:

[Firstpost.com](#)

Medical & Regulatory

Drug to check cholesterol gets FDA panel nod, [The Times of India](#)

An expert committee that advises the Food and Drug Administration recommended on Wednesday that the agency approve the second in a new class of drugs that can drive cholesterol levels down to unheard-of levels. Cardiologists hope these new medicines will help prevent heart attacks for millions of Americans, but the results of clinical trials that will definitively settle the question of the drugs' effectiveness will not be in until 2017. The panel on Tuesday had advised the FDA to approve the first such drug, alirocumab, made by Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, and on Wednesday recommended approval for the second, a similar drug,

Why do kings of drug trade remain out of law's reach, asks SC judge, [The Times of India](#)

Insisting that India needs enforcement of strict laws to form a civilized society, Supreme Court judge Justice T S Thakur, said the country needs to have an effective judicial system for better future. He was addressing judges of Supreme Court, high courts and district session judges at a three-day judicial conference on 'Drug Menace in India: Overview, Challenges and Solutions' being held in Manali by HP State Legal Services Authority.

Maharashtra FDA conducts 122 raids in 2013-14 against only 49 in year 2012-13, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

In order to enhance enforcement for compliance of norms amongst retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted 122 raids in the year 2013-14 as compared to only 49 in the year 2012-13. The raids revealed rampant violations of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 as offenders stocked drugs without license and sold them without purchase bills. Maharashtra FDA also cancelled licenses of 2,241 retail pharmacies and suspended licenses of another 1,857 retailers across the state for violation of Drugs & Cosmetics Act like dispensing medicines without prescription.

dna impact: FDA asks major manufacturer of albumin to increase production, [DNA India](#)

As dna reported, life-saving albumin is in short supply in Mumbai again. A day after dna published a report about the shortage of albumin in the city, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has swung into action. FDA has asked the major albumin manufacturer in the state, Reliance Life Sciences, to increase the production of albumin and assured the company that it will get whatever help it needs in the matter. Reliance Life Sciences officials have informed the FDA that they currently produce 40,000 vials per month.

Other News on Pharma

India's health and biopharma sector deserve more attention, [The Economic Times](#)

India's health and innovative and biopharma sector deserves better attention from the government to help realise its full potential and provide much cheaper health care and medicine to millions of patients, leading

Biopharma industry experts and academicians have said. During the day-long US-India BioPharma and Healthcare Summit, top industry leaders, experts and academicians hoped that the new Indian government will bring in "predictable, transparent and pragmatic regulatory policies" which would positively change the Indian BioPharma and Healthcare Innovation landscape.

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[Business Standard](#)

Health ministry to ask doctors to write prescription in capital letters, [The Times of India](#)

Jokes about illegible scribbles of doctors that made patients scratch their heads may soon become a thing of past. The Union health ministry will soon come out with a gazette notification asking doctors to prescribe medicines in capital letters to make them "legible". The doctors will also be asked to mention the generic names of drugs they prescribe to help people buy them cheap. "The health ministry will come out with gazette notification under the MCI regulations. Under this, the prescription should be legible and preferably written in capital letters along with the names of the generic drug prescribed," a senior

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