

IPR & Innovation

Generic Mistake, [Financial Express](#)

On the one hand, the Medical Council of India making it mandatory for doctors to write only the generic name of drugs in their prescription would seem to be the right move. It would indeed imply greater choice for the patient in terms of her being able to select cheaper brands. On the other, it sends out the wrong signal regarding India's intellectual property rights (IPR) regime by letting cheaper knock-offs enjoy the same access to the market as the drugs manufactured by pharma companies that hold the patents for their formula.

Access to Healthcare

Vaccination drive in state hit by floods, [The Times of India](#)

The first phase of the annual floods has hit the ongoing Mission Indradhanush (MI) vaccination campaign in Assam. Health officials on Monday said the drive in four inundated districts cannot be finished unless the water begins to recede. According to officials, the pace of vaccination has slowed in Nagaon, Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Goalpara due to the floods. MI aims to fully immunise all children against seven vaccine preventable diseases like DPT, Hepatitis-B, polio and measles. It was launched by the ministry of health and family welfare last December. MI identified 201 districts pan India where the vaccination level is partial and nil. In Assam, the affected districts are Bongaigaon, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Kokrajhar and Nagaon.

Niti Aayog finds Tamil Nadu health system strong, [Deccan Chronicle](#)

Tamil Nadu has extremely strong health systems founded in the primary care and public health and it is among four states that have achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDG-5). The challenge will be to replicate such successes all over the country, notes the health division of Niti Aayog (National Institute for Transforming India). Apart from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra are at MDG 5. Ten States (Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Manipur, Sikkim, Nagaland, Tripura and all UTs except Dadra & Nagar Haveli) have already achieved Millennium Development Goals-4 (MDG-4). According to Niti Aayog, disparity in healthcare exists across states and there is an excessive focus on vertical disease control programmes and inadequate attention to health system strengthening.

Medical & Regulatory

KIDS suggests formation of 'Training and Research Academy' in each state to train central & stat, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

In the backdrop of more and more formulations coming out every day and continuous rise in the consumption of medicines, the Kerala Institute of Drugs Studies (KIDS) has observed that a new system to strengthen the central and state regulatory agencies is necessary, for which a Training and Research Academy has to be set up in each state jointly by central and state governments. The Academy should be able to hold continuous training programmes for the officials of the departments and update them with the latest knowledge in the field of drugs and policy matters. In this regard, KIDS has made some innovative suggestions and forwarded them to the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), government of India, in order to strengthen the operations of the central regulator, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), and state drugs control departments.