

IPR & Innovation

2015 USTR Special 301 Report: Reactions and the way forward, [Express Pharma - National](#)
OPPI welcomes the continued focus on strengthening IPR in India' says **Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India** - The Draft IPR Policy is a positive step towards an IP regime that has the potential to support and drive a number of economic and socio-cultural benefits. Our country already has the elements required to realise the PM's 'Make in India' vision: consistent growth, a highly educated workforce and established science-based research institutions. We can extend 'Make in India' to 'Develop in India' and 'Innovate in India', if we develop a robust, predictable, and enforceable legal framework for the protection of IPR. Our PM was pretty categorical in his view that India's patent laws should be brought on par with global standards, to make Asia's third largest economy a hub for outsourced creative services. He has been quoted on April 24, as saying, "If we don't work towards bringing our intellectual property rights (IPR) at par with global parameters, then the world will not keep relations with us. If we give confidence to the world on IPR, then we can become a destination globally for their creative work, when he spoke at the first Global Exhibition on Services (GES).

Access to Healthcare

India behind Bangladesh, Nepal in health goals, [The Times of India](#)
India's progress in health outcomes during past two decades has been slower in comparison to other developing countries with comparable incomes, a latest working paper prepared by Niti Aayog said, highlighting crucial gaps in India's healthcare system. The paper, titled 'Health Systems in India: Bridging the Gap between Current Performance and Potential' , has drawn a comparison between India and other countries like China, Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam based on achievements under various health indicators during last 10-20 years. In most parameters, India languishes at the bottom of the table in comparison to the other countries.

Despite odds, there's hope of a healthy India, [The Hindu Business Line](#)
Although the Budget did not fulfil our healthcare expectations, there are good reasons to be optimistic. One, the UPA government failed to increase public spending on health. Under-spending on health has been a major cause for the growing inequities, insufficient access and poor quality of healthcare services. In fact India's health spend is among the lowest in the world. The extremely high private out-of-pocket expenditure on health — close to 70 per cent — has also emerged as a major cause of impoverishment: it drives close to 50 million people into debt and poverty every year.

Medical & Regulatory

DCGI appoints FICCI as nodal agency for consolidating guidelines on e-commerce, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

Even as Union health ministry has initiated process to formulate guidelines for e-commerce marketplace to ensure safety of consumers, the Drugs Controller General India (DCGI) Dr. G. N. Singh has appointed FICCI as the nodal agency for consolidating the guidelines. The role, responsibilities and liabilities of e-commerce marketplace and the product sellers need to be clearly defined. It becomes even more critical to have a framework in place when the intermediary is selling drugs where the safety and health of the consumer is of paramount importance. This was stated by Dr. G. N. Singh, at a FICCI consultative meeting on 'Pharma Guidelines for Reinforcing Due Diligence for Intermediaries (E-commerce Marketplace)'. FICCI talks of due diligence by marketplace to ensure consumer safety while selling of drugs online. FICCI has been appointed as the nodal agency by the Drugs Controller General (India) for consolidating the guidelines and was seeking views of **OPPI**, All India Chemists and Druggists Association, States Chemists and Druggists Associations, Indian Medical Association, CIPI, BDMA, PHD Chamber of Commerce and

Industry and consumer forums, in this regard.

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IICT working with domestic drug makers to reduce imports, [Business Standard](#)

In order to reduce country's heavy reliance on import of life-saving drugs, central research body Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) today said it was working with domestic drug makers to help boost local capacity. "We are actively working with drug manufacturers in the country to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of at least 12 life-saving drugs. Key efforts in this direction have already begun," said IICT director S Chandrasekhar today. Under the engagement, IICT would drive its efforts to make available locally the key raw materials used in the manufacture of these medicines. According to it, India is currently sourcing most of these drugs from China. According to the department of pharmaceuticals, in the last four financial years India imported bulk drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) worth about Rs 38,186 crore from China; and most of these have gone into the production of essential drugs.

IPC launches android mobile application for ADR reporting facilities, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

In yet another strategic move to strengthen the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI), the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) recently launched revolutionary mobile application for adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting. The mobile application for ADR reporting was specifically designed to facilitate the needs of the IPC, to ensure hassle free ADR reporting for the stakeholders. It was developed as part of a joint venture between the IPC, which acts as the national coordination centre (NCC) for PvPI, and NSCB Medical College, Jabalpur. The mobile application is expected to provide a platform for the private healthcare professionals to report ADRs to safeguard and enhance public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs. The application has in-built facilities and features for reporting of adverse drug reactions such as customisation of reporter details, auto entry in drug details, WHO algorithm based causality assessment, etc.

D&C (Amendment) Bill, 2015 should distinguish drug and medicine: Dr KG Revikumar, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

Without giving any space for any confusion, the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2015 should define the word, medicine, before it is introduced in Parliament. The D&C Act 1940 clearly explains the term, drug, whereas there is no proper definition for the word, 'medicine', according to a proposal sent to the director of drugs at the department of health and family welfare concerning amendments. The Act defines what is drug, whereas it does not distinguish between drug and medicine. The various Acts related to drugs such as the D&C Act, the Pharmacy Act, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, etc. do not define the term, medicine. So, it requires a definition with no confusion in meaning, and it may be carried in the amended version of the Act, says Dr KG Revikumar, former professor and head of clinical pharmacy, government medical college, Thiruvananthapuram.

Ananth Kumar launches Cluster Development Programme for pharma sector, [Express Pharma](#)

Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Ananth Kumar, formally launched the Cluster Development Programme for Pharma Sector (CDS-PS) in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the programme will provide support to the pharmaceutical industry in becoming more capable, productive and competitive. Kumar said that for the common man, availability, quality and affordability of drugs and medicines is of utmost importance and the Cluster Development Programme will be the key step in ensuring health security of the country. The minister said that by the end of this financial year, six pharma clusters are likely to come up of which three will be greenfields. Kumar said that these clusters will ensure adequate testing, training and affluent treatment facilities for pharma industry. The minister said that the government will also come up with the bulk drugs parks and the medical devices parks.

Other News on Pharma

India, Russia need to cooperate in pharma, defence: CII, [MoneyControl](#)

To boost trade and investment, India and Russia should increase cooperation in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, nuclear energy and defence manufacturing, industry body CII on Thursday said. CII, which has taken a business delegation to Russia, organised a India-Russia Business Roundtable meeting. The delegation is led by CII President Sumit Mazumder, who highlighted the need to increase cooperation in sectors such as nuclear energy, renewable energy, oil and gas and defence manufacturing in India. "In sectors like pharmaceuticals, Mazumder felt that Indian companies could look at Russia as a production base and Russian companies in turn could take advantage of India's R&D prowess," CII said in a statement.
