

IPR & Innovation

Govt research body's claim for constipation drug patent rejected, [Financial Express](#)

The country's patent office has refused to entertain a claim by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), an autonomous research body under the ministry of Ayush, for a patent on a process for the preparation of a herbal drug composition to treat constipation. Refusing the patent application by CCRUM, the patent and design office in Delhi said the 'so-called' invention of a composition was mere use of traditionally known herbs such as Piper nigrum, Hyoscyamus niger and Aloe vera, extracted with purified water. The patent office pointed out that the composition, thus made by mixing of extract as well as standardisation of the method of extract-making constitute nothing novel and hence was not allowable under Section 3(d) and 3(p) of The Patents Act, 1970.

Access to Healthcare

Screening camps to be conducted for migrants, [The Times of India](#)

The number of fever and diarrhoea cases has been steadily on the rise in the district with more than 700 fever cases reported at OP in various hospitals every day this week. On Thursday, 727 fever cases were reported. Even as monsoon intensified, the health department officials were on high alert following the confirmation of a kala azar case in the state. He said that a project titled 'Jagratha', initiated by the health ministry, will be launched soon in areas where the density of migrant population is high. "There will be screening camps to detect communicable diseases among the migrant population, on three consecutive Sundays - June 28, July 5 and July 12."

45 pc jump in plan expenditure for health, 10,000 new hospital [Business Standard](#)

The Delhi government today hiked the plan expenditure for the health sector by 45 per cent in this year's budget, which allocated Rs 4,787 crore for the sector and proposed to add 10,000 new hospital beds. In the Rs 4,787 crore allocation for the health sector, the plan budget is Rs 3,138 crore which is 45 per cent more than the last year's plan expenditure which was at Rs 2,164 crore.

Cash-strapped Maharashtra AIDS control society decides to suspend core interventions [Mint](#)

In a drastic step, the Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) has decided to suspend its core health interventions from July due to a funding shortage. The state agency MSACS along with several NGOs has been reporting serious shortage of drugs and testing kits since early last year.

In a circular issued on 11 June, Khushalsinh Pardeshi, project director of MSACS, instructed all non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved with the state-run HIV AIDS programme to suspend some of the activities from July to next March.

Ethics & Compliance

MCI, health ministry look away as doctors associations violate ethics code, [The Times of India](#)

With the Medical Council of India (MCI) claiming it has no jurisdiction over doctors' associations and the health ministry not intervening to point out that the council was wrong, doctors' associations are back to violating the code of ethics with impunity. Recently, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) was in the news for endorsing a commercial product and the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) was in the news for taking money from a manufacturer of health drinks for children to hold a meeting on child nutrition. Both the organisations have been in trouble over the very same issues earlier. IMA claimed it is not endorsing and IAP claimed there was no conflict of interest in taking money from GSK. Now IMA endorsement is also appearing with Dettol soap ads in print saying "certified by IMA". In both cases MCI has remained quiet.

Medical & Regulatory

Task Force recommends constitution of promotional body on lines of Pharmexcil to enable private sect, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

The Department of Pharmaceuticals' (DoP) task force has recommended sweeping regulatory changes including setting up of a high level coordination committee and constitution of a promotional corporate body or registered society on the lines of Pharmexcil to enable private sector to lead the growth of pharmaceutical industry in the country. To provide thrust to the pharma sector, a task force on 'Enabling the Private Sector to lead the growth of Pharmaceutical Sector' was set up by the DoP in November last year, which was headed by secretary, DoP and consisted of representatives from Planning Commission, department of industrial policy and promotion, department of science and technology, department of biotechnology and various industry associations including IPA, IDMA, BDMA, **OPPI**, AIMED, CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, FOPE etc.

India, US sign agreements to strengthen cooperation in health sector [Mint](#)

India and the US on Thursday signed three agreements in the health sector.

The first, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cancer research, prevention, control and management was signed between the National Cancer Research Institute of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), department of health research under the ministry of health and family welfare, the department of biotechnology under the ministry of science and technology from the Indian side and the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health and Department of Health and Human Services of the US.

Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers launches Pharma Price Data Bank [Business Standard](#)

The Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Shri Ananth Kumar launched Pharma Price Data Bank here today. It is an integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System, managed and operated by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Speaking at the release ceremony, the Minister said that this is the first data bank of Pharma industry that will help the manufacturers, regulator as well as the common masses. He said that now Manufacturers can fill their mandatory forms online, the Government and NPPA can have comprehensive data, and consumers can benefit by having full information about the medicines. Shri Ananth Kumar said that 21st century is the era of information, and information is power.

TN Food Safety & Drugs Control Dept not performing well due to lack of full time commissioner [Pharmabiz](#)

Even after three and a half years since its inception, the Tamil Nadu Food Safety and Drug Administration (TNFS&DA) department is still waiting for a full time commissioner. Due to the absence of a regular commissioner, both the food safety and drugs control wings are not performing well in enforcing the Food Safety and Standards Act, and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, sources informed.

WHO-GMP certification mandatory for drug supply under Rajasthan free drug distribution scheme [Pharmabiz](#)

Aimed at ensuring better quality supplies of drugs in the interest of patient safety, Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited (RMSCL) has mandated the condition of WHO-GMP certification for all the manufacturing companies in all the forthcoming tenders floated by RMSCL.

Under the Rajasthan Free Drug Distribution Scheme, patients visiting the government hospitals get the essential drugs free of cost and the procurement of drugs is done through RMSCL, a centralised procurement agency.

Put drug price related information in public domain: Ananth Kumar to NPPA, [The Economic Times](#)

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority needs to develop a system to bring all drug price related information, that is provided by pharma companies, in public domain, Chemicals and Fertiliser Minister Ananth Kumar said today. The minister was speaking at the launch of an integrated pharmaceutical data base management system, developed by drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre. The system aims to facilitate online submission of mandatory returns and reports under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013 by manufacturers, including companies which make, import, distribute or sell drugs in the country. "... So now today the system we have launched it will not only act as pharma price data bank but it is an house of

complete information for pharma sector. Therefore I think the NPPA needs to further enhance this system or develop some other mechanism to bring all this information in public domain," Kumar said.

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New bulk drug policy placed before the Cabinet, [Deccan Herald](#)

A new policy to boost indigenous production of bulk drugs, required to make the formulations, has been put up before the Union Cabinet for its approval. While India is self-sufficient in formulations, the country imports large quantities of active pharmaceutical ingredients – predominantly from China – for use by the drug manufacturers to make the formulations. The bulk drug import bill was Rs 17,944 crore in 2013-14 and is steadily on the rise from 2011-12 when it was Rs 14,288 crore. "Promotion of bulk drugs is high on our agenda. A bulk drug policy is on the anvil as it has been placed before the Cabinet," said Ananth Kumar, the Union minister for chemicals and fertiliser. The department of pharmaceuticals comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertiliser.

Other News on Pharma

India and USA sign agreements to strengthen cooperation in health sector, [Business Standard](#)

India and the US on Thursday decided to cooperate in a host of issues concerning the health sector, including cancer research and prevention and anti-microbial resistance. The two countries signed MoUs on cooperation on cancer research, prevention, control and management and collaboration in environmental and occupational health and injury prevention and control, an official release said here. Besides this, a letter of intent (LoI) on antimicrobial resistance research was also signed here. The MoU on cancer research and LoI on antimicrobial resistance research were signed by senior health ministry officials and US Ambassador Richard Verma.

TAKE Solutions secures patent for clinical data standardization process [The Times of India](#)

The Department of Pharmaceuticals' (DoP) task force has recommended sweeping regulatory changes including setting up of a high level coordination committee and constitution of a promotional corporate body or registered society on the lines of Pharmexcil to enable private sector to lead the growth of pharmaceutical industry in the country.

The Task Force, headed by secretary, DoP, recommended a better industry government linkage with respect to coordination and consultation, which would enable the private sector to lead the growth of pharmaceuticals sector. In this regard, the task force recommended to set up a high level coordination committee to periodically review the constraints and issues faced by the pharmaceutical sector and also to coordinate and facilitate resolution of these issues, problems on a periodic basis.
