

## IPR & Innovation

### **India's import regime still complex: WTO, [The Indian Express](#)**

India continues to have a very complex import regime, notwithstanding the steps taken by it to streamline customs procedures, a World Trade Organization (WTO) report has said. The country has, however, taken a slew of steps to modernise its intellectual property rights regime, the report said. According to the sixth review of India's trade policies and practices conducted by the WTO, though India has continued to implement trade-facilitation measures, its "import regime remains complex, especially its licensing and permit system, and its tariff structure, which has multiple exemptions, with rates varying according to product, user or specific export promotion programme." Further, the trade policy review report said that since its last review in 2011, the country has worked on improving its intellectual property rights (IPR) regime. It amended the Copyright Act to implement the 1996 Copyright Treaty of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and issued guidelines on patents for biological materials. "Since its last Review, India has taken several initiatives to modernise its IPR administration and continue its efforts to enforce IPRs... In March 2012, India issued its first and only compulsory licence," the report said. India's IPR remains a contentious issue with the US trade representative questioning the country's patent regime.

### **India moving from generic drugs to new molecules: Expert, [Yahoo! India](#)**

In the pharmaceuticals sector, India is moving from generics, where it has made a name with its affordable medicines, to innovating with new drug molecules that is the way of the future, a Russian expert said on Tuesday. "India is now moving from generics to new molecules. From the perspective of the next five to 10 years, the winners are going to be innovative companies," Kiril Kaem, executive director of the state-run Skolkovo Foundation, Russia's biggest innovation fund, told IANS here.

## Access to Healthcare

### **Government plans to open 1000 more Jan Aushadhi stores, [Business Standard](#)**

The centre government is planning to open 1000 more stores under the Jan Aushadhi Scheme to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices through these special outlets. These stores will be opened for the underprivileged who would be provided medicines at a price of 60-70 percent less than the market price, said Hansraj Ahir, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, while speaking at a function organised by the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) a facilitation network to build the corporate social responsibility (CSR) space in India, at New Delhi. Ahir said that his ministry is working on opening 1000 stores under the 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme' on a single day. He said that the stores will be renamed, rebranded and will increasingly involve B Pharma and M Pharma qualified unemployed populace.

### **Similar reports have appeared in:**

[Express Pharma](#)

### **Stakeholders sensitised to new initiatives of ESIC, [The Hindu](#)**

Employers and employees were briefed about the recent initiatives of Employees' State Insurance Corporation for effective reflection of social security here recently. Employers were motivated to derive optimum utility of e-Biz platform wherein registration was possible through the portal of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) for ease of business and reduction in transaction cost; and online payment of ESI contribution through the payment gateway of State Bank of India and 58 other banks launched earlier this year.

### **Reduction in health budget just rumours: J P Nadda, [The Times of India](#)**

In an exclusive interview, health minister Jagat Prakash Nadda said improving the healthcare delivery system was one of the key priorities of the Modi government. He also said talk about reduction or no increase in allocation for health was a myth. He said, "Improving healthcare delivery has been one of the

key priorities of our government. Public health being a state subject, we are working with states and supplementing their efforts to improve healthcare in the spirit of cooperative federalism. Our endeavour has been to consolidate work and devise specific initiatives to address critical gaps like improving quality and, specifically, swachhta in public health facilities..."

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## Medical & Regulatory

### **New regulations by government lead to shortage of life saving drug Human Serum Albumin in Mumbai** [DNA India](#)

The hospitals and pharmacies across Mumbai city are facing shortage of the lifesaving Human Serum Albumin (HSA) from more than nine months now. HSA is a protein in blood plasma that is important for patients with liver and kidney problems as well as during any transplant surgery. According to doctors and pharmaceutical associations, there are two reasons behind the shortage - the state's attempt to impose price control and the shortage of blood supply for producing the serum. Meanwhile, the Maharashtra State Chemist and Druggists Association (MSCDA) says the deficiency of blood and blood-plasma in hospitals is the root cause of serum shortage that has hit not only Mumbai but also Pune, Nashik and other cities across the state.

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### **DoP directs NPPA to revise prices of ilaprazole +domperidone capsules,** [Pharmabiz.com](#)

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has directed the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to revalidate the data under para 9(1) of DPCO 2013 by appropriate survey or evaluation and revise the prices of ilaprazole + domperidone capsules (Checkcid-D SR) as desired by the Aristo Pharmaceuticals Ltd which had filed a review application with the DoP on this issue. Aggrieved by the NPPA notification, Aristo Pharmaceuticals submitted a review application dated 23.12.2014 under para.31 of DPCO, 2013 for the review of the NPPA price fixation order.

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## Other News on Pharma

### **Gujarat FDCA detects several NSQ medical devices made locally & imported,** [Pharmabiz.com](#)

In order to address the issue of dumping of sub-standard medical devices by some countries and trading companies, Gujarat Food and Drug Control Administration (FDCA) has detected several cases of not of standard quality devices in the state over the past few years and has taken actions to curb such unethical practice. Samples of devices like condoms, male contraceptives, disposable syringes, IV sets and blood testing kits were drawn for testing over the past few years. Says Gujarat FDCA Commissioner Dr H G Koshia,"Based on the random sampling and testing, we have taken actions like suspension and cancellation of manufacturing licenses in certain cases in the state of Gujarat. Around 12, 000 samples are drawn on an annual basis and devices tested for quality on a routine basis. It is an ongoing process."

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