

IPR & Innovation

Government plans to integrate 36 services with eBiz portal, [The Economic Times](#)

Seeking to promote ease of doing business, the government today proposed to integrate 36 central and state government services such as application for environment clearance, property tax and factories licence with the eBiz portal. The central government services which have been identified includes annual filing of company returns, constitution of the firm, registration under the Contract Labour Act, 1970 and registration under the Building and other construction workers Act, 1996. Similarly, the list of 24 identified services for states for possible integration include issuance of fire safety recommendation, land mutation and conversion, drug licence, annual filing under Factories Act, Licence under FSSAI, shops registration, trade licence, NOC from Pollution Control Board and new power connection and permission to charge the line. On intellectual property rights, it said after incorporating comments received from all ministries and departments concerned and other stakeholders on the draft IPR Policy, the think tank has submitted a final report to DIPP on April 18.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[Business Standard](#)

[The Statesman](#)

[Press Trust of India](#)

Access to Healthcare

Only 25% Indians have access to healthcare services: Swiss Re, [The Economic Times](#)

Only around 25% Indians have access to healthcare services and 58% of healthcare spending is currently in the form of out-of-pocket expenses, Zurich-based reinsurer Swiss Re's study on health risk factors in India has found. On the other hand, non-communicable chronic diseases (NCDs), including cardiovascular disease (CVD), are on the rise, making India a potential 'CVD capital' among the emerging markets. According to the report, NCDs currently account for 53% of the total deaths and this figure could increase to 67% by 2030.

M-powering healthcare's last mile, [The Economic Times](#)

The state of healthcare in India-home to around 970 million wireless subscribers-is poor to say the least, by global standards. According to the last data compiled by TheWorld Bank , infant mortality rate was at 41, while the maternal mortality rate stood at 190.Lack of enough resources, be it in terms of healthcare facilities, specialists or workers is a fundamental cause. Neither the government nor the private sector would have the capacity to make the colossal investments that would be required to overcome the shortages. Even if accelerated efforts are made, it would take up to decades before the yawning gaps in resources could be brought to acceptable levels. In the meantime, could we somehow improve the efficacy of existing resources to ameliorate the situation to some extent? Could India's vast mobile assets be leveraged to complement its existing resources in healthcare?

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

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..."

Ethics & Compliance

Internal whistleblowers ensure Pharma companies stick to guidelines and rules, [The Economic Times](#)

The precedent set by former Ranbaxy employee Dinesh Thakur, who blew the lid over the company's malpractices, has encouraged employees of pharmaceutical firms who have become crusaders of upholding quality and compliance of their respective companies. Research reports released by the forensic divisions of consultancy firm Deloitte and EY reveal a growing trend of whistleblowing by employees who are taking up the issue of non-compliance with regulatory authorities or reporting it internally. "With the growing maturity of global regulations, protection offered to whistleblowers and a possibility of being awarded bounty, revolution of whistleblowing has gained significant momentum," said EY's report.

Indian pharma yet to overcome data integrity issues: EY survey, [Business Standard](#)

Shortage of manpower, compromising acceptable quality levels to meet production targets or dispatch time-lines and lack of understanding of good manufacturing practices (GMP) are some of the basic reasons behind data integrity issues faced by Indian pharmaceutical companies, according to global consultancy firm EY. Also, one-third of the companies in India have not conducted reviews to assess potential gaps in data integrity, viewed by drug regulators such as US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) as an ultimate standard for the actual quality of a drug made by a company, a survey by the Fraud Investigation and Dispute Services of EY between January and March this year stated.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[Pharmabiz.com](#)

[Express Pharma](#)

Shortage of skilled professionals major hindrance to growth: Delliotte Survey Report, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

The Deloitte India launched a life sciences sector survey report titled 'managing growth through better compliance management'. According to the report, rise in regulatory noncompliance in the sector may be attributed to the evolving changes in regulatory standards, which have resulted in limited availability of compliance management professionals equipped to manage these requirements. The report was based on the responses received from 33 leading organisations which included MNCs with operations in India; Indian organizations with operations overseas and in India; Indian organizations with domestic operations; and captives of global life sciences organizations producing products for the parent organization. Sub-sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices, contract research, biotechnology and clinical labs were represented in the survey.

Medical & Regulatory

Pharma industry grappling with pricing, regulatory issues: Survey, [The Economic Times](#)

The buoyant pharmaceutical industry is still struggling to deal with the challenges around pricing in the domestic market, increased regulations as well as data integrity, says an EY survey. It is one of the most dynamic sectors in the country, said the survey, but its compliance structure is more complex, given that several regulators such as the Indian Food and Drug Administration, the US Food and Drug Administration, the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency guard it. The sector is grappling with various compliance challenges like increased regulation, mergers and acquisitions, push toward harmonisation and the endemic data integrity concern, it said.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[Business Standard](#)

[Press Trust of India](#)

NPPA gives deadline to drug cos for online data registration, [Business Standard](#)

Drug price regulator NPPA has given pharma firms time till Friday to register for online database with 19 out of top 100 drug makers yet to respond after repeated reminders. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had asked all pharma firms to register themselves with Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System (IPDMS) in September last year. The list of 19 companies which have not registered include IPCA Labs, IndSwift Laboratories and Dabur India, among others. In a letter to companies, NPPA

gave "a final opportunity" to the companies to register under IPDMS before June 5, 2015 "or explain the reasons for not registering by making personal appearance before Member Secretary."

Similar reports have appeared in:

Pharmabiz.com

Price monitoring cells, Pharmabiz.com

Last week, the Gujarat Food & Drug Control Administration sent a note to NPPA alerting it about selling of certain cancer drugs at exorbitant prices by some of the pharmaceutical companies in the state. Not all the cancer drugs marketed in the country are brought under price control when new DPCO was notified in 2013. Gujarat FDCA requested NPPA to include these drugs under DPCO 2013 considering the fact that they are required for thousands of poor patients in the state. Nearly 20 anti-cancer drugs of different molecules available in the market are found to have huge price difference between MRP and the stockiest price according to Gujarat FDCA. Big pharmaceutical companies are usually found to be indulging in this kind of excessive profiteering and unethical trade practices while marketing essential drugs.

Online medicine sale - a threat to public health, Pharmabiz.com

Following the recent death of a young woman in the United Kingdom after consumption of diet pills bought online, the investigating police officer urged the public to be incredibly careful when purchasing medicine or supplements over the internet. These weight loss pills are found to have a toxic substance called di-nitro phenol not permissible for human use, though available in black market as weight reducing drug. Just two pills are lethal. There have been some awakening activities in our country too on online medicine sale. Maharashtra Drugs Control Authority filed a First Information Report (FIR) against an e-commerce major 'snapdeal.com' for alleged sale of prescription drugs ranging from emergency contraceptive pills to erectile dysfunction pills to abusive cough syrups. Telangana Government's Drugs Control Administration ordered to stop online sale of all medicines. Karnataka Government has recently cancelled the licence of two wholesalers involved in online pharmacy activities directly delivering medicines at patients' doorsteps. These emphasize the seriousness of the issues of online sale of medicines.

Other News on Pharma

FDI dips 40% in March to \$2.11 billion; lowest in four months, The Economic Times

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India declined by 40 per cent year-on-year to \$2.11 billion in March 2015, the lowest in the last four months of 2014-15 fiscal. Amongst the top 10 sectors, services received the maximum FDI of \$3.25 billion in 2014-15, followed by telecommunication (\$2.89 billion), automobiles (\$2.57 billion), computer software and hardware (\$2.20 billion) and pharmaceuticals (\$1.52 billion). The government has relaxed FDI norms in various sectors, including insurance, railways and medical devices, to boost FDI in the country.

Similar reports have appeared in:

Business Standard

The Hindu Business Line

Deccan Chronicle

Asian Age

Zee News

IBN Live
