1. **India announces new trademark, patent policy amid global pressure** - Reuters

India announced a new intellectual property policy on Friday, speeding up the online registration of patents and trademarks, but resisted pressure from the United States and other Western countries to amend its patent laws. The policy will make the Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy the agency in charge of regulating intellectual property rights in the country. "**We hope it will lead to an interpretation of the Indian Patent Act that respects innovation, encourages research and facilitates effective enforcement mechanisms," said Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, a body of multinational drugmakers in India**. "Compulsory licences are already provided in our patent law. That existing provision will continue," Jaitley said after the cabinet approved national IPR policy on Thursday evening.

Same story carried by Huffington Post: India Unveils New Intellectual Property Rights Policy

Similar story in Economic Times with a view from IPA – IPR policy lacks specifics, won't be enough to foster innovation: Lobby Groups

- 'The framework of the IPR Policy does not bring any major change, save for the investment to speed up the issue of patents and trademark registrations**, Novartis India managing director Ranjit Shahani** said'. "There is nothing wrong with the overall framework of the policy, but I doubt that we are going to see a barrage of investments and R&D from global pharma companies now as all investments by the major companies have already been made in China," he added.
- The government's statement that a "continuous evolution" of existing laws will be required as and when global trends move forward is particularly unnerving, **said DG Shah, secretary general of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance**, a lobby group of domestic drug companies. "(This is because) it has moved in one direction only, pressured by the developed countries."

- The policy fails to situate IP within the larger innovation ecosystem, argued **Shamnad Basheer, founder of Spicy IP, an intellectual policy blog**. Basheer was part of the first think-tank that drafted the policy before the government disbanded the committee.

2. **Govt should improve health infrastructure to ensure access to quality medicines rather than controlling drug prices: OPPI** – Pharmabiz.com
   The national drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)'s price controlling exercise cannot effectively ensure equitable access to quality medicines unless the government considers improvement in health infrastructure, said Ranjana Smetacek, director general of Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI). In a bid to provide relief to the common man, the NPPA had on May 10 fixed ceiling prices of 54 scheduled formulations. The drug pricing regulator had 15 days back fixed ceiling prices of another 54 scheduled formulations. Price control is neither a viable nor sustainable strategy for increasing access to medicines for patients in the country, said Ranjana Smetacek. “As India aspires to provide quality healthcare for all, the government must consider healthcare access in a holistic manner and ensure improvement on all parameters. The focus must shift from controlling prices to collaboratively advancing a common agenda,” added OPPI director general.

3. **Intellectual Property Rights policy may hinder drug access** – The Hindu
   India’s National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy, unveiled on Friday, could pose a “serious” hurdle to allowing access to affordable drugs and the South Asian nation missed a chance to put in place a progressive policy, according to experts. The policy, while underlining the Government’s commitment to the Doha Declaration and TRIPS agreement, fails to explain how the vision will translate into reality, said Ms. Leena Menghaney, IP law expert and Access Campaigner at humanitarian aid organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). The report came in the backdrop of increased pressure on the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), the agency that administers IP laws and policy -- to ensure stringent IP enforcement, fast track examination of patent claims of its companies and a moratorium on compulsory licensing.

4. **IPR policy to promote R&D, bring down waiting period: Nirmala Sitharaman** – Economic Times
   The new IPR policy will give a big boost to R&D and new innovations within the country while steps are being taken to cut waiting period for trademark and patent registrations, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. Terming the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy as "a great step forward for India ", the Commerce and Industry Minister also said it would help in creating capacities and institutions to further enhance the robustness of India's IPR regime. Sitharaman said, "The policy envisages building capacities, institutions and awareness. It will encourage research and development for greater innovation and also look at traditional knowledge systems. So this is a policy, which is going to drive all these steps."

5. **New IPR policy retains access to cheap drugs** – The Hindu
   The Policy, to be reviewed every five years, aims to push IPRs as a marketable financial asset, promote innovation and entrepreneurship, while protecting public interest including ensuring the availability of essential and life-saving drugs at affordable prices. Responding to queries about the policy approved by the Cabinet on Thursday night, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said, “Our approach balances consideration of inventability, innovation and public health consideration.” Mr. Jaitley made it clear that the IPR Policy will ensure that no changes are made in the Section (which prevents ever-greening of drug patents) as well as the patent-disabling Compulsory Licensing (CL).

6. **Gilead Sciences withdraws writ petition in support of consolidating hearings over patent rights** – Economic Times
   US drug maker Gilead Sciences withdrew a writ petition it filed in Delhi High Court in support of consolidating hearings over patent rights of its Hepatitis C drug sofosbuvir at the Kolkata Patent Office. In a May 9 order, the Delhi High Court had dismissed the case after a communication from the Kolkata Patent Office to Gilead that the separate cases pertaining to opposition of patent grant to Gilead's drug Sovaldi will be clubbed and heard simultaneously for an expeditious conclusion. Gilead did not comment on the decision saying the matter was sub

judice. Public health agency Initiative for Medicines, Access and Knowledge (I-MAK), Optimus Pharma, India Cares and Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust are among entities named as filers for pre-grant opposition to the patent of the pro-drug of sofosbuvir. A pro-drug is inert by itself but produces a drug when introduced into the body. Legal experts questioned Gilead's decision to take up the matter at the Delhi HC, saying it ought to have directly approached the Kolkata Patent Office.

7. **Globalisation of drugs manufacturing raises concerns over quality** – Financial Times
When the US Department of Justice imposed a $500m fine on Ranbaxy, the Indian medicines producer, in 2013, it highlighted the risks involved in the increasing globalisation of drug manufacturing. Such transgressions, while rare, illustrate the changing pressures on medicines regulators, which the mooted Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the US could help to ease, as regulators combine forces and better channel scarce resources between the two regions. “A legal framework will allow us to be able to rely more on US inspections,” says Emer Cooke, head of international affairs at the EMA. “That will allow us to release resources to adopt a more risk-based approach.”

8. **Look beyond drug producers** - Hindu Business Line
Expanding the scope of the pharmaceutical market to include healthcare opens a host of opportunities to investors. Factors such as favourable demographic profile, increasing focus on preventive healthcare and rising share of chronic diseases indicate strong domestic growth prospects for healthcare companies. According to a WHO strategy report, the private sector dominates the personal healthcare market in India, providing 80 per cent out-patient care and 60 per cent of in-patient care. CRISIL estimates that the healthcare delivery industry will grow around 12 per cent over the next five years to reach ₹6,80,000 crore by 2019-20. Lower government investments in healthcare, low penetration of health insurance and high scope for medical tourism can act as potential triggers for organised players.

9. **Harsh Vardhan says no dearth of talent in India** – Business Standard
Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Harsh Vardhan said there was no dearth of talent but we need motivation, which should be a driving force to take the country to a new height. "It was not a difficult task to bridge the 10 per cent gap but needed motivation and new ideas to make them a reality," he said expressing confidence that such approach would not only lead the country on par with the world's best player but may make it better.

10. **More protection, better enforcement in new IPR policy will attract foreign players: Experts** – Business Standard
As India rolled out its much-awaited National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy, experts say better copyright and trademark regime, as promised by the new framework, along with stronger enforcement, would attract more foreign investment into the country. "We welcome the government's understanding that India's innovative economy requires effective IP protection and hope this commitment will lead to decisive legal reforms. India must provide enhanced certainty for the rights of innovators in line with international best practice," said Patrick Kilbride, executive director of International Intellectual Property of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC).

11. **Medicines had expired by the time we got regulator’s alert: Abbott** – Business Standard
No analytical testing was possible on the expired batch of the epilepsy drug, Mazetol SR 200, Abbott said. Pharmaceutical company Abbott has said the batch of its epilepsy drug Mazetol SR 200, which the drug regulator had found to be sub-standard last December, had already expired in October. Therefore, no analytical testing was possible on the expired product, it told Business Standard. "Records of the same were submitted to the authorities along with detailed response on the government test report," said an Abbott spokesperson in response to queries from Business Standard. Moreover, as the batch had expired, it did not recall any drugs from the market which could have affected its financial health. Meanwhile, the latest drug to be recalled from the market is four batches of Combiflam, the popular pain killer from the stable of French pharma company Sanofi.

12. **Its not only Combiflam, more drugs under regulator's radar** – Hindustan Times
    A day after French major Sanofi announced a recall of some batches of its popular painkiller Combiflam, India's drug regulator said over102 medicines have been highlighted for quality concerns and withdrawal in the last five months. The list includes several popular painkillers. Some of the medicines that appear on the monthly alert list issued by the government includes Cipla's CIP-ZOX, Macleods Pharmaceutical's Orcerin, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd's Pantoprazole, Ipca Laboratories' Zerodol-SP and Karnataka Anibiotics & Pharmaceutical Ltd's Norfloxacin. "All drugs listed under the drug alert list should be recalled with immediate effect. We have found some serious problems with the making of the drug because of which we have highlighted quality concerns. Hence, recall is necessary for all companies," GN Singh, DCGI, told HT. "All these companies do recall the problematic batches from the market, but they do it silently, simply to keep their brand image unhurt."