

## IPR & Innovation

**A game-changing AIDS vaccine may not be all that far away,** [Hindustan Times](#)  
India bears the third highest burden of HIV/AIDS in the world despite having radically brought down the incidence of new cases by 57% since 2000. Vijayanand Gupta/HT photo)One disease that has crossed all borders and seems to be re-emerging is HIV/AIDS. Since the first case was diagnosed in 1981, HIV/AIDS has devastated families, societies and economies. More than 7.8 crore people have been infected with HIV worldwide and half of them have died. India bears the third highest burden of HIV/AIDS in the world despite having radically brought down the incidence of new cases by 57% since 2000.

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[Asian Age](#)

**Defending India's IPR,** [The Hindu](#)

It is ten years since India amended the Indian Patents Act, 1970 to bring its laws in line with the agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The most important of those amendments related to the introduction of product patents for 20 years, including for pharmaceutical products. Significant safeguards were built into the legislation. These included debarring of ever greening patents, a process by which the patent holder seeks to extend the life of patents by some minor tinkering with the products.

## Medical & Regulatory

**Steroid creams promising fairer skin may have risks,** [The Times of India](#)  
While Panderm might be a particularly egregious example, containing as many as four different kinds of drugs -clobetasol, a steroid; ofloxacin, an antibiotic; ornidazole, an anti-amoebic; and terbinafine, an anti-fungal -there is no dearth of such irrational combinations thriving in the Indian market. In fact, 85% of the Rs 1,555 crore market for topical steroids (steroids in cream form for applying on the skin) are combinations. Triple combination topical steroids gross sales of over Rs 600 core annually.

## OPPI in News

**'Once the election is over, you have to take care of people without differentiating',** [The Indian Express - Delhi](#)

The Express Adda presented by Yes Bank in association with Olive and IIFL was at The guppy pop up at Olive, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai, last week. Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, OPPI, said , "Rajasthan has done a good job in procuring drugs. Recently we've heard there are going to be budget slashes and that this may change. We are going to continue with it but there are going to be budget cuts because of the distressing financial situations that we have inherited from the UPA government in Delhi and from the previous government in Rajasthan. We have to take care of debts and at the same time provide money for all the ongoing schemes."

## Other News on Pharma

1,300 Die of Cancer Every Day in India, [The Economic Times](#)

With more than 1,300 persons succumbing to cancer every day, it has become one of the major causes of death occurring in the country due to communicable and life-style ailments, followed by tuberculosis. As per data of the National Cancer Registry Programme of the India Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the estimated mortality rate due to cancer saw an increase of six per cent approximately between 2012 and 2014. "There has been close to 5 lakh deaths due to cancer in the country in 2014," said a senior Health Ministry official.

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