

## IPR & Innovation

### **Draft policy on patents stresses enforcement, independence,** [Financial Express](#)

In what could give some relief to the US and Big Pharma, pushing for a more liberal intellectual property rights (IPR) regime rewarding innovators in India, the final draft of the National IPR Policy has laid an “overwhelming” emphasis on the need to “strengthen” IPR enforcement and awareness creation. The policy is aimed at boosting PM Narendra Modi’s pet ‘Make in India’ and ‘Digital India’ initiatives.

### **‘We hope bilateral pharmaceutical trade between the US and India will grow at or above 10 per cent,** [Express Pharma](#)

The US-India Business Council (USIBC) led a Pharmaceutical & Biologics Executive Mission to Hyderabad and New Delhi late last month. Amy Hariani, Director, USIBC who manages the life sciences portfolio, reveals more in an interview with Shalini Gupta. One year after the Modi government came to power, we wanted to better understand the government’s priorities and align pharmaceutical investments with some of the campaigns that the government has been pushing such as the Make in India and Innovate in India.

## Access to Healthcare

### **What can India learn from China’s healthcare system?,** [Express Pharma](#)

Prof Dileep Mavalankar, Director, Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, and Prof JK Satia, Senior Advisor, Public Health Foundation of India recommend measures that can be adopted from China’s healthcare system to improve our own health indicators. Earlier, PM Modi had invited Chinese premier to Ahmedabad and India, and now he has visited China accompanied by the CM of Gujarat and other high officials.

### **Political Will Can End Policy Paralysis in Upgrading Primary Health Care,** [The New Indian Express](#)

Recently, a national daily carried the eye-catching caption, “India ranks lower than even Nepal.” The reference was to India’s low rank in the Social Progress Index, especially in regard to health care. The paradox is that while India is “shining” in some favoured aspects of health care, we fall short in the delivery of dependable basic health care which should be available to all. This missing feature is referred to as Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

## Medical & Regulatory

### **Clinical trials need a booster shot: Doctors,** [The Times of India](#)

MUMBAI: Smita, a former patient of brain tumour, considers herself lucky that she was able to undergo a special form of radiotherapy six years ago. “I was inducted into a clinical trial that was evaluating the merits of a focused radiation technique,” said Smita (not her real name) at a meeting held in Tata Memorial Hospital, Parel, on Wednesday. However, doctors rued that many patients these days are not able to opt for clinical trials because of the impasse between the governmental agencies and the industry.”

### **Reduce cost of stents, save lives: activists,** [The Times of India](#)

MUMBAI: Consumer groups and patients are unanimous that health authorities need to crack down on profiteering in the medical devices industry, particularly cardiac stents. A recent Food and Drug Administration (FDA) survey has found that the MRPs of stents are inflated by a staggering 300 to 700%, as distributors, doctors and hospitals enjoy the ballooning profit margins.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[The Hindu Business Line](#)

[DNA India](#)

## OPPI in News

**Drug Price Rise An Efficacious Move?**, [Express Pharma](#)

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has allowed pharma companies to increase the prices of 509 essential medicines in tune with an increase in the wholesale price index (WPI). Industry stakeholders are optimistic about the move though some still feel it is not enough. By Usha Sharma Since the establishment of the concept of essential medicine by the World Health Organization (WHO), it has evolved and matured into a critically important element of national health system policies and practices. Essential medicines are those that satisfy the priority healthcare needs of the population, according to International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA). According to a PTI report, recently, the Indian government also allowed pharmaceutical companies to increase prices of 509 essential medicines by 3.84 per cent with effect from April 2015. These medicines are used for treating various ailments like diabetes, hepatitis and cancer. Shobha Mishra Ghosh, Senior Director, FICCI (Industry Voice for Policy Change) says, As per National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy 2011 duly discussed with Group of Ministers (GoMs) and approved by the Cabinet, there is a clear cut provision of an annual increase of National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) drugs as per the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) as notified by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP): Government of India. It is proposed that companies shall be allowed to revise the NLEM drug prices up to the limit of the increase in the WPI for the previous year. **Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)** too agrees and says, DPCO 2013 categorically lays down the guidelines for price revision, saying manufacturers can increase maximum retail price (MRP) of scheduled formulations once a year, in April, on the basis of the WPI of the preceding calendar year.

## Other News on Pharma

**India eyes 15% jump in medicine exports this fiscal**, [The Economic Times](#)

HYDERABAD: Indian drug makers are hopeful of achieving double digit growth in exports this fiscal after being confined to single digit growth for two years, helped by factors such as several medicines going off patent, strengthening dollar and access to new markets in Asia. "We hope to achieve 10-15 per cent growth in export of pharmaceutical products during the current fiscal," said PV Appaji, director general at Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council(Pharmexcil).

**National conference on "Patient Safety and Drug Regulatory Scenario in India' begins in Srinagar**, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

National conference on Patient Safety and Drug Regulatory Scenario in India organized by Partnership for Safe Medicines (PSM) India Initiative in collaboration with Government of India & Government of Jammu & Kashmir is being held today at the Gandhi Bhawan, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar. The one-day event would have the release of the Kolkata Report of the 2nd Regional Conference on Criteria for Measuring the MOST Consumer-Friendly State(s) in India supported by Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. Dr G N Singh, DCGI, spoke on the Drug Regulatory Mechanism in India.

**Punjab allows foreign players to invest in state's health sect**, [Business Standard](#)

Punjab Cabinet today gave nod to allow foreign players to invest in health care sector including setting up hospitals in the upcoming Medicity project at Mullanpur in Mohali here. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal here today. To encourage participation of foreign key players in the medical health care and research, the Cabinet gave approval to amend the Land Allotment Policy-2014 for allotment of plots for setting up hospitals, multi-speciality hospitals, medical colleges-cum-hospital and medical research institutes in the upcoming Medicity at Mullanpur which is also known