

IPR & Innovation

Indian military develops a kit, detects swine flu in hours!, [The Times of India](#)

In a major breakthrough in detecting the deadly swine flu virus that killed around 2,000 people in India in an outbreak this year, a key military research centre has developed a kit that can detect the virus in a matter of hours. While current tests to detect the swine flu virus takes two to three days, the new kit delivers results in two to three hours, knowledgeable officials in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) told IANS.

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Access to Healthcare

Govt plans to provide essential medicines at 40-60% low rates, [The Economic Times](#)

The Centre is planning to provide essential medicines at 40-60 per cent lower rates through its 'Jan-Aushdi' medical stores, Union Minister Ananth Kumar said today. "In last one year more than 300 lifesaving medicines which are used to treat diseases like cancer, AIDS and other, the Modi government has brought them under drug price control," the Minister of Chemicals and Fertiliser said. There are also plans to reduce the prices of medicines, the Minister said. The department of pharmaceuticals comes under his ministry.

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Medical & Regulatory

PIC/S Getting A Clearer Picture, [Express Pharma](#)

The Commerce Ministry will soon take a call on whether Indian pharma companies should join pharma regulator Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme (PIC/S) or not. Joining PIC/S will endorse Indian pharma companies as reliable exporters of quality medicines. However, meeting PIC/S' regulatory requirements is not going to be a cakewalk, especially for companies in the MSME pharma segment, who will have to invest to upgrade their facilities. Therefore convincing the apprehensive players is going to be an uphill task for the Ministry as well as industry organisations representing them.

NPPA's IPDMS project gets poor industry response; 32 of top 100 cos yet to register, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)'s ambitious Ingredient Pharmaceutical Database Management System (IPDMS) project, launched in September last year with the objective of creating an appropriate mechanism of obtaining market-based data related to drugs, has evoked poor response from the industry as 32 of the top 100 pharma companies have turned a blind eye towards the project so far. According to the NPPA, in spite of several extension of last date for registering with the IPDMS system and repeated warnings, it has been observed from the latest list of top 100 pharma companies 32 companies have not yet registered with the IPDMS

system.

Experts panel to monitor life-saving implants' prices, [DNA India](#)

After the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) discovered the massive overpricing of stents used for angioplasty, FDA minister Girish Bapat has decided to appoint an expert committee to monitor other life-saving implants such as bone implants and lens for the same malpractice. Once this panel starts functioning and gives its report, the minister will take up the issue with the Centre so that poor and needy patients don't suffer. On Tuesday, FDA authorities had written a letter to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), asking it to regulate the high prices of cardiac stents. According to FDA, it had been flooded with complaints from the public as well as NGOs regarding the overpricing. Based on the complaints, its vigilance branch had conducted a detailed inquiry and found that the MRP of the stents was between 300% and 700% higher than their actual costs. The probe, which was headed by FDA joint commissioner (vigilance) MM Pawar, had also found that the profit margin of the importing company with respect to its distributors was about 120.

Regulatory bodies need to enforce D&C Act to ensure presence of pharmacists in retail outlets: Experts, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

Experts from the industry strongly feel that one of the most important ways to improve the quality of pharmacy services and reputation of the profession is by ensuring strict implementation of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules pertaining to presence of pharmacists in the retail outlets. Sources point out that one of the worst underlying issues affecting this sector is the lacklustre attitude adopted by the drug regulatory agencies in the country in ensuring the strict implementation of the law.

OPPI in News

When patience is not a virtue, [Express Pharma](#)

India once again made it to the Priority Watch list of the 2015 USTR Special 301 Report, but this year, the reaction from India's pharma industry was more measured. (See news story: '2015 USTR Special 301 Report: Reactions and the way forward; While industry associations **OPPI** and IDMA reacted along expected lines, a more nuanced reaction came from Dr Gopakumar G Nair as Chairman of IDMA's IPR Sub Committee. His opinion that 'S. 3(d) has done its job' is bound to raise at least a few eyebrows among industry observers.

Other News

Karnataka drug cos in distress over 1333% hike in folic acid price by Chinese suppliers, [Pharmabiz.com](#)

Karnataka pharma companies are upset over the hefty hike in prices of folic acid and paracetamol effected by the Chinese suppliers in recent weeks. Folic acid price is jacked up by 1333 per cent and that of paracetamol by 32.5 per cent. These drugs are being regularly imported from China and the unprecedented price hike is in the wake of rising demand for these bulk drugs in countries like India. In 2014, folic acid was priced at Rs.3,000 a kg but in the last three weeks, it was increased to Rs.40,000 per kg.

NPPA warns of action for overcharging on implants, [Asian Age](#)

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) will take stringent action against manufacturers charging exorbitant prices on orthopaedic implants. The decision has been taken following reports regarding the exploitation of consumers by overcharging on the implants. The letter issued by the NPPA states, "no person is authorised to sell any formulation, including medical

devices regulated as drugs, to any consumer at a price exceeding the price specified in the current price list or price indicated on the label of the container or pack thereof, whichever is less.” Defaulters can face punishment including a heavy penalty.

Hyderabad to host workshop on quality of drugs from May 26-28, [The Hindu Business Line](#)

The US Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) will be organising a workshop on improving the quality of medicines in the Asia-Pacific region on May 26-28. The workshop focuses on best practices for establishing and maintaining international accreditation, comprehensive methods for analysing the quality of drug samples, novel strategies and tools for increased data transparency, and information sharing with laboratories and regulatory authorities, among other aspects.