

1. [Suven Life gets patents for neuro-degenerative drug](#) – Economic Times

Drug firm Suven Life Sciences has been granted a patent each by Australia, Eurasia, Israel and the us for a drug used in treatment of neuro-degenerative diseases. In a regulatory filing today, Suven Life said it has "secured product patents in Australia, Eurasia, Israel and the US to their New Chemical Entities (NCEs) for CNS therapy through mechanism of action". The granted claims of the patent include the class of selective H3 ligands discovered by Suven and are being developed as therapeutic agents and are useful in the treatment of cognitive impairment associated with neuro-degenerative disorders. With these new patents, Suven has a total of 24 granted patents from Australia, 17 from Eurasia and 9 from Israel and 24 from the US.

1. [Suven Life gets patents for neuro-degenerative drug](#) – Economic Times
2. [Doubts on IPR policy boost for patents, say experts](#) – Business Standard
3. [Cipla gets approval to sell its version of Truvada in India](#) – The Hindu Business Line
4. [Pay less for your next dose of insulin, ORS or folic acid](#) – Hindustan Times
5. [While there is no pill for every ill, there is an ill following every pill](#) – The Hindu
6. [Despite high disease burden, clinical trials for drugs low in India](#) – Times of India

2. [Doubts on IPR policy boost for patents, say experts](#) – Business Standard

It aims to leverage IPR to reap economic and social benefits on a large scale. The policy, a long time in the making, aims to leverage IPR to reap economic and social benefits on a large scale. However, IP lawyers and experts say while registering of patents might benefit its holder, its effectiveness as a socio-economic tool is in question. "An indiscriminate push has been provided to registering patents and generating IP assets but the measures to link these with long-term innovation growth has been absent in the policy," says lawyer Shamnad Basheer, part of the original think-tank constituted to draft the policy. He added no empirical validation has been given to prove a higher number of patents pushed up innovation. On the global front, India continues to be pressurised by developed countries and especially the United States on specific provisions in our patent laws. Chief among this is section 3 (d) of the Patents Act, which stops evergreening of patents after minor adjustments. While major US pharmaceutical companies are the most vocal opponents, their Indian counterparts are also against it.

3. [Cipla gets approval to sell its version of Truvada in India](#) – The Hindu Business Line

Drugmaker Cipla has received regulatory approval in India to sell its version of Truvada as a preventive that can be given to healthy people to reduce their risk of getting HIV. Commonly referred to as PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) in healthcare circles, Truvada, sold by US drugmaker Gilead, is the only medicine globally approved as a preventive in managing HIV. And the recent approval in India as a preventive marks a significant step in HIV prevention efforts, especially in couples where one partner is HIV positive. For Cipla, the first step was to get the drug approved as a preventive in India. "Now we go to the other countries," Gogtay said. Cipla already sells the drug in South Africa for treatment purposes. Industry experts point out that generic companies such as Mylan, Hetero and Emcure also sell the drug, but for treatment. None has got DCGI approval to be used as a preventive, pointed out Gogtay.

4. [Pay less for your next dose of insulin, ORS or folic acid](#) – Hindustan Times

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has slashed prices of 27 scheduled formulations, used in common medicines by up to 48%. Among others, the move will bring down the prices of 150 household brands, such as Moxikind, Electral, Folvite, Zifi, Brutaflam, Novamox and Insugen. The list also includes formulations, used in the treatment critical ailments, including cardiac disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer and Parkinson's disease. The NPPA has so far capped prices of 280 new drugs as part of the revised list. This is the third price revision in the last one month. On May 9, the regulator fixed prices of 54 drugs. The 27 formulations are part of the revised National List of Essential Medicines, 2015. The ministry of health and family welfare, in December, increased the number of medicines under price control from 684 to 875.

5. [While there is no pill for every ill, there is an ill following every pill](#) – The Hindu

An opinion piece by B. M. Hegde on the intake of pills for even minor illnesses. Being a doctor herself, she says, Popping pills even for minor illnesses mean discounting the strength of the body to heal itself. Human physiology needs total reinvention. The reductionist ideas of milieu interior, where the internal environment of the human body is maintained by keeping all the parameters of the known body systems under control, looks childish with the present knowledge. What we forget is that this human system, which has developed from consciousness to begin with, is a living system as an integral part of nature with the built-in capacity to correct most, if not all, changes that the system is heir to. It has got such sophisticated technology that can shred proteins into small parts and reconvert them into new proteins or even, if needed, destroy the protein itself. When we teach physiology in medical school, we never stress the inherent capacity of the human body to correct itself without outside help. It is only in an unlikely event that an outside help (doctor) gets to help the system.

6. [Despite high disease burden, clinical trials for drugs low in India](#) – Times of India

India is home to 17% of the world population and contributes 20% to the world's disease burden. Despite this, the number and frequency of clinical trials and development of new drugs in the country is very low. Of all the clinical trials being conducted in the world, only 1.4% are in India. Throughout last week, research oriented medical professionals in the country spent time making people aware of the importance of clinical trials as they marked the International Clinical Trials Week. Indian Society of Clinical Research (ISCR) even came out with a bunch of goals they plan to achieve in coming years. Experts said they believed regulatory challenges, misconceptions about clinical trials and lack of awareness among general public were the most important factors holding back the progress of clinical research in India. "One of the most prevalent misconceptions about such trials is that they treat patients as Guinea pigs. The medicines have already been tested in laboratories or on animals. The human trials are experiments, but controlled ones where side effects are known, anticipated and looked for proactively. Also, not everybody can participate in the trials. There are certain criteria for participants," informed endocrinologist Dr Shailesh Pitale, who has been the principal investigator in many clinical trials related with diabetes and hormones. Before introducing a medicine for mass consumption, it is important to find out all the side-effects connected with it. For this, they are tried on a small group of patients who satisfy certain criteria. These trials are carefully designed and monitored research studies that test drugs, devices or procedures.