

IPR & Innovation

What's hot? Life sciences challenge tech in global innovation, [Hindustan Times](#)

The life sciences industry is increasingly taking over from the tech sector in driving global innovation, according to a Thomson Reuters analysis of global patents. With more patents applied for or granted in 2014 than in any other year in history, humankind has never been more inventive, whether in designing driverless cars, discovering new drugs for cancer or building bionic limbs. Major sectors showing impressive patent growth in 2014 included pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, where inventions rose 12 and 7% respectively, according to the 2015 State of Innovation report published on Tuesday. (stateofinnovation.com).

Access to Healthcare

'Modi government has done little for public health', [The Times of India](#)

The Narendra Modi-led government has done little for the country's public health despite announcing new schemes, said a report published in the international medical journal, The Lancet, to coincide with the government's completion of a year in office. The world report noted that while sanitation and vaccination programmes were announced, budgetary allocation of many ongoing projects were slashed. "Fifteen of the health ministry's national programmes, including tobacco control, mental health, prevention of blindness, trauma care, elderly care and human resource development have not been allocated a single rupee, and have been merged with the National Health Mission (NHM), which has also had its funding curtailed," said the article.

Similar reports have appeared in:

[DNA India](#)

Medical & Regulatory

Health min gets tough on pharma sector, [Financial Express](#)

In a move to implement stringent regulations in the pharmaceutical industry, the health ministry has initiated a broad survey of generic drugs for quality test purposes. This includes testing of over 42,000 samples of different therapeutic drugs drawn from various manufacturers. "The survey is part of the quality assessment programme to increase the confidence levels for quality generic drugs manufactured in India and is expected to be completed in the next six to eight months," GN Singh, drugs controller general (India), the ministry of health and family welfare, said.

India told to make antibiotic resistance plan, [Deccan Herald](#)

The World Health Organisation on Tuesday asked its member countries including India to prepare a national action plan on antibiotic resistance within the next two years for an effective battle against one of the emerging threats to the public health. The WHO has endorsed the global action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance including antibiotic resistance, the most urgent form of drug resistance trend, primarily because of its ability to compromise the medical treatments of a large number of diseases.

International alert system for Indian pharma firms, [Asian Age](#)

India has proposed to set up a global alert system, where drug regulator from any country can report on unfair practises adopted by the Indian pharma firms. The move comes close on the heels of the recent reports of Indian pharma firms involving in unfair practises like manipulation of US FDA rules, etc. India's drug controller G.N.Singh said, "We have planned an international alert system and will be convening a meeting in this regard in mid-July this year. Any company found indulging in unfair practises will be strongly dealt with."

NPPA warns IV fluid makers for non-submission of pricing data despite reminders, Pharmabiz.com

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has directed the manufacturers and marketing companies of IV fluids to submit data on price-to-retailer (PTR) and moving annual total (MAT) value for September 2013. The drug regulator said non-compliance to the said notification may lead to taking appropriate action. NPPA in its recent notification reminded the manufacturers and marketing companies on the same for September 2013. This is the third time NPPA has made a request to the manufacturing and marketing companies to provide the required data. In its notification, NPPA said that its office has not received requisite data or information along with copy of

Absence of pharmacists at outlets in metros higher compared to small towns: Dr BR Jagashetty, Pharmabiz.com

Absence of pharmacists at chemists outlets in the metros is far higher compared to the rural towns. This is because outlets in the Tier 3 and 4 cities with a population of 20,000 and 10,000 are set up by owners who are pharmacists, unlike the metros where they are hired, said Dr BR Jagashetty, former National Advisor (drugs control) to ministry of health & family welfare and former Karnataka drugs controller. The non-existence of a pharmacist at an outlet is a gross violation of Rule 65(2) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules there-under.

OPPI in News

National IPR Policy to be delayed further, Business Standard

The much-awaited National IPR Policy is likely to be delayed further with the draft policy getting stuck at the level of inter-ministerial consultations even as inputs from the key ministries are still awaited. Although the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), under the ministry of commerce and industry, had prepared and circulated the draft policy inviting public comments last year, the draft policy is now up for feedback from various ministries. According to **Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, OPPI**, the government should come out with the robust policy after investing so much time on it.

Other News on Pharma

Cancer research gathers further momentum with collaborations, The Times of India

Cancer has emerged as the biggest killer responsible for nearly 5 lakh deaths every year in the country. Recent data released by the India Council of Medical Research (ICMR's) National Cancer Registry Program shows that there has been an estimated 6% rise in mortality due to cancer from 2013 to 2014. A health ministry official said, "A large number of ageing population, unhealthy lifestyles, use of tobacco and tobacco products, unhealthy diets, lack of diagnostic facilities are some of the factors that can be attributed to the increase in the number of cancer deaths".

Disheartening situation, The Hindu Business Line

Maharashtra's drug regulator has taken a serious view of cardiac patients being overcharged for stents in major hospitals in the State. A study conducted by it over six months revealed that patients paid four to eight times the actual cost of import (₹25,000-40,000) of the stent, depending on its brand and type. This is a rip-off that sustains itself on inadequate supplies and the desperation of the buyer. The State drug regulator has asked the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority to list stents under the National List of Essential Medicines and bring them under price control.