

1. [Draft patent rules propose quick clearance, greater clarity](#) – The Hindu Business Line

India's patent rules are set to be modified soon. The government has circulated a draft notification proposing changes such as speeding up grant of patent applications, simplifying submission of forms and payment of fees and bringing clarity in the process of patent opposition and revocation.

No amendments have, however, been proposed in laws that disallow patents for incremental innovations (Section 3 (d)), as was being pushed for by global pharmaceutical majors and the US. The draft notification, put up on the Web site of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion for comments recently, will be officially notified after 30 days. The Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2015, will further amend the Patents Rules 2003.

1. [Draft patent rules propose quick clearance, greater clarity](#) – The Hindu Business Line
2. [Prices of 98 drugs not fixed due to non availability of information](#) – The Economic Times
3. [Away from the Glare, a Push for More Stringent IPR Protection at the WTO](#) – The Wire
4. [Pharma firms flouting drugs pricing norms](#) – The Times of India
5. [Bristol-Myers buying heart drug maker Cardioxyl for \\$2.1B](#) – Business Standard
6. [Indian drug manufacturing companies need to make continuous efforts to maintain quality: Dr Vadlamudi](#) – Pharmabiz.com
7. [Chinese scare looms over India's bulk drug industry](#) – Mint

2. [Prices of 98 drugs not fixed due to non availability of information](#) – The Economic Times

The central government has not been able to fix the price of 98 drugs used for treating various diseases such as tuberculosis, cardiac conditions, anemia, malaria and infections due to non-availability of information.

"NPPA prepared list of 98 medicines included in Schedule - I of DPCO, 2013 for which no information is available and prices could not be fixed/notified," National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority said in a statement on its website.

It had sought data/information about these 98 formulations from all state governments and UTs, Drug Controller General of India, drug controllers of states and UTs, IMS health, Pharma Trac and apex pharma organisations such as OPPI, IDMA, IPA, among others, and trade associations.

3. [Away from the Glare, a Push for More Stringent IPR Protection at the WTO](#) – The Wire

A move to push for tighter intellectual property protection is being pursued relentlessly by the United States and Switzerland at the World Trade Organisation.

Their aim is to bring certain kinds of complaints under TRIPS – the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement at the WTO – that are not possible currently because of a moratorium. If such complaints become admissible, this could lead to countries like India coming under pressure to provide higher IP protection to pharmaceutical companies from these countries.

4. [Pharma firms flouting drugs pricing norms](#) – The Times of India  
Pharma manufacturers and others dealing with sale of bulk drugs in the state are increasingly flouting the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), which makes it mandatory for them to sell essential life saving drugs at an affordable price.

So rampant is the violation that the Telangana Drug Control Authority, in a state-wide raid on retail and bulk pharma outlets and manufacturers, identified 65 instances where the prices charged were found to have exceeded the ceiling fixed by DPCO.

5. [Bristol-Myers buying heart drug maker Cardioxyl for \\$2.1B](#) – Business Standard  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company is acquiring a private biotech company developing a medicine for one of the most common cause of hospitalizations in senior citizens, in a deal that could be worth up to USD 2.1 billion.

New York-based Bristol-Myers, which makes drugs for hepatitis C, cancer and heart attack prevention, said today that it could close its deal to acquire Cardioxyl Pharmaceuticals Inc by year's end.

6. [Indian drug manufacturing companies need to make continuous efforts to maintain quality: Dr Vadlamudi](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Indian drug manufacturing companies need to take more efforts to continue to maintain the quality compliance once they reached a quality level as per the regulatory norms. It is difficult to permanently adhere to the compliance norms, either big player or micro unit, unless consistent attempt is made for it, said Dr. VSV Vadlamudi, president of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA).

In an interview with Pharmabiz in Indore, he said IPA is now dedicated to sensitise the industry more than ever for maintaining quality compliance. He said those manufacturers who want to stick to quality norms in their continuous drug productions need to have three qualities such as, proper mindset for quality maintenance, investment capacity and skilled human resources. Unless these three, no company could be able to maintain its quality for long.

7. [Chinese scare looms over India's bulk drug industry](#) – Mint  
Early on this year, the government declared 2015 as the year of bulk drugs or Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) in a bid to promote its Make in India initiative.

The year is nearly over but self-sufficiency in bulk drugs remains a distant dream as India remains import dependent with over dependence on China even for the essential drugs. However, a bulk drug manufacturing policy is expected to be out by the fiscal year end.