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**IPR and Innovation**

1. [The Right Dose](#) - The Financial Express  
With non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like cancer taking the centre-stage in low-income countries, governments and pharma companies must tailor their strategies accordingly. In India, NCDs are already responsible for more than 60% of all deaths. An ICRIER study notes that India could lose nearly \$4.6 billion between 2012 and 2030 because of NCDs, with four top killers: cardiovascular diseases (26% of all deaths in 2014), chronic respiratory disease (13%), cancer (7%) and diabetes (2%). Given this backdrop, ICRIER contends that the US's objections to India's IPR regime for pharma—compulsory licensing and patent violations have been flagged—don't hold much water.
2. [India slips 5 ranks in innovation index](#) - The Hindu Business Line  
India has slipped further down the annual Global Innovation Index, ranking 81, from 76 in 2014. This marks a sharp decline in the assessment of the state of innovation in India over the past few years: in 2008-09, the nation had ranked 41st globally. While the creators of the index, published in a report on Thursday, said the figures for India did not yet fully reflect the reforms to innovation policy being brought in by the new Central government, the country's ranking is in sharp contrast to other Asian economies, including China, which retained its position as the 29th most innovative country.
3. [Indo-US bilateral meet: Assistance for smart cities, more trade access, skilling on Centre's agenda](#) - The Indian Express  
India will take up its concerns on Washington's immigration reforms and the pending social security agreement, seek enhanced access to sectors including legal, financial and education

services and technical assistance in developing smart cities, energy needs and skill development when commerce minister Nirmala Sitharaman meets her counterpart on Tuesday. The official said that on the trade front, four joint working groups had been set up in areas including infrastructure, standards, technical textiles and services, and their progress will be reviewed. India will also showcase the work done so far on strengthening the intellectual property rights regime in the country. As such, the government has already announced that it will soon come out with a national IPR policy amid questions raised by US lobby groups on New Delhi's existing regime.

4. [US keen India values IPR: Expert Patrick Kilbride \(IANS Interview\)](#) - Business Standard  
As Prime Minister [Narendra](#) Modi prepares for his US visit from Sep 23 to 28, industry there is keenly awaiting to hear from his Team India's stand on intellectual property rights (IPR). This has been a major irritant in boosting economic ties between the two nations, says Patrick Kilbride, executive director of the US Chamber's Global Intellectual Property Center, which seeks to safeguard intellectual property rights. In an e-mail interview with IANS, Kilbride says USA Inc was particularly interested in some movement forward in [India](#) on issues such as legislative changes, pharmaceuticals patenting, enforcement and compulsory licensing.
5. [US calls for smoother tax regime, ease of doing business in India](#) - The Economic Times  
For the first time since the Modi government came to power, the Obama administration has openly called for a simplified tax regime and ease of doing business in India to attract global investments, including from the US. However, she said the Modi government can send signals to show its commitment to reforms, such as the strengthening of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). "We know that a strong IPR regime is absolutely critical to a competitive economy - it's what underpins our economic success and, while our system isn't perfect, it does attract some of the best companies from all over the world."

## Access to Healthcare

1. [Public, Pvt sectors must unite for univ healthcare: Gogoi](#) - Moneycontrol  
Public and private sectors must join hands together to reach out to the poor and needy through universal access to healthcare, said Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi Friday. "Reaching out to the poor and needy through universal access to healthcare is the prime need of the hour. Public and private sectors must join hands together to make this happen," Gogoi said at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised conclave on healthcare here.
2. [Weeding out graft in the national healthcare scene](#) - The Hindu Business Line  
Democratising the entire system is the need of the hour. Delivery of healthcare in India is quite complex and demanding. While this offers the opportunity for service level innovation - by which providers can reinvent existing delivery models to bring healthcare closer to patients - the benefit translation to patients takes time. The healthcare indicators continue to lag (Infant Mortality Rate and life expectancy are behind Low and Middle Income Countries' averages), the healthcare spend is not growing at the same rate as GDP, and out-of-pocket spending continues to be high. India's health care sector witnesses close to 50 percent spend on in-patient beds for lifestyle diseases, especially in urban and semi-urban pockets.
3. [Soon, cancer medicines, stents to be cheaper](#) - The Times of India  
Cancer medicines and stents may soon be available at a substantially lower price. The health ministry is working on a model to procure such drugs in bulk at a negotiated price and supply them to hospitals and consumers through its own retail system like 'Jan Aushadhi' stores. The idea is to bring down prices of expensive cancer drugs and stents while not putting pressure on margins of companies, a health ministry official told TOI. The government is in talks with pharmaceutical companies to implement the scheme.
4. ['Private sector support lacking in public health schemes'](#) - The Economic Times  
Public health programmes are "failing" in India due to the lack of private sector support, a top World Health Organisation (WHO) executive said today while underscoring the "gap" between

policy-making and research. WHO Regional Director (SE Asia) Poonam Khetrpal Singh further observed that research doesn't always translate into policy and very rarely does it focus on preventive health. There is a major gap in policy making and research in India. Universal healthcare to the poorest of the poor should be the focus of the government. The public health programmes are failing in India as private sector does not support it," Singh said.

## Medical & Regulatory

1. [Price regulator acts tough, firms hit by impasse in new drug approvals](#) - The Financial Express  
While the Indian industry's growth stuttered in recent years, the pharmaceutical sector seemed to hold its head high with a double-digit growth, but this concealed a skewed growth model caused by a regulatory impasse: Increasingly, the growth is driven by the increased consumption of older medicines, rather than new therapies being made available to patients as in the past. Leading drug companies attribute the problem to the central authorities resorting to a short cut that is not in line with the law to curtail state drug regulators' power to grant marketing licences when it comes to "new drugs". The Centre's move is goaded by past experiences of companies using the allegedly lax (and conniving) state authorities to bring new fixed dose combinations (FDCs) of dubious validity into the market to boost profits.
2. [Docs-pharma firms nexus' under CCI lens](#) – Financial Express  
Concerned over possible nexus between doctors and pharmaceutical companies, fair trade regulator CCI will soon carry out a detailed study of pharma and healthcare services sector in the national capital region. Public and private hospitals, insurance companies, pharmaceutical firms and their associations, doctors and their associations, among others, would be covered under the study. The watchdog is planning the study to understand whether there are anti competitive practices in this sector as part of larger efforts to clamp down on unfair business practices and has also passed many orders in this regard. In the past few years, the regulator has come across various instances in the pharmaceutical sector where competition norms seem to have been violated. Against this backdrop, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) will soon carry out a study about the 'pharmaceutical sector and healthcare delivery systems/services in Delhi and NCR.

## Others

1. [Pharma market overview: The expanding role of India and Indian companies](#) - Express Pharma  
The global pharma market is going through major structural changes with significant implications for India and Indian companies. North America continues to be the largest pharma market in the world contributing to about a third of the \$1 trillion in annual global pharma sales in value terms. However, with the rapid pace of growth in pharma sales in Asia over the last five years and the expected growth in the medium-term future, the centre of gravity for the pharma market is slowly shifting toward Asia.
2. [Lobbying by U.S. pharmaceutical companies not in India's interest: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw](#) - Business Standard  
The CEO of India's leading pharmaceutical company - [BioCon](#) - Ms. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw who, is in [Washington](#) to participate in the CEO's Forum of the [India](#) - US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue, has warned that excessive lobbying by American pharmaceutical companies aimed at establishing a domination in the Indian market is not in the interest of the Indian common man because of price issues stemming from data exclusivity and patent linkages.