

IPR and Innovation

1. [India rejects patent on Pfizer's drug](#) – Business Standard
2. [DoP working towards attracting global investors to invest in drug research & manufacture with right policies](#) – Pharmabiz.com
3. [Companies struggle to get new medicines adopted across Europe](#) - Reuters
4. [OICR, SGC develop and give away new drug-like molecule to help crowd-source cancer research](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Access to Healthcare

1. [Cheaper medicines for TB, HIV, diabetes, cancer on the cards](#) – Hindustan Times
2. [Shetty turns to cellphone users for health scheme](#) – The Economic Times

Medical & Regulatory

1. [Suspending EU trade talks 'unilateral', but not 'unconsidered': Nirmala Sitharaman](#) – Indian Express
2. [Sub-committee on online pharmacy may amend Rule 65 of D&C Rules](#) - Pharmabiz.com

IPR and Innovation

1. [India rejects patent on Pfizer's drug](#) – Business Standard
India has again denied Pfizer Inc a patent on its rheumatoid arthritis drug tofacitinib, the latest setback for a multinational drugmaker seeking to enforce its intellectual property rights in the country.

Pfizer sought a patent that covers an important chemical formulation of the active compound in the medicine, but the Indian Patent Office said the company would have to establish that the compound for which it is seeking a patent is therapeutically more effective than the active compound. Companies including Pfizer, Bayer and Roche have in recent years struggled to retain exclusivity on drugs in India, and have blamed patent laws they say are designed to favour the local industry. India, however, has said its drug patents policy is designed to ensure medicines remain affordable for the country where less than 15 percent of the population has health insurance.

2. [DoP working towards attracting global investors to invest in drug research & manufacture with right policies](#) – Pharmabiz.com

In sync with the Make in India mission of the Union government, the department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) is now working to create a conducive environment along with a slew of policies and regulations to reinstate the confidence of global investors and buoy up revenue inflows into drug research and manufacture.

The government will liberalise policies to make the pharma sector more market oriented, increase exports opportunities for small and medium drug manufacturers by enabling compliance to WHO GMP standards with specific funding mechanism. It will accelerate interactions between industry and government to discuss weakness and challenges for making the pharma sector more dynamic, said Dr VK Subburaj, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals who was in Bengaluru.

3. [Companies struggle to get new medicines adopted across Europe](#) - ReuteLrs
Pharmaceutical companies, currently enjoying a bumper wave of new drug launches, are struggling to get recently introduced products adopted in key European markets as governments bear down on costs. While a number of countries have pledged in recent years to encourage the use of innovative medicines, Europe remains a much tougher market than the United States, prompting many companies to offer significant price discounts. Cancer drugs are a particular flashpoint. While British cost-effectiveness experts gave an accelerated green light to Merck's new cancer treatment Keytruda on Monday, after the U.S. company offered a price discount, this followed the de-listing of several other medicines last week.
4. [OICR, SGC develop and give away new drug-like molecule to help crowd-source cancer research](#) – Pharmabiz.com
Researchers from the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) and the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC) at the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto have developed a new drug prototype called OICR-9429 and made it freely available to the research community. Already research conducted by international groups using OICR-9429 has shown it to be effective in stopping cancer cell growth in breast cancer cell lines and a specific subtype of leukemia cells.

Access to Healthcare

1. [Cheaper medicines for TB, HIV, diabetes, cancer on the cards](#) – Hindustan Times
Prices of medicines, including those for treatment of diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV, diabetes and cancer are expected to fall further, as the government looks to reconsider the formula used to fix their rates. But there's a catch. Low prices could also force manufacturers to stop production, which may lead to some of these medicines going off the shelves. In the wake of a recent Supreme Court order in July asking the government to revisit the formula to fix medicine prices, the Centre is mulling going back to the older method.
2. [Shetty turns to cellphone users for health scheme](#) – The Economic Times
Pay Rs 20 extra in your mobile phone bill every month and build a corpus fund for a healthcare scheme. This is what cardiac surgeon Devi Prasad Shetty, who came up with the cheapest health insurance scheme, Yeshasvini, 12 years ago in Karnataka, wants good Samaritans to do. He is now exploring the possibility of tapping mobile phone users to contribute towards another such all-India programme on an all-India basis. "There are 900 million cellphone users in the country who, on an average, spend Rs 150 per month for usage. If each subscriber agrees to pay even Rs 20 per month, it will be a big-ticket contribution," he pointed out.

Medical & Regulatory

1. [Suspending EU trade talks 'unilateral', but not 'unconsidered': Nirmala Sitharaman](#) – Indian Express
Commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the move to suspend the chief negotiators' scheduled talks in August on European Union-India Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) was indeed "unilateral", but not an "unconsidered or an instant decision".

"I am glad the Prime Minister stood in sync with us that it's not fair ... especially for the India drugs and pharmaceutical sector which has received clearances from USFDA, obtained EU quality certification and were producing international quality generic drugs and selling at affordable prices for life saving diseases. What prompts the banning without even telling us the reason. The decision to not hold the chief negotiators' meeting was taken at the highest level," Sitharaman said.

2. [Sub-committee on online pharmacy may amend Rule 65 of D&C Rules](#) - Pharmabiz.com

The sub committee set up by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for regulating online pharmacy in the country is likely to discuss the need to amend Rule 65 of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules 1945. Rule 65 stipulates sale of drug under the supervision of a registered pharmacist which also involves signing of the bill and stamping of the prescription by the pharmacist and the doctor.

Rule 65 prescribes the procedure to be adopted by the medical stores while selling the prescription drugs and under which the prescription from the registered medical practitioner is necessary for sale of Schedule H drugs under the Act. Rule on online pharmacy also needs to provide adequate safeguards and provisions with reference to Schedule H compliance in the country.