

Budget**Publication: The Indian Express****Edition: National****Date: February 18, 2014****Headline: A word of health's tech achievements** (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

Synopsis: The news reports filed on the budget mentions that Finance minister P. Chidambaram's allocation of Rs 33,725 crore for health will ensure universal health coverage remains a distant dream. To be sure, the numbers could change in June or July when the new government that takes over presents its budget. Interestingly, the health ministry, which had a budget estimate of Rs 37,330 crore for 2013-14, actually spent nearly Rs 5,000 crore less than what they had budgeted, highlighting the inability of various programmes to spend the funds on offer. Indeed, programmes related to disaster management, cancer care and vaccines were unable to spend the money provided.

Similar reports in-**The Telegraph-** [Boost to cord blood banking](#)**The Asian Age-** [No service tax on cord blood banks](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)**The Pioneer-** [Slight rise in allocation for Health Ministry](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)**Publication: Pharmabiz****Edition: Online****Date: February 17, 2014****Headline: [No takeaways for pharma in Interim Budget as health gets better attention](#)**

Synopsis: As Finance Minister P Chidambaram chose to present a report card of the ruling coalition ahead of the general elections in his interim budget for 2014-15 on Monday, pharmaceutical or allied sectors drew a blank with no clear takeaways, while health got comparatively a better attention from the government. The only consolation in the interim budget for the health sector was the announcement for the cord blood banks. "Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has requested that services provided by cord blood banks are also healthcare services and should be exempt from service tax. I propose to accept the request," he said.

Patents/Compulsory Licensing/Intellectual Property**Publication: The Times Of India****Edition: Chennai****Date: February 18, 2014****Headline: Scientists decree low IPR rating for India** (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

Synopsis: US Department of Commerce's move to rate India as the lowest in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) listing among 25 countries has triggered a debate among the scientific community here. Scientists believe the move aims to sideline India through trade sanctions to monopolize their trade and ultimately knowledge.

Publication: The Times Of India**Edition: Chennai****Date: February 18, 2014****Headline: [B'lore firm bags US patent for virtual liver](#)**

Synopsis: Strand Life Sciences, founded by professors at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, was awarded a patent in the US last week for its two-year-old virtual liver product, used by pharmaceutical companies across the world to test new drug toxicity in the liver.

Clinical Trials/ Drug Pricing

Publication: PharmaTimes

Edition: Online

Date: February 17, 2014

Headline: [US cancer care researchers say "cut drug prices"](#)

Synopsis: US researchers have identified drug pricing as one area of high costs of cancer care, and say that they can be reduced without harming patients. End-of-life care and medical imaging are two other areas where costs can safely be reduced, say Johns Hopkins experts Prof Thomas Smith and Dr Ronan Kelly, in a review article published in The Lancet Oncology.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: February 17, 2014

Headline: [Success strategies for Indian pharma industry in an uncertain world](#)

Synopsis: Fragmented Indian pharmaceutical market is facing high volatility and uncertainty. Increasing number of drugs in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and price controls, changing FDI Policy, compulsory licensing, aggressive acquisition investments by MNCs, and declining global generic market opportunity is creating a new normal. Pharmaceutical companies need to re-visit their traditional growth strategies to succeed in a volatile world. Indian pharmaceutical industry is valued at \$ 12 billion in 2013. The market is primarily driven by exports to regulated as well as semi-regulated markets. Currently, India exports drugs to more than 200 countries and vaccines and biopharmaceutical products to about 151 countries. Globally, India ranks 3rd in terms of volume and 14th in terms of value.