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## 1. Indian government mulls price controls on patented drugs

**INDIA'S  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
MARKET IS EXPECTED  
TO GROW TO \$55  
BILLION BY 2020**

*The Indian government is looking to widen the scope of price controls on pharmaceuticals. In a move that could create another potential hurdle for multinational drug companies doing business in India, the Department of Pharmaceuticals is examining a proposal to look into the pricing of patented drugs in the country, reports The Pharma Letter's India correspondent.*

*"A committee constituted to look into the issue of price negotiation mechanisms for patented drugs had earlier submitted its report. This was shelved because the market dynamics had changed drastically. The matter is now being re-examined in the department," according to official sources. Currently, there is no system of price negotiation for patented drugs. [Read more](#)*

## 2. Market impacts of patent reforms in developing countries

**IN 2010, INDIA  
EXPORTED  
APPROXIMATELY \$17.2  
BILLION WORTH OF  
PHARMACEUTICALS**

*Intellectual property (IP) protection is a heavily debated issue particularly in the developing world, as many formerly poor countries have experienced rapid economic growth and now represent potentially profitable markets for innovating firms. Partly because of this growing importance, members of the World Trade Organization were required to adopt the Trade Related Intellectual Property Standards (TRIPS) intended to establish uniform IP standards including a product patent system in all fields of technology. Many developing countries such as India, China, and Brazil have recently begun creating these systems (and these policies are currently being considered in many African countries). As a result, little is known about the effects of these policies in the developing world. [Read more](#)*

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### 3. Canadian firm Island Labs denied Patent on concoction for hair growth

**INDIA HAS BEEN  
ABLE TO PROTECT ITS  
TRADITIONAL  
KNOWLEDGE IN ABOUT  
225 PATENT CASES**

*NEW DELHI: A Canadian company has been denied patent for a hair and scalp medical formulation by the government after the Ministry of Science and Technology opposed the application on the ground that it was part of traditional Indian medicine. Island Laboratories Inc, a Canadian company, had filed an application for patent with the Controller General of Patent Designs and Trademark under the Ministry of Commerce, in 2007, on a concoction which promised hair growth and improvement in hair and scalp health.*

*The medical formulation comprised one or more extracts from plants like Veratrum, Buxus, Holarrhena, Solarium, Rauwolfia for promoting hair growth, reducing hair loss and enhancing or restoring hair colour. [Read more](#)*

### 4. WHO updates Patent status info for new Hepatitis C medicines seizures

**HEPATITIS C,  
A LIVER DISEASE THAT  
KILLS APPROXIMATELY  
700,000 PEOPLE  
ANNUALLY**

*The World Health Organization has issued updated information on the patent status of hepatitis C medicines, including assessments of hurdles for affordable generic versions of latest drugs.*

*The reports were updated on seven new treatments, including sofosbuvir, ledipasvir and daclatasvir, which were included in the latest WHO Essential Medicines List. Data was provided for 40 countries and regions. "Knowledge of the patent status of new medicines is important for governments who are trying to make those medicines available to their populations," WHO said in the summary of the reports. [Read more](#)*

## 5. Startups, now just need DIPP certificate for IPR benefits

**CLOSE TO 4,400  
TECHNOLOGY STARTUPS  
EXIST IN INDIA AND THE  
NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO  
REACH OVER 12,000 BY  
2020**

*In an announcement made by the Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the startups would now need only a certificate of recognition from the government to avail IPR-related benefits. With this initiative, the government is providing yet another platform for the startups to allow them to do their business easily. The startups would now require only a certificate of recognition from the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in order to procure the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) benefits.*

*Earlier, startups went through an elaborate process of approaching an inter-ministerial board to procure the IPR benefits.*

[Read more](#)

## 6. UNCTAD's work on IP to continue in strengthened four-year mandate

**ON FRIDAY (JULY 22),  
UNCTAD'S MEMBER  
STATES ENDORSED  
NAIROBI MAAFIKIANO-  
NAIROBI CONSENSUS**

*NAIROBI, Kenya (IP-Watch) – Intellectual property rights related to trade and development will continue to be part of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s programme work, according to an agreement on the organisation's four-year mandate reached at the agency's 14th session in Nairobi.*

*The UN agency has been implementing a programme focussing on the development dimension of IP rights, which helps developing countries participate effectively in local and international discussions on the subject. Engaging on research and policy analysis, technical assistance and policy dialogues, the programme's work aims at ensuring that IP policies are consistent with development objectives. [Read more](#)*

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## 7. TIPO makes exception to allow a design registration certificate as certified copy of the first Patent application for claiming priority

### **DESIGN REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE AS A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE FIRST PATENT APPLICATION FOR CLAIMING PRIORITY**

*According to Paragraph 3, Article 142 of the Patent Act, where a design patent application claims priority, the applicant shall submit a certified copy of the first patent application issued by the foreign patent authority of the country or WTO member state in which the first patent application was filed. However, a certified copy of the registration certificate cannot be recognized as the certified copy of the first patent application for claiming priority.*

[Read more](#)

## 8. Ayurveda to undergo clinical trials before hitting market

### **HEALTHCARE EXPERTS IN MODERN MEDICINE CLAIM THAT THERE IS MAXIMUM HYPE AND MINIMUM SCIENCE IN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE**

*Ayurveda and other alternative medicines openly sold without any regulations in India would soon need to undergo a strict procedure of research and clinical trials before hitting the market. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), under its Draft National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research involving Human Participants, 2016, has proposed that in a bid to ensure patient safety and efficacy, there should be proper research and clinical trials on these drugs.*

*"Though Traditional Systems of medicine (termed Complementary and Alternate Systems in the West) are known for their long history of safe and effective use, validation of safety and efficacy using scientific and evidence-based methodologies is needed for the purpose of universal acceptability, gaining confidence of practitioners and satisfaction of end users in the products," said Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Director General, ICMR and Secretary, Department of Health Research, Union Health Ministry. [Read more](#)*

## 9. For Olympics, much at stake in Trademark enforcement

**"THE WORD 'RIO'  
IS THE NAME  
OF A PLACE  
THAT BELONGS  
TO EVERYBODY"**

*Just as surely as Olympic torchbearers wind their way around Brazil, Olympics committees are moving to protect their trademark rights — worth hundreds of millions of dollars — in the lead-up to the 2016 Summer Games.*

*Trademark enforcement actions are as predictable as any other ritual surrounding the biennial Olympic Games, with committees typically facing criticism, mostly from small businesses, for fiercely trying to protect Olympic logos and phrases from use by any party that hasn't paid — and the price is steep — to use them.*

*Mostly, enforcement stops short of lawsuits. It typically involves sending warning letters to stop even small violators like a corner pizzeria that might hawk two-for-one pies for neighborhood Olympics viewing parties. [Read more](#)*