



Medicines Patent Pool Agreement for Leukaemia

Why in News?

Recently, the **Medicines Patent Pool (MPP)**, a [United Nations](#)-backed group signed sub-licence agreements with three India-based companies to make certain **Cancer Drugs** more accessible and cheaper for patients.

- These agreements **allow the production of generic versions of Novartis' cancer treatment drug** Nilotinib, primarily used for **Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML)**, in several countries.
- The licence covers **India, seven middle-income countries**, and 44 territories, allowing the generic versions of Nilotinib to be supplied, subject to local regulatory authorization.

What is the Medicines Patent Pool?

- MPP is a [United Nations](#)-backed **public health organisation** working to increase access to, and facilitate the **development of, life-saving medicines** for Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC).
- It was founded in July 2010, based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- MPP partners with civil society, governments, international organisations, industry, patient groups, and other stakeholders, to **prioritise and license needed medicines and pool [Intellectual Property](#)** to encourage generic manufacture and the development of new formulations.
- As of now, MPP has signed agreements with **twelve patent holders for thirteen [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) antiretrovirals](#)**, one HIV technology platform, three [hepatitis C](#) direct-acting antivirals, a [tuberculosis](#) treatment, a long-acting technology, two experimental oral antiviral treatments for [Covid-19](#) and a Covid-19 serological antibody technology.

What is Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML)?

- **About:**
 - It is one of the types of **Leukemia**, which is a **blood-cell cancer** that affects the **bone marrow and the blood**. Other types are,
 - Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)
 - Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)
 - Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL).
 - It is characterized by the **uncontrolled growth of abnormal [white blood cells](#)** called myeloid cells.
 - CML typically progresses **slowly, and it is often diagnosed during** the chronic phase.
- **Diagnosis:**
 - CML is typically diagnosed through a combination of blood tests and bone **marrow examination**.

[Source: TH](#)

