

1. [TPP likely to impact patent regime: Panel](#) – Times of India

A government think tank on Thursday said the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which will create the world's largest free-trade pact, is unlikely to impact India's trade significantly and warned that joining the new framework would have adverse impact on the country's patent regime, especially access to medicines.

An analysis of the various components of the TPP by the Centre for WTO Studies showed that even investment and state-owned enterprises could be hit hard and face disputes across any of the member countries. At present, there are 14 members led by the US with countries such as South Korea and Indonesia having shown interest in the latest trade grouping.

1. [TPP likely to impact patent regime: Panel](#) – Times of India
2. [Sales reps testing patients at 'free health camps' in India](#) – Economic Times
3. ['Universal health care remains a dream'](#) – The Hindu
4. [Delhi HC Not to Transfer IPR Cases for Now](#) – Economic Times
5. [Cancer drug prices vary widely across Europe, study finds](#) – Reuters
6. [A Radical Proposal For Bringing Down The Cost Of Cancer Drugs](#) – Forbes
7. [Big pharmas losing war on disease](#) – Mint
8. [THE PFIZER-ALLERGEN MERGER](#) – Pharmabiz

2. [Sales reps testing patients at 'free health camps' in India](#) – Economic Times

Unlicensed sales representatives from drug companies in India are screening people at a number of 'free health camps', violating Medical Council of India (MCI)'s regulations, according to a new report published in the BMJ.

Free 'health camps' for poor people in India have grown popular, Frederik Joelsing, a journalist based in Denmark wrote in the journal.

Local residents are invited to the camps that may include medical testing done by drug representatives or technicians, he said.

*Same article appeared in [Business Standard](#), [Zee News](#)*

3. ['Universal health care remains a dream'](#) – The Hindu

The governments are not investing in public healthcare services and forcing the poor to go to private sector hospitals even for basic healthcare services.

Providing universal healthcare is a target in the Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the UN General Assembly in September this year and India is a signatory to the UN Resolution on Universal Healthcare of 2012.

The UN resolution urges governments to move towards providing all people with access to affordable and quality healthcare services.

The concept of universal healthcare would remain a dream unless the government draws up a proper framework of service delivery and fix responsibility on both the public and private sector

service providers, president of Public Health Foundation of India and president of Global Youth Meet 2015 K. Srinath Reddy has told The Hindu.

4. [Delhi HC Not to Transfer IPR Cases for Now](#) – Economic Times

The Delhi High Court will for now not transfer out any pending intellectual property rights cases to lower courts irrespective of their pecuniary value and instead await further clarity in a law expected to come in January.

The law is expected to replace an ordinance dealing with commercial disputes and exclusive commercial divisions in the high court to dispose of such cases speedily. The Delhi High Court (Amendment) Act amended with effect from October 26, had fixed the pecuniary jurisdiction of the high court at above Rs2 crore. All cases of lesser value would be transferred out, except those in which arguments had been wrapped up and judgement reserved.

The Commercial Court, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division Ordinance, 2015, later created an exception to this rule. It clarified that all commercial disputes, involving IPR disputes such as on trademark, patents, copyrights and geographical indicators, shall be decided by specially created commercial divisions in the high court provided they were valued at over Rs 1 crore.

*Same article appeared in [Mint](#) and [Indian Express](#)*

5. [Cancer drug prices vary widely across Europe, study finds](#) – Reuters

The cost of cancer drugs varies substantially across Europe, experts said on Friday in a new analysis that is likely to fuel debate about the rising cost of modern medicines.

The United States pays the highest price in the world for patented prescription drugs. A Reuters report in October found that U.S. prices for the world's 20 top-selling medicines were, on average, three times higher than in Britain.

Some countries, like France and the Netherlands, showed almost no difference between official and actual prices for drugs from companies including Roche and Bristol-Myers Squibb, while others such as Spain achieved substantial discounts, they reported.

"This calls for joint action by countries and medical societies with the pharmaceutical industry, since fast and equitable access to promising new drugs is important to improving treatment results," the researchers said.

*Same article appeared in [BBC News](#)*

6. [A Radical Proposal For Bringing Down The Cost Of Cancer Drugs](#) – Forbes

Peter Bach of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York made headlines back in 2012, when he and his team refused to give their colon cancer patients Zaltrap (ziv-aflibercept), a drug that cost more than \$11,000 a month. Since then, Bach, who directs his hospital's Center for Health Policy and Outcomes, has remained a vocal critic of high drug prices, arguing that they're not only bad for the financially strapped healthcare system, but they also discourage innovation. Today at the Forbes Healthcare Summit in New York City, Bach reviewed his radical proposal: The prices of all cancer drugs, he said, should be directly tied to the benefits they offer.

7. [Big pharma losing war on disease](#) – Mint

The planned merger of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer with competitor Allergan, aimed in large part at cutting the combined company's tax bill, illustrates a troubling trend in the industry: Firms are focused more on pursuing near-term profits than on the difficult, longer-term research needed to develop truly groundbreaking new drugs. This is unfortunate, because disease may be making a comeback.

8. **[THE PFIZER-ALLERGEN MERGER](#)** – Pharmabiz

Last week the world witnessed the biggest ever merger in the pharmaceutical industry when the US based Pfizer announced the acquisition of Allergan at \$160 billion. With this, Pfizer emerged as the largest pharmaceutical corporation in the world once again with a valuation of \$320 billion surpassing industry leader Johnson & Johnson valued at \$284 billion. The deal received unanimous approval from boards of both the companies and is expected to complete in the second half of 2016. Pfizer's acquisition of Allergan comes after its failed attempts to take over Anglo-Swedish drugs company AstraZeneca last year. According Pfizer chief, the merger will create a global pharmaceutical giant with greater financial flexibility and strength to do research and deliver more medicines and therapies to a larger number of people around the world. A hitch in the whole merger process, however, is likely as the US politicians are not quite happy about the possible move to shift the headquarters of the merged entity to Ireland where Allergan is registered and corporate taxes are much lower. Corporate tax in Ireland is just 12.5 per cent as compared to 35 per cent in the US. This inversion deal may allow Pfizer to assume a much lower rate of corporate tax. How this matter will be reconciled in the context of objections from US politicians is something to be seen in the coming days.