

1. [World Cancer Day: Compulsory licensing of key drugs only way for India to fight this grave threat](#) – Firstpost

Last year, over a million people in India were diagnosed with cancer. In the next 10 years, this number is expected to increase five times. The situation is not just alarming but frightening. As the world on Thursday observes Cancer Day, India needs to observe the consequences of this disease more closely.

CM Gulati, editor of medical journal *Monthly Index of Medical Specialities*, says, “Government cannot give

compulsory licenses to many other medicines because of intellectual property rights. There, however, is no rule that the government cannot control the price of medicines for its own citizens. Even if the cost of a medicine is high, the government can set its maximum retail price.”

Already India lacks any positive figures to boast to the world about health services it provides to its citizens. The country’s health budget was reduced from Rs 37,000 crore (last financial year) to Rs 33,000 crore in the current one. Moreover, the amount is just over one percent of the country’s GDP, way less than what other developing and developed countries spend in the health sector. With two persons being hit by cancer every minute in India, the government would need to do much more than just acknowledge Cancer Day.

2. [Compulsory licensing in manufacturing may slow investments: EU](#) - The Hindu

India’s adoption of Compulsory Licensing (CL) in industrial sectors risks affecting the flow of capital and technology from overseas, a senior European Union (EU) official said. “The extension and wide use of CL in industrial sectors can act as a deterrent for investments, from abroad and within India,” Denis Dambois, First Counsellor and Head of Research and Innovation Delegation of the EU to India, told The Hindu.

The official’s comments come in the backdrop of the imminent finalisation of India’s National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy as well as the EU’s resumption of bilateral meetings on a proposed free trade agreement (FTA). CL is the grant of permission by the government to entities to use, manufacture, import or sell a patented invention without the patent-owner’s consent. The proposed India-EU FTA would include provisions on IPR protection of which CL is an aspect. The IPR policy is also expected to cover CL as the Patents Act (of India) also deals with CL. CL is permitted under the WTO’s TRIPS (IPR) Agreement provided conditions such as ‘national emergencies, other circumstances of extreme urgency and anti-competitive practices’ are fulfilled.

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2. [Compulsory licensing in manufacturing may slow investments: EU](#) - The Hindu
3. [Kiran Mazumdar Shaw: Pharma and biotech sector must get its due in Budget](#) – The Hindu
4. [GlaxoSmithKline arm gets patent nod for pneumonia vaccine](#) – Business Standard
5. [Key facts about the TPP trade deal](#) –Economic Times
6. [Cancer treatment in India one of the best, but doesn't reach everyone](#) – Economic Times
7. [Rajan Now Slams MNCs Tax Evasion Strategies](#) – Economic Times

3. [Kiran Mazumdar Shaw: Pharma and biotech sector must get its due in Budget](#) – The Hindu
Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has a challenging task at hand to present a Budget for FY17 that spurs India's growth at a time when the economic scenario appears challenging, both externally and internally. The global economy is expected to slow down further in 2016 pulled down by weakness in major emerging economies like China, Brazil and Russia.

These global trends as well as weak investment sentiments at home are likely to impact India's GDP for FY16 and growth prospects for FY17.

4. [GlaxoSmithKline arm gets patent nod for pneumonia vaccine](#) – Business Standard
GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals S A , part of drug major GlaxoSmithKline Group, has received a favourable order from Indian Patent Office for an invention related to improved Streptococcus pneumonia vaccine.

Patent Office, that has found out the company has removed all objections raised against the application, stated ten claims submitted on June 2, 2015 stand granted for patent.

The company filed the application for 'Vaccine Comprising Streptococcus Pneumoniae Capsular Polysaccharide Conjugates' in June, 2008 and it was published on January, 2009, following which a first examination report was issued on March, 2011.

5. [Key facts about the TPP trade deal](#) – Economic Times
The 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), signed on Thursday in New Zealand, aims to eliminate trade barriers such as tariffs in a bloc that accounts for 40 per cent of the global economy. Here are some key questions and points:

- The TPP also comes as global free trade talks move painstakingly slowly at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which requires unanimous agreements and where negotiations often run foul of conflicting interests between mature economies and emerging nations.

- Establishes 5- to 8-year patent protections for certain kinds of cutting-edge drugs, less than the 12-year US threshold but more than Australia's five years.

6. [Cancer treatment in India one of the best, but doesn't reach everyone](#) –Economic Times
Every disease shows a trend over a time period. Cancers are much talked about because of their capacity to inflict high rates of mortality on the population. The availability of qualified surgical and radiation oncologists have resulted in the delivery of standard treatment for head and neck cancers. Another encouraging issue, especially in major cities like Bengaluru, is the availability of microvascular reconstructive surgeons who offer better cosmetic and functional outcomes following reconstructive procedures.

7. [Rajan Now Slams MNCs Tax Evasion Strategies](#) – Economic Times
Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan widened his criticism of bad corporate behaviour to multinational corporations that weave structures which help them avoid billions in taxes and said the policy obstacles in India are receding though there is a long way to go. The government and institutions like the Reserve Bank of India are under pressure to promote private enterprise to ensure that millions entering the job market find employment by providing a level-playing field for entrepreneurs without vested interests hijacking the agenda, said Rajan.

“Multinational corporations complain all the time about excessive taxation,” Rajan said at the Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture titled ‘Strengthening Free Enterprise’. “But, it is also true that multinational corporations across the world tend to find tax avoidance and sometimes tax evasion as appropriate techniques. Some corporations find that all their intellectual property is manufactured in Cayman Islands. I haven’t seen a lot of smart scientists sitting in Cayman Islands.” Governor Rajan’s criticism of MNCs come in the backdrop of firms such as Vodafone and Shell, among many, complaining India’s retrospective taxation and claims the tax department makes.