

1. [Don't mix talks on drugs & trade pact: EU to India](#) – The Economic Times

In a likely breakthrough for India-European Union ties, the 28-nation bloc has offered to discuss its ban on 700 Indian drugs as a separate issue so that stalled talks on a free-trade agreement can be resumed.

Senior commerce department officials said the EU has shown interest in discussing the matter and suggested that the drug ban be tackled independently of the trade talks because it is a separate legal issue. "We have to see what they have in mind. As per our understanding, there was nothing wrong and they have taken a prejudiced kind of view," a commerce department official said, referring to a communication from the EU that came a fortnight ago. The government is yet to take a call on the issue. India deferred talks on the India-EU Broadbased Investment and Trade Agreement in August after the EU banned 700 generic drugs that were tested at Hyderabad-based GVK Biosciences. In an official statement on August 5, India said it was "disappointed and concerned by the action."

1. [Don't mix talks on drugs & trade pact: EU to India](#) – The Economic Times
2. [Pharma companies like Medtronic and Dr Reddy's innovate with financing schemes for cheaper treatment](#) – ETHealth
3. [Pharmaceutical Quality at stake: To test or not to test ?](#) – ET Health
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2. [Pharma companies like Medtronic and Dr Reddy's innovate with financing schemes for cheaper treatment](#) – ETHealth

Faced with mounting criticism over the high price of lifesaving drugs, pharma companies are devising financing models that would let them have their cake and eat it too. The strategy allows the companies to protect their key products from compulsory licensing and price controls, as well as generate sales by making treatment more affordable for patients.

Companies such as Merck Sharp & Dohme (or MSD as US-based Merck & Co is known outside its home market and Canada), Medtronic, Roche, Eisai and Dr Reddy's Laboratories are experimenting with offers such as monthly installments, free diagnostic tests, discounts and even tailor-made insurance schemes to make treatment affordable at a time when echoes of high drug prices are reverberating from Asia to the Americas. MSD was one of the first to do this as the company experimented with a monthly instalment scheme for its Hepatitis C injections, wherein it allowed patients to pay in EMI for the drug with an about 12 per cent interest rate.

3. [Pharmaceutical Quality at stake: To test or not to test ?](#) – ET Health

Monitoring of pharmaceutical quality warrants comprehensive regulatory oversight of the numerous players involved in the entire product value chain and the drug distribution network is an important downstream component. For the regulator (in this case CDCSO) to effectively play its role, it would require an assessment of the quantum of work it needs to undertake. But unfortunately there is no consolidated list of the total number of manufacturing facilities for

drugs in India. The numbers quoted vary from as small as 10,000 to in excess of 25,000 and the sector is fraught with extensive fragmentation. To put things in perspective, Indonesia has a total of 217 manufacturers for allopathic medicines and the market size is around one-third (in terms of value of production) of that of India. A finite number of drug inspectors have to cover a lot of ground given the large number of manufacturers in this sector.

4. [Roche breast cancer drug at center of UK pricing row](#) – Reuters

A Roche drug that can prolong the lives of some women with advanced breast cancer has been plunged back into the center of a drug pricing row after Britain's health cost agency declared that it is still too expensive.

The stand-off shows how the price of medicines is as pressing and emotive an issue in Europe as in the United States, where Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has promised to clamp down on alleged profiteering by the drug industry. Roche CEO Severin Schwan, who slammed Britain's cancer drug system as "stupid" two months ago, expressed frustration at the rigid system used in Britain to determine value for money in healthcare.

5. [U.S. investigative panel to look into drug pricing next year](#) – Reuters

House of Representatives investigative panel said it plans to hold a 2016 hearing on skyrocketing drug costs, a move that comes at a time when Valeant Pharmaceuticals International is facing increased scrutiny into its pricing practices.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform said on Monday the panel is conducting a thorough investigation into drug pricing and has reached out to drug companies to gather information.

6. [How Pfizer has shifted U.S. profits overseas for years](#) - Reuters

Drugmaker Pfizer's ([PFE.N](#)) plans to take over Allergan ([AGN.N](#)) have faced a political backlash in the United States over fears a deal would lead to the company shifting its headquarters and taxable profits to Ireland.

However a Reuters examination of corporate filings in Europe, patent databases and other information shows the company has for over a decade been shifting profits generated by American scientists and patients overseas - to a subsidiary based in the rolling hills of County Cork.

7. [9% children suffering from TB resistant to key drug: Study](#) – The Times of India

[From two deaths every three minutes to having the highest tuberculosis burden in the world, most surveys related to TB in India throw a startling number.](#) And here is one more: Close to 9% of all paediatric tuberculosis patients are resistant to rifampicin, one of the first-line drugs used in the treatment of the infectious disease. This is 6% more than what was previously estimated, a study covering four metros in the country has found.

The project, initiated last year by the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), found that 8% of the 22,000 suspected paediatric TB cases (0-14 years) tested positive, of which nearly 9% were resistant to rifampicin. The study covered four cities - Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Delhi. From two deaths every three minutes to having the highest tuberculosis burden in the world, most surveys related to TB in India throw a startling number. And here is one more: Close to 9% of all paediatric tuberculosis patients are resistant to rifampicin, one of the first-line drugs used in the treatment of the infectious disease. This is 6% more than what was previously estimated, a study covering four metros in the country has found.

8. [India's first dedicated medical device park to come up in Andhra Pradesh](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu has taken in-principle decision to develop a dedicated 200 acre industrial park for the manufacture of medical devices in his state. The decision was conveyed by Naidu himself following an hour-long tripartite meeting between the

CM and his senior officials, senior central government officials with the representatives of Indian medical device industry led by Forum Coordinator of Association of Indian Medical Device Manufacturers (AIMED) & joint managing director of Hindustan Syringes & Medical Devices Rajiv Nath.