

1. [Swiss drugmaker Roche launches costliest cancer drugs in India](#) –

The Economic Times

As insurers, patients and governments across the world debate over the rising cost of healthcare, Swiss pharmaceutical major Roche has boldly launched two new drugs for late-stage breast cancer, pricing them higher than any other cancer medicine in the Indian market.

Kadcyla and Perjeta, the new class of drugs launched in India in October, cost Rs 2,10,000 (200 ml) and Rs 2,49,000 for a dosage, respectively. ET verified the price with several chemists and doctors, who said the maximum discount that was available was in the range of Rs 10,000-15,000. Roche said it gives the drugs free of cost after an initial stage of treatment.

2. [Top 10 M&A deals of all time: Pfizer-Allergan ranks second](#) – Mint

Interestingly, all 10 deals have happened over the last 15 years, two of them in 2015 itself. American pharmaceutical corporation Pfizer on Monday announced the second biggest global merger and acquisition (M&A) deal on record when it acquired Ireland-based Allergan Plc in a deal worth \$160 billion, outdoing the \$117 billion Belgian beverage giant Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) paid last month to acquire its nearest rival, SAB Miller.

Pfizer's acquisition of Allergan would effectively create the "world's largest drug maker". The deal will also see Pfizer shift its base to Ireland, which as Reuters reports, "would also be the biggest-ever instance of a US company re-incorporating overseas to lower its taxes". Ireland has a tax rate of 12.5%, way below the American corporate tax rate of 35%.

3. [Logical and Pragmatic Drug Deal](#) – New Indian Express

Drug major Pfizer Inc's \$160 billion bid for Dublin-based Allergan creates a record of sorts in the M&A deal street and catapults the New York-based Viagra-maker into a whopping \$300 billion pharma colossus. Interestingly, the year so far has witnessed a record \$328 billion worth of pharma mergers globally. The increased M&A activity offers a few key takeaways. Blockbuster drugs are getting harder to find, both time and money-wise. Companies see logic in spending less on in-house research and development and instead, spend capital on acquiring firms with promising drug candidates that can deliver instant results.

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2. [Top 10 M&A deals of all time: Pfizer-Allergan ranks second](#) – Mint
3. [Logical and Pragmatic Drug Deal](#) – New Indian Express
4. [Overpriced medical devices: Government asks companies to submit maximum retail price details](#) – The Economic Times
5. [Column: Spurring R&D investment in medicine](#) – The Financial Express
6. [Pharma companies step up campaign against spurious drugs](#) – Business Standard
7. [USFDA warning letter flags serious breaches at Dr.Reddy's](#) – Mint
8. [IIT partners with Pfizer to support healthcare innovation](#) – The Hindu
9. [IMA chief in dock for 'taking money' from pharma firms](#) – Tribune India
10. [Novartis, Lupin, Pfizer and other drugmakers adopt 'benching' model to address attrition](#) – The Economic Times
11. [NDA tries to build consensus ahead of Paris climate meet](#) – Hindustan Times

4. [Overpriced medical devices: Government asks companies to submit maximum retail price details](#) – The Economic Times

Also appeared in [Financial Express](#)

Amidst reports of rising prices of medical devices including stents, the Government has asked the companies to review their pricing and submit maximum retail price (MRP) details of their products to drug price regulator NPPA.

So far, three meetings have taken place between senior officials of Department of Pharmaceuticals, NPPA, Ministry of Health, medical device companies and industry bodies over the issue of unreasonably high prices of stents and other medical devices.

5. [Column: Spurring R&D investment in medicine](#) – The Financial Express

There is no doubt that continued innovation in the field of medicine is necessary to find cures for unmet medical needs. Breakthrough innovations in medical research over the last 100 years have been primarily responsible for increasing the life expectancy of the humankind from 30 years to 70 years. Today, biologics represent cutting-edge research in which the latest scientific discoveries are translated into novel therapies that provide new treatment options for patients.

Although one may quibble about the exact figure, enormous investments are necessary to support this time-intensive, extremely expensive and risky effort. The average cost of R&D associated with a new drug is above \$1 billion today. The failure rate is high and capital investment is tied up for eight to 15 years as successful drugs progress through the increasingly challenging approval process.

6. [Pharma companies step up campaign against spurious drugs](#) – Business Standard

OPPI is setting up anti-counterfeiting cell and plans tie-ups with other pharma bodies and govt agencies

Multi national pharma companies have intensified measures to prevent sale of spurious medicines through laboratory tests, improved packaging and awareness drives.

Sanofi is collecting and analysing product samples from around the world including India at its specialised laboratory in France. Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) is setting up of anti counterfeiting cell and plans collaboration with other pharma bodies and government agencies.

7. [USFDA warning letter flags serious breaches at Dr.Reddy's](#) – Mint

Also appeared in *The Times of India, Hindustan Times, Indian Express, The Economic Times, The Financial Express*

Existence of a lab unknown to it where drugs were tested, repeated violation of good manufacturing practices in the last two years, routine re-testing of samples until they recorded acceptable results and not recording the failed tests, and improper record management are among some of the serious charges levelled by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) against Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd (DRL) in its warning letter to the company on 5 November.

8. [IIT partners with Pfizer to support healthcare innovation](#) – The Hindu

Drug firm Pfizer has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi to launch an initiative to support individuals and start-ups for creating healthcare innovations in the country. The initiative — “Pfizer IIT Delhi innovation and IP Program” is open to Indian nationals, individuals and start-ups.

Under the programme, Pfizer will provide an unencumbered grant of up to Rs.50 lakh to each innovator, who will own the patents and will be free to commercialise them.

9. [IMA chief in dock for 'taking money' from pharma firms](#) – Tribune India

Two top Indian Medical Association (IMA) office-bearers are in the dock for allegedly receiving money from pharmaceutical companies in their bank accounts. The Punjab Medical Council has issued notices to them asking why their registration shouldn't be cancelled for indulging in "unethical practice".

Sources in the PMC said the council registrar issued show-cause notices to IMA Punjab president Dr Surinderpal Singh Sooch and former president Dr Manoj Sobti.

10. [Novartis, Lupin, Pfizer and other drugmakers adopt 'benching' model to address attrition](#) – The Economic Times

Alarmed by attrition rates as high as 25 per cent, several drug makers in India, both local companies and multinationals with operations here, are devising novel 'benching' models to manage employee turnover.

These firms are increasingly joining hands with recruitment process outsourcing (RPO) companies to maintain a pool of readily available people with specialisation in R&D and marketing so that they could fill up a position within a week of it falling vacant. RPOs are offering these 'benching' services to manufacturers such as NovartisBSE 0.94 %, Abbott, Pfizer, LupinBSE 1.12 %, Sun Pharma and Mankind.

11. [NDA tries to build consensus ahead of Paris climate meet](#) – Hindustan Times

Bracing itself for a likely showdown with developed nations at the Paris climate change conference, the NDA government is reaching out to different political parties to build a consensus over its stance at the international conclave starting next week.

Environment minister Prakash Javadekar met senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and his party colleague Nilotpal Basu over the past two days.

Yechury was learnt to have drawn three 'red lines' to Javadekar: India must not allow any dilution on common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR), transfer of green technology (by developed countries) without any commitment to intellectual property rights (IPR), and the shift to green technology to be financed by advanced countries.