

1. [Column: DCGI doesn't infringe Indian patent laws](#) – The Financial Express

This is in regard to Uttam Gupta's recent column in The Financial Express ('[Drug licensing must recognise patents](#)', October 30). The article not only betrays ignorance of patent and drug regulatory laws but also mixes up a number of issues.

Surprisingly, the column bemoans the availability of cheap drugs in India. What is obviously not either understood or appreciated is that 30% of the world's poor live in India. Drugs priced today on the basis of patents—in some cases, even their generic equivalents—are unaffordable for the average man. For instance, Nexavar, the only drug for which a compulsory licence has so far been granted, was priced by Bayer at R2.8 lakh per month whereas generic versions offered by Natco and Cipla cost around R6,000-7,000 per month. It is surprising how sustainable development for India could be based on prices of patented drugs by MNCs.

1. [Column: DCGI doesn't infringe Indian patent laws](#) – The Financial Express

2. [Delhi HC blocks Reliance from launching copy of Roche's breast cancer drug](#) – The Economic Times

3. [Transfer of technology in defence sector not impediment to innovation: US Envoy](#) – The Economic Times

4. [Will the Trans Pacific Partnership have an impact on Indian pharma industry?](#) – DNA

5. [Vigilance important to monitor adverse effects of drugs: JP Nadda](#) – The Economic Times

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7. [OECD warns high-priced drugs are stretching health budgets](#) – ETHealth

2. [Delhi HC blocks Reliance from launching copy of Roche's breast cancer drug](#) – The Economic Times

The Delhi High Court has blocked Reliance Life Sciences from launching a copy of Swiss pharma company Roche's breast cancer drug trastuzumab.

In its November 2 order, the court directed both parties to file written submissions by November 16, following which it will hear the case on a day-to-day basis and not permit adjournments.

According to experts in the area of intellectual property and patents, Roche has argued that Reliance has not conducted certain tests that prove its .. product is similar to Roche's drug, which sells under the brandname Herceptin.

3. [Transfer of technology in defence sector not impediment to innovation: US Envoy](#) – The Economic Times

US Ambassador to India Richard Verma today said he does not see transfer of technology in the defence sector as an impediment to innovation, and a lot of restrictions would fall even more. Asked what role the pharmaceutical lobby plays and whether they are making it tough for India to make cheaper medicines, Verma said India and US have been good partners in ensuring people continue to have access to safe and reliable drugs.

However, the issue of intellectual property has not yet been tackled fully, the US Ambassador added.

"We want to make sure that people continue to have access to safe and reliable drugs. So I actually think we have been very good partners in ensuring people continue to have access to safe and reliable drugs. However, the issue of intellectual property has not yet been tackled fully, the US Ambassador added.

4. [Will the Trans Pacific Partnership have an impact on Indian pharma industry?](#) – DNA

Does the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the proposed [India-EU trade](#) deal extend protection of Intellectual Property Rights, delaying generic competition for life-saving drugs, and keeping their prices high? While these, and other possible implications for the Indian consumers and pharma companies become clearer over time, India must robustly engage with the debate on trade deals and public interest.

Global opinion is sharply divided about the ramifications of the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). A part of U.S. President Barack Obama's 'pivot to Asia', the TPP includes the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim countries (Brunei, Chile, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, and Vietnam).

5. [Vigilance important to monitor adverse effects of drugs: JP Nadda](#) – The Economic Times

With changes in the way people take medicines, Union Health Minister JP Nadda today underlined the importance of pharmacovigilance, the monitoring of adverse effects of drugs in the country. He noted that India has made considerable progress in the field in the last five years.

People prescribe medicines from across the border through Internet and all kinds of medicines are coming for which we are not sure whether they are fully tested. They might be coming from places which may not be having a strong regulatory system. People are also taking self-medication, then there also counterfeit and substandard medication also. In such situation the need for a pharmacovigilance system is very important," Sharma said.

6. [PMO to review the status of bulk drug imports today](#) – The Economic Times

In another 'Make in India' effort, the government wants to encourage domestic manufacture of bulk drugs, which are ingredients used in making medicines, and reduce its dependence on China. The Prime Minister's Office has called a meeting on Thursday to review the status of imports of bulk drugs, also known as active pharmaceutical ingredients, and chalk out a strategy to make them domestically.

Senior officials from the department of commerce and pharmaceutical and industry bodies are likely to be present at the meeting. The meeting is likely to discuss the recommendations by a committee headed by former health secretary VM Katoch, which proposed in September the establishment of mega parks for APIs, revival of public sector units to make select and critical drugs such as penicillin and paracetamol, and financial incentives to promote the local bulk drugs sector.

7. [OECD warns high-priced drugs are stretching health budgets](#) – ETHealth

Specialty medicines for which pharmaceutical companies demand high prices are straining wealthy nations' health budgets, the OECD said on Wednesday, with drugs accounting for some 20 percent of all health spending.

Across the 33 OECD countries, pharmaceutical spending reached \$800 billion in 2013, and new drugs and rising demand are likely to continue to push that level higher, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said.