

**1. [TPP poses new challenges to India:](#)**

**[Think tank](#)** – Economic Times

The 13-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal may pose new challenges to India like adopting 'TPP-type' rules in its trade policies as the country aims greater integration with the Asia-Pacific, a think tank here has said. The US, Japan and 10 other Pacific Rim nations on Monday reached final agreement on the largest regional trade accord in history.

"The agreement is taking off at a time when India is aiming at greater integration with the Asia-Pacific," Dr Amitendu Palit, a senior research fellow at Institute of South Asia Studies at the National University of Singapore, said in the report released this weekend on 'TPP and India's Emerging Challenges'.

1. **[TPP poses new challenges to India: Think tank](#)** – Economic Times

2. **[GVK Biosciences-EU controversy: Did the Centre pick a wrong battle to fight?](#)** – Hindu Business Line

3. **[Government may bar pharmaceutical companies from giving gifts to doctors](#)** – Economic Times

4. **[Trade and national interest](#)** - Mint

5. **[Government to commission study on impact of FDI in pharmaceutical companies](#)** – Economic Times

6. **["India has a lot to offer both in innovation and operation"](#)**– Business Today

7. **[Merck v. Glenmark – A Bitter Battle of Pills](#)** – Sinapseblog

**2. [GVK Biosciences-EU controversy: Did the Centre pick a wrong battle to fight?](#)** – Hindu Business Line

If ever the Indian government needed a reason on why it should be careful in picking its battles, it can be found in the GVK Biosciences controversy in Europe and its entanglement with personal details involving the whistle-blower. In a normal situation, the domestic pharmaceutical industry would have been more than happy to have the Centre batting for it, especially when it is targeted unfairly in certain foreign markets. For example, in 2008, when inexpensive generic drug exports from India were seized in Amsterdam, even though the consignment was merely on its way to different markets (Latin America and Brazil), transiting through Europe.

But the GVK Biosciences case was different in that clinical trial data generated by one company were being called into question by the European authorities, and this in turn had affected the EU marketing approvals of 700 generic drugs belonging to different drug companies, including those not from India. Not surprising then, that industry-watchers informally wondered why the Centre was taking up a company's case (GVK) so strongly with the EU authorities.

**3. [Government may bar pharmaceutical companies from giving gifts to doctors](#)** - Economic Times

Pharma companies may soon be barred from giving any gift, cash or offer hospitality to doctors, as government is considering making it mandatory for them to follow uniform marketing practices code.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals has prepared the Uniform Code of Pharmaceuticals Marketing Practices (UCPMP) and its voluntarily adoption and compilation was started from January 1 this year.

4. [Trade and national interest](#) - Mint

Leading the charge, in a briefing released in September—in advance of the final agreement—Fred Bergsten of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, an influential Washington DC think tank, argued aggressively that India must join TPP, holding out the promise of significant economic gain if it did, and warning of considerable economic cost if it failed to do so.

If it does join, India would essentially be signing on to an American-designed template, not just on the opening of trade and investment, but crucially, in a multiplicity of non-trade related areas, such as labour and environmental standards, and, especially important for India, intellectual property protection (IPP). This would require, thus, a ratcheting up of India's IPP regime to US levels, which would almost surely jeopardize India's generics pharmaceutical industry while offering the uncertain gain of increased innovation and access to the US and other markets.

5. [Government to commission study on impact of FDI in pharmaceutical companies](#) – Economic Times

The government is likely to commission a study soon to assess the impact of foreign direct investment in existing pharmaceutical companies in view of concerns expressed on the issue by a Parliamentary panel.

A report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce last December had suggested that a study group be set up to investigate the effect of FDI in brownfield pharma or operational firms. The study is likely to be carried out by an independent expert, sources said. There are apprehensions that takeovers by MNCs have impacted the generic medicine industry of the country.

6. ["India has a lot to offer both in innovation and operation"](#)– Business Today

If Mylan CEO Heather Bresch manages to complete the \$27.1 billion hostile takeover of Ireland-based rival Perrigo, it would perhaps be her most valued acquisition and help her position the \$7.72 billion generic and specialty pharmaceuticals company as one of the top three global generic pharma players. But then, successfully thwarting a similar attempt by another rival, Teva Pharmaceuticals, to acquire Mylan for \$40 billion barely two months ago on July 23, was no mean deed either. In fact, the 46-year-old has been making history ever since she joined Mylan as a clerk in 1992, steadily rising up the ranks to serve as the company's chief operating officer, chief integration officer and president, before taking over as the first ever woman chief executive of a global pharma major.

7. [Merck v. Glenmark – A Bitter Battle of Pills](#) – Sinapseblog

The Delhi High Court has restrained Glenmark from making and marketing generic versions of Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD)'s popular antidiabetic drug "Januvia" (sitagliptin) and "Janumet" (combination of sitagliptin and metformin) in its latest order dated October 7, 2015. The order restrains Glenmark from making, using, selling, distributing, advertising, exporting, offering for sale or dealing in Sitagliptin Phosphate Monohydrate or any other salt of Sitagliptin in any form, alone or in combination with one or more other drugs or from doing any other thing that infringes the claimed subject matter of MSD's Indian Patent No. 209816, granted on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.