

1. [Valeant To Double Its R&D -- To Do What?](#) – Forbes Asia

Valeant Pharmaceuticals has been under the gun for a number of reasons recently. At one time, Valeant was hailed for its business model, which relied on growth via acquisitions. It famously eschewed internal R&D saying that, unlike rivals, it wouldn't waste money on speculative research. But Valeant's policy of buying companies and then summarily raising the drug prices of the acquired drugs is drawing heavy scrutiny especially from politicians. **If that isn't enough, even the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the biopharmaceutical trade association, has taken the unusual step of attacking Valeant as well.** In an article by Robert Zirkelbach entitled "What makes Valeant different than innovative biopharmaceutical companies," the case is made that Valeant is really "a special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC – a shell company created for the purpose of buying other companies."

2. [MSF urges Indian and African govts to work together to maintain trade in affordable generic medicines](#) – Pharmabiz

As African leaders meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi for an African Union-India meeting this week, the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has urged the African governments and India to work together to maintain trade in affordable generic medicines that is a lifeline for millions of people in India, Africa and other developing countries.

Urging the African leaders and India to work together to combat efforts to undermine the 'pharmacy of the developing world', the MSF said that the African leaders really should see this summit as an opportunity to work together with Prime Minister Modi to protect affordable access for people across the developing world. They need to remember that millions of people in Africa are alive today because of affordable medicines made in India.

India is under considerable pressure from the United States and other developed countries to roll back its pro-public-health intellectual property policies that has put access to vital lifesaving generic drugs above the profits of multinational pharmaceutical companies. India is known as the 'pharmacy

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3. [IP Protection for Biologics in the TPP: Trading Away Future Treatments and Cures](#) – IP Watchdog

4. [Letters: For sustainable progress](#) – Business Standard

5. [Lupin launches generic PhosLo capsules in US market](#) – Economic Times

6. [Health needs a healthier budget](#) – Financial Chronicle

7. [Indian origin Gynaecologist held in US for accepting favours from pharma company](#) – The Hans India

8. [Antibiotics overuse: 'India must be part of solution'](#) – Hindu Business Line

9. [From the Views Room: Traditional cure](#) – Hindu Business Line

of the developing world,' with more than 80 per cent of HIV medicines used in developing countries, for example, being generics from India.

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Globally there are approximately 7,000 medicines in development to treat and cure a wide variety of diseases. Of these, more than 5,000 are in development in the United States. [1] The numbers are revealing, if not shocking. This work is done in the U.S. because it is incentivized and encouraged through a robust intellectual property rights protection environment. The United States undeniably provides the most comprehensive intellectual property rights for biopharmaceuticals and the industry thrives here as a result. It's difficult to argue that the strength and success of the U.S. biopharmaceutical industry is uncorrelated with the IP protection available here.

Given this and the wider benefits of biopharmaceutical research and development, it's tremendously disappointing that the recently negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade Agreement fails to deliver sufficient IP protection for biologics. Much of the continuing controversy plaguing the TPP Agreement surrounds data exclusivity protection for biologic medicines and the future of the agreement may hinge on precisely this issue.

4. [Letters: For sustainable progress](#) – Business Standard

The world is approaching a milestone for global development in 2015. As the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) reach their December 2015 deadline, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will be adopted by world leaders as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda agreed upon at the United Nations General Assembly in September this year. The new sustainable development agenda seeks to ensure that the momentum generated by the MDGs is carried forward beyond 2015 to not just substantially reduce poverty, hunger and other deprivations, but to end them altogether and provide a life of dignity to all.

5. [Lupin launches generic PhosLo capsules in US market](#) – Economic Times

Lupin BSE -1.25 % has launched Calcium Acetate capsules, used in treating hyperphosphatemia in end stage renal failure, in the US after getting approval from United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc, a subsidiary of the company, has launched Calcium Acetate capsules having received final approval from the American health regulator, the company said in a statement.

6. [Health needs a healthier budget](#) – Financial Chronicle

THE trajectory of providing affordable health care in India proves to be an uneven one. Just a few indicators reflect the health crisis in the country. Every year six lakh children die before turning five. That's the highest in the world. Of those surviving, only 63 per cent of Indian babies would reach 65 years of age, as compared to some of our neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam, (72 per cent). About 30 per cent of children under the age of five are underweight. Health is not just wealth.

Bad health eats away the little wealth one may have. For a demographically burgeoning nation, promising to be the youngest nation in times to come, there can be no short cuts to public health provisioning. Adequate budget support to health is the precondition to public health services.

The outlay on health in India, Asia's third-largest economy is about 1.2 per cent of GDP, less than Haiti, Sudan, Gabon and Afghanistan. This has led to gross under provisioning of health services, specially in areas that are already deprived in some ways. Rural health centres, for example, have a significant shortfall (about 80 per cent) of surgeons, obstetricians, gynaecologists, physicians and paediatricians.

More than 9,000 positions of doctors are vacant in primary health centres. In tribal areas, there is a shortfall of nearly 7,000 sub-centres and more than a thousand primary health centres. The mid

term review of the annual budget is round the corner. By December, discussion would start on budget estimates for the next financial year.

It is opportune to see where the budgets related to health have been slashed this fiscal year. The annual budget for 2015–16 reduced the central government's health spending by 15 per cent compared to last year. Although this was accompanied with greater fund devolution to the state governments, historical evidence shows that states with the poorest health indicators invest the least in health.

7. [Indian origin Gynaecologist held in US for accepting favours from pharma company](#) – The Hans India

An Indian-origin gynaecologist has been arrested in the US for allegedly accepting favours from a pharmaceutical company in return for prescribing its osteoporosis drugs, a media report said.

Rita Luthra, 64, was arrested on Thursday for allegedly accepting free meals and speaker fees from Warner Chilcott, a New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company, in return for prescribing its osteoporosis drugs, [wwlp.com](#) news website reported on Friday.

8. [Antibiotics overuse: 'India must be part of solution'](#) – Hindu Business Line

The Indian generic drugs industry and diagnostic companies will have a major part to play in global attempts to reduce the inappropriate use of antibiotics, which threatens to create a health crisis globally, said Jim O'Neill, economist and chair of a major review of anti-microbial resistance.

O'Neill, former Chief Economist at Goldman Sachs and who coined the "BRIC" acronym, spoke to BusinessLine about the crucial role that Indian generic drug makers and diagnostic companies could play in meeting the global challenge.

9. [From the Views Room: Traditional cure](#) – Hindu Business Line

One may be tempted to laud the Centre for its reported decision to conduct 'clinical trials' of ayurvedic and homoeopathic medicines. Last week, an official at the ministry of ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, unani, siddha and homoeopathy (AYUSH) said some hospitals are carrying out these trials in an attempt to lend authenticity to traditional medicines.

Although India has rich traditional systems of medical care, it has not done enough to bring them into the mainstream by testing them against modern, scientific methods. Further, the sector is precariously under-regulated, allowing too many quacks to take patients for a ride. This chaotic nature of the industry is the primary reason behind its abysmally low growth rate. In spite of the fact that Ayurveda has been in existence for hundreds of years in this part of the world, its slice of the healthcare pie is valued only at about ₹5,000 crore today; a CII report says the herbal sector alone has the potential to reach ₹7,000 crore by 2020. Testing traditional medicines scientifically to prove their efficacy can enhance this potential manifold.