

1. [India Pledges \\$25 Mn Investment For 5-yr To Nurture Healthcare Innovation](#) – Business World

World leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals or the Global Goals in September 2015 that aim to address problems like poverty, illiteracy, disease and overall lack of quality health care for all, among other key issues. In order to achieve these targets, it is crucial to intensify efforts to foster frugal innovation and research around the world. The Annual Grand Challenges meeting was held from 18-21 October in Beijing, China, served as a platform to discuss potential solutions centered on the power of research and development of innovative solutions to achieve the Global Goals.

2. [Sushma stresses quality healthcare in India-Africa ties](#) – ET Healthworld

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Tuesday said that ensuring access to affordable and quality medicines and treatment was an important area of cooperation between India and African countries.

She was speaking at the ministerial meeting of the Third India-Africa Forum Summit here.

"We recognise the value of training of doctors and healthcare personnel, including through tele-medicine, the use of affordable generic medicines, promoting the use of traditional medicines and their regulatory procedures," she said.

3. [Specialized healthcare may be lacking under Obamacare plans](#) - Reuters

Some health insurance plans sold on the Affordable Care Act's federal marketplace may not provide reasonable access to medical specialists, new research suggests. Under the act, also known as Obamacare, the federal marketplace offers subsidized private health insurance to consumers in states that didn't establish their own health insurance exchanges.

About one in seven health insurance plans offered on the federal marketplace in 2015 did not provide access to in-network doctors for at least one medical specialty, researchers found.

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3. [Specialized healthcare may be lacking under Obamacare plans](#) - Reuters
4. [Lupin sees more U.S. drug approvals after disappointing results](#) – Reuters
5. [Expect substantial improvement in performance from Q4: Kamal Sharma, Lupin](#) – Financial Express
6. [Charity pleads to pharmaceutical giant for cut in cost of key breast cancer drug before NHS stops funding its £70,000 a year price](#) – The Daily Mail
7. [Pfizer Earnings Helped by Hospira, New Drugs](#) – Wall Street Journal
8. [Bristol-Myers Revenue Helped by Cancer Drug](#) – Wall Street Journal
9. [Merck CEO discussed drug prices with Obama](#) - CNBC
10. [Merck Sees Acquisitions as Beneficial Amid Biotech Slump](#) – Wall Street Journal

"People need to be really mindful of what they're actually getting with their plans," said lead author Stephen Dorner, of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston.

4. [Lupin sees more U.S. drug approvals after disappointing results](#) – Reuters
Lupin declared its Q2 results yesterday; news has been picked up by other publications as well. Lupin Ltd ([LUPN.NS](#)), India's third-largest drugmaker by sales, hopes to win approvals for some key products in its largest market, the United States, by the end of this year, after fewer product launches pushed second-quarter profit below estimates.

Earnings of most Indian generic drugmakers, including Lupin, were hurt in recent quarters by a slowdown in the pace of approvals to launch new drugs, after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration overhauled the review process.

5. [Expect substantial improvement in performance from Q4: Kamal Sharma, Lupin](#) – Financial Express
India's third largest pharmaceutical company Lupin reported muted earnings in Q2 FY16 due to a slowdown in approvals that hindered launch of new drugs in US market. Net profit declined from Rs 525 crore in the previous quarter to R409 crore in Q2 FY16, while ebitda declined from R892.2 crore in Q1 FY16 to R713.6 crore in Q2 FY16.

In an interview, Kamal Sharma, vice-chairman, Lupin told Neha Bothra that the company's financial performance is expected to significantly improve fourth quarter onwards since he was confident of some key drug approvals. Sharma expects around 25 drug approvals in the next one year.

6. [Charity pleads to pharmaceutical giant for cut in cost of key breast cancer drug before NHS stops funding its £70,000 a year price](#) – The Daily Mail
Campaigners have urged pharma giant Roche to drop the price of a key breast cancer drug, before the NHS stops funding it next week.

Nearly 800 women were given Kadcylya last year for incurable breast cancer.

The drug is remarkably effective, shown to extend the lives of sick women by an average six months with few side effects - and some have lived for years on the drug.

But it is very expensive, at £5,900 per month, or £70,800 a year.

7. [Pfizer Earnings Helped by Hospira, New Drugs](#) – Wall Street Journal
Pfizer has declared its Q3 earnings yesterday; has been picked up in international publications. CEO says company is probing for deals to help drug sales, not necessarily lower taxes

Pfizer, like many of its peers, has faced a string of patent expirations over recent years as well as growing generic competition for former blockbusters like cholesterol fighter Lipitor and pain pill. Pfizer Inc. on Tuesday beat third-quarter expectations and lifted its outlook for the year, as the company benefits from new drug sales and folds in its recently-acquired Hospira business.

8. [Bristol-Myers Revenue Helped by Cancer Drug](#) – Wall Street Journal
BMS declare its Q3 earnings yesterday; news has been picked by international media

Bristol-Myers Squibb's quarterly revenue rose 3.8% on continued growth for its Opdivo cancer treatment and other key drugs.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. raised its 2015 guidance as the pharmaceutical company reported that third-quarter revenue rose 3.8% on continued growth for its Opdivo cancer treatment and other key drugs.

9. [Merck CEO discussed drug prices with Obama](#) - CNBC

Merck Chief Executive Ken Frazier said he discussed the hot-button issue of drug pricing in a recent meeting with President Barack Obama, and he believes many in Washington have a "rational" view of the situation.

"I met with the president of the United States in his office and we had this conversation," Frazier told analysts and investors on an earnings conference call Tuesday. He said that as the leader of industry group [PhRMA](#), "I tried hard to distinguish between innovative companies ... and a few companies that are under-represented in the industry."

Frazier, who took over as chair of PhRMA in April, was likely referring to companies like Valeant, which has been in the cross hairs in recent months in part for its strategy of acquiring drugs and then raising their prices. Another drug company, Turing Pharmaceuticals, drew national attention in September after it acquired the 62-year-old medicine Daraprim and raised its price by 5,000 percent.

10. [Merck Sees Acquisitions as Beneficial Amid Biotech Slump](#) – Wall Street Journal

Merck & Co. Inc. reported an increase in third-quarter earnings on Tuesday, and it raised its full-year earnings outlook. Merck & Co. said potential acquisition targets look more appealing after the recent slump in biotechnology stocks—a selloff driven partly by concerns over a political backlash to rising drug prices.

Chief Executive Kenneth C. Frazier said Merck remains on the hunt for acquisitions and drug-licensing deals that could bolster the company's drug development. Shares of biotech firms and other smaller drug makers, which sell some of the highest-priced drugs, have tumbled in recent weeks, partly due to concerns that U.S. politicians will take steps to curb rising pricing. The Nasdaq Biotechnology Index is off 14% the past three months, compared with a flat broader market over that period.