

1. [Environmental lobby groups blame production methods of drug companies for rise in drug-resistant bacteria](#) – The Economic Times

India's commerce ministry has hit back at reports by environmental lobby groups which have blamed the production methods of Indian drug companies as one of the main reasons for the rise of super bugs, or drug resistant bacteria. The Pharmaceuticals Export Council of India (Pharmexcil) set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under foreign trade policy on Thursday said that it is noticing a "disturbing trend in such reports".

"In the recent past, there was much of adverse propaganda against Indian companies with the intention of maligning the image of Indian pharma, and ultimately depriving the developing world of having access to quality drugs manufactured by Indian companies at an affordable cost," Pharmexcil said in its note

- [Pharmexcil backs Indian drug makers in study on superbugs by European lobby](#) – Mint
- [India drug industry lobby hits back at antibiotic pollution claims](#) - Reuters

1. [Environmental lobby groups blame production methods of drug companies for rise in drug-resistant bacteria](#) – The Economic Times
2. [WHO seeks special U.N. session on TB](#) – The Hindu
3. [FDI regime yet to take off pending the changes in foreign exchange laws](#) – The Economic Times
4. Editorial - [Unhealthy delay](#) – Indian Express

2. [WHO seeks special U.N. session on TB](#) – The Hindu

Frustrated with a lack of political will shown by nations with a high burden of tuberculosis, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is calling for the first United Nations General Assembly on the deadly but curable infection.

The development follows the release of the Global TB report, in which the WHO had to significantly revise the global burden of TB after a 34 per cent increase in cases reported from India. The country shoulders the highest burden of 2.2 million cases a year. Nearly 2,40,000 people die of TB each year, and 61,000 develop an untreatable form of the disease, called multi-drug resistant TB (MDR TB).

3. [FDI regime yet to take off pending the changes in foreign exchange laws](#) – The Economic Times

India's big-bang opening of the foreign direct investment regime a few months back is yet to take off pending the facilitatory changes in foreign exchange laws. This has impacted pharmaceuticals the most, where there had been good investment interest.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the pharmaceutical sector is on the automatic route under the relaxed policy, but investment proposals are getting stuck at the Reserve Bank of India as the decision has not yet been notified.

4. Editorial - [Unhealthy delay](#) – Indian Express

Last week, the prime minister's office instructed Niti Aayog to prepare a plan on an issue critical to the pharmaceutical sector. The planning agency has been asked to find ways to reduce the country's dependence on China for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). Also called bulk drugs, APIs are ingredients that give any medicine its therapeutic effect. The country imports more than 80 per cent of its bulk drugs; 65 per cent from China. The drugs in question include common painkillers such as paracetamol and antibiotics such as amoxicillin. In November last year, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had warned that the country runs the risk of a severe shortage of medicines because of its over-dependence on China for APIs. The PM's directives to Niti Aayog are welcome. But the country might have left it a little too late. Indigenous APIs are likely to cost four times more than those imported from China.