

1. [India Lags Behind Other Nations in Lowering Trade Barriers](#) – Wall Street Journal

Intellectual-property issues have been among the biggest barriers to trade agreements between the U.S. and India. Abhijit Das, a professor at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, said the high standards for intellectual-property protection demanded by the TPP would have sent drug prices soaring in India.

For India, “it’s a choice between losing a few billion dollars of market access on the one hand and a huge surge in prices of pharmaceutical products on the other,” Mr. Das said. “Very clearly, the balance has to be struck in favor of pharmaceutical prices.”

1. [India Lags Behind Other Nations in Lowering Trade Barriers](#) – Wall Street Journal
2. [Health Groups Warn Deal may Delay Access to Cheap Drugs](#) – Economic Times
3. [Stalemate On Pricing Patented Drugs](#) – Pharmabiz
4. [India needs to be integrated into global trade pacts: USIBC](#) – Hindu Business Line
5. [Should India be worried about Trans-Pacific Partnership?](#) – Mint

2. [Health Groups Warn Deal may Delay Access to Cheap Drugs](#) – Economic Times

The Trans Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) signed between the US, Japan and 10 other Asia Pacific countries on Monday has raised concerns over provisions that give pharmaceutical companies extended protection for patented drugs, delaying the availability of affordable, generic medicines. Public health groups around the world have slammed the deal on grounds that it gives monopoly protection to pharma companies, especially for biologic drugs, which are considered the next wave of therapy for lifethreatening diseases such as cancer.

“TPP will still go down in history as the worst trade agreement for access to medicines in developing countries, which will be forced to change their laws to incorporate abusive intellectual property protections for pharmaceutical companies,” said Judit Rius Sanjuan, US manager and legal policy advisor of Doctors Without Borders, an aid organisation. According to details emerging from the highly secret talks, biologic drugs, which are made from living organisms, will enjoy data exclusivity protection for five years, in addition to patent protection.

3. [Stalemate On Pricing Patented Drugs](#) – Pharmabiz

The policy of price control in pharmaceutical industry continues to remain partial and unfair to patients in India as large number of expensive patented drugs still remain outside the purview of Drug Price Control Order. Indian Patent Act was amended in 2005 almost after 35 years of its notification allowing product patent to new drugs and pharmaceuticals. Since then multinational drug companies have been applying for patents for several hundreds of drugs for marketing in the country. The patented drugs are expensive on account of excessive profiteering, loading of huge trade commission and promotional costs. Apart from excessive pricing of patented drugs, MNCs have been also claiming patent rights for products which are not actually new molecules since 2005. The patent offices in the country have thus granted patents to dozens of products which do not actually merit patent protection at all. Filing of multiple patent applications for various forms of the same drug is possible within the

framework of the amended Patent Act. A study brought out by Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance in 2009 found that at least 86 cases of patents granted for pharmaceutical products were with just minor variations of existing molecules. And between 2005 and 2010, about 13,000 patents have been issued to various chemicals and pharmaceuticals by Indian patent offices. Granting a patent means allowing exclusive marketing right for the product for 20 years.

4. [India needs to be integrated into global trade pacts: USIBC](#) – Hindu Business Line

As the US and 11 other nations reached a landmark deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership which aims to become the world's largest free-trade zone linking 40 per cent of the global economy, a top US industry advocacy has argued for India's integration into global trade pacts. "For India to reach its ambiguous economic growth targets, it needs to be integrated into global trade pacts, especially those that drive commerce in the dynamic Asia Pacific region," Mukesh Aghi, president of US India Business Council (USIBC) told PTI after the deal on TPP was announced by the US and 11 other countries yesterday.

The 12 countries Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the US and Vietnam constitute 40 per cent of the global economy. "India's exploration of APEC membership, which is currently an informal precursor to TPP membership can unlock India's potential as a global manufacturing hub and deepen its ties with the global economy," Aghi said.

5. [Should India be worried about Trans-Pacific Partnership?](#) – Mint

A group of 12 Pacific rim nations led by the US on Monday hammered out the largest mega regional trade agreement which is expected to set higher standards for goods and services. Although the deal aims at sidestepping China in setting rules of international trade, it is also expected to impact India.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade agreement under negotiation among 12 nations: Australia, Brunei, Chile, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the US and Vietnam, which comprise 40% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).