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1. **Glenmark loses anti-diabetes drugs' patent battle to Merck**– Business Standard

   In a relief for US drug major Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD), Delhi High Court on Wednesday restrained Indian firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals from manufacturing and selling its anti-diabetes drugs Zita and Zita-Met, saying it has infringed patent of the American company.

   MSD in its plea had sought injunction against Glenmark alleging that the Indian pharma company had violated its intelectual property right (IPR) over its anti-diabetes medicines, Januvia and Janumet, by coming out with their own drugs containing the same salts.

2. **TPP deal faces flak for protecting pharma companies** – ET Health

   The TPP agreement has raised concerns over provisions that give pharma companies extended protection for patented drugs, delaying the availability of affordable, generic medicines.

   Public health groups globally 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 life threatening diseases like cancer.

3. **Indian pharma must step up R&D, compliance focus for global play** – The Economic Times

   The industry has reaped the low-hanging fruits of low-cost generics, making Indian pharma companies one of the most profitable ones globally. But, the future is likely to be tough with profitability coming under pressure. The cost of compliance is slated to increase in the years ahead. US FDA and other drug regulators, especially from developed markets, have stepped up scrutiny and are penalising companies not complying with their good manufacturing practices. Companies have little option but to increase compliance especially to avoid severe punitive actions like import bans and revocation of drug approvals.

   To remain competitive and relevant in the global drug industry, Indian firms will have to increase investment towards research and development from the current average of 6-7 per centof their revenues. The cost of filing new drug applications with the US FDA has already increased since the Generic Drug User Fee Act was enforced in the US.

4. **The drugs don't work: Indian reporters need to ask regulators tough questions on substandard medicines** - Newslaundry
   With every passing day, there is a new scandal uncovered by foreign regulators who inspect manufacturing plants in India that supply drugs for their patients. The government's reaction in most cases has been to either deny the existence of any manufacturing deficiencies or to order an investigation whose conclusions are rarely publicised in the press.

   While the Indian press has done a good job of reporting the outcome of regulatory inspections conducted by western regulators, they rarely ask Indian regulators and bureaucrats tough or sometimes even basic questions on whether these manufacturing facilities comply with Indian law when it comes to quality of medicines that are sold in India.

5. **Industry recommends setting up centre to develop, validate technology for quality medical devices** – Pharmabiz.com
   The medical device industry has recommended to the department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) to set up a centre of excellence to develop, scale up and validate technologies for quality assurance of medical devices in the country. This is very much required according to industry sources as the concept of quality assurance is the order of the day and the entire process needs to be validated in a way where products of consistently good quality are produced.

   This will complement DoP recommendations to the government of India to have a national list of essential medical devices among others like setting up of medical device clusters and reduction of import duty as a part of the national medical device policy. However, a separate chapter on medical devices in the Drugs and Cosmetics Bill has also been accepted. This according to an industry source will not only boost medical device sector but will help come out with an effective medical device regulation. The industry has also been advocating for a separate medical devices bill since 2007 to attain self-sufficiency in the production of essential medical devices.

6. **TPP pushes India further into margins of global trade** – Hindustan Times
   New Delhi has stayed mum about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a just-concluded trade pact covering much of the Asia-Pacific. The TPP still has many loops to jump, including legislative approval by all of its 12 signatories. But the Narendra Modi government should worry. Led by a protectionist commerce ministry, India is increasingly marginalised in global trade negotiations.

7. **India likely to be in top 3 of global pharma majors by 2020: report** – The Hindu Business Line
   Driven by innovation and research in medical devices and formulations, India might figure in the top 3 pharmaceutical manufacturing countries in the world with a potential turnover of $55 billion by 2020, says a research report by Assocham in association with TechSci Research. India's pharmaceutical sector will create thousands of jobs by 2020, said the report, released during a conference on IPR in Pharmaceuticals, jointly organised by Assocham and Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Editorial

1. **Who's afraid of the TPP? –** Asian Age
   Health activists, among TPP's most vocal critics, say that this mega trade deal could drive up the cost of medicines worldwide and strike a blow to generic drug manufacturers by expanding intellectual property rights for innovator drug companies. Free trade deals have always generated controversies. Its ardent advocates see it as the panacea to the world's most pressing problems. Its critics argue that free trade is not fair trade. So it is hardly surprising that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), part of US President Barack Obama's strategic pivot to Asia, which concluded this week after nearly eight years of negotiations, has stirred up the proverbial hornet's nest on various fronts, including the ethics of trying to hammer out a trade deal in secrecy.