

**1. [Delink drug prices from R&D costs: UN – The Hindu](#)**

As the debate over unaffordable blockbuster drugs such as Sovaldi and Epipen rages on, a landmark report by the United Nations High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines has called for delinking drug prices from research and development (R&D) costs. The report calls for human rights to be placed over intellectual property laws and all countries must freely be able to use flexibilities granted under TRIPS to access affordable medicines.

*Similar reports-*

- Business Today - [UN panel recommends policy tweaks for access to medicine](#)
- Firstpost.com - [UN high-level panel report on access to medicines a boost for those delivering life-saving drugs](#)

1. [Delink drug prices from R&D costs: UN – The Hindu](#)
2. [Fine on quacks too low, says health department – The Times of India](#)
3. [The dark truth behind fairness & skin creams – The Times of India](#)
4. [Global healthcare companies seek to bet on Indian startups for fresh start – The Economic Times](#)
5. [Traditional medicines to pass through more checks before getting licence – Hindustan Times](#)
6. [Health policy focus: Experts moot health directorate, cadre – Deccan Chronicle](#)
7. [Sanofi's fixed-ratio combination helps more patients reach mealtime blood sugar target than insulin glargine alone – Pharmabiz.com](#)
8. [Lupin gets favourable ruling from DoP on revision of prices of "Rifampicin capsule and rifampicin syrup" – Pharmabiz.com](#)

**1. [Fine on quacks too low, says health department – The Times of India](#)**

The state health department and police may soon start booking quacks for attempt to murder. The deliberation comes against the backdrop of the arrest of 21 quacks in Tiruvallur over the last one month after a viral fever outbreak in the district. Sources say 19 of them are now free, and some have even resumed practice, though more surreptitiously now. On Monday, police arrested two more quacks - Devaraj S, a BSc graduate, and Prince Sabinus, a class 12 pass out - from the district. In the absence of an anti-quackery law in the state, fake practitioners, at present, can Rs 1,000.get away with a fine of To prevent this, the legal wing of the state health department is poring over various legislations to ensure quacks are booked under more serious sections of the Indian Penal Code.

**2. [The dark truth behind fairness & skin creams – The Times of India](#)**

Watch what fairness creams you buy as the Indian association of dermatologists, venerologists and leprologists (IADVL) along with its 200-member strong city chapter has called for an immediate ban on 300 more skin cream brands.

In their letter to Dr G N Singh, DGCI chief, the IADVL members lamented that its ban list in March was not comprehensive enough as it figured only 26 FDCs used by around 100 skin cream brands.

**3. [Global healthcare companies seek to bet on Indian startups for fresh start – The Economic Times](#)**

Last year when global oncology leader Roche signed a \$550-million deal to team up with Curadev, a tiny Noidabased firm set up by two seasoned researchers, it didn't really make the headlines. Yet the deal, cherry-picked by a global scouting team of the Swiss biotech giant,

resonated with other innovation-based drug makers and medical device leaders such as Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Philips and Medtronic.

Curadev had demonstrated skills that fitted in with Roche's plans as it was developing a potent tool that could fast-forward the company's immuno-oncology push. One of the hottest areas of cancer drug research right now, this line of treatment aims to help the immune system battle cancer. Roche was not the only company that had scanned Curadev. The startup's cofounder Manish Tandon said it had received offers from five other global companies over the course of nine months.

4. [Traditional medicines to pass through more checks before getting licence – Hindustan Times](#)  
Discarding the process of easy grant of licences, companies should get ready to answer tough questions while applying for approvals for drugs. Apart from the already existing patent regime, the government is set to form a new body to screen and clear applications for the proprietary drugs filed by ayurvedic, siddhi and unani drug makers, including Himalaya, Dabur, Patanjali, Zandu and Hamdard. India is considered to have a long and great tradition of saints and hermits who evolved their own indigenous systems of healthcare, such as ayurveda, yoga and siddha, and is the land of genesis of such medicines. Ayurveda offers affordable solutions to these non-communicable diseases, lifestyle-related diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes, and cancers, have become the greatest health challenges.
5. [Health policy focus: Experts moot health directorate, cadre – Deccan Chronicle](#)  
At a time when people in hundreds are falling to infectious diseases in the state and the health department almost clueless in meeting the challenge owing to lack of expertise, health experts hope that the proposed people's health policy will address the issue. Experts say the policy should address the need for creating a separate public health cadre ahead of forming the directorate. They want the policy makers to study the functioning and effectiveness of the directorate of public health in Tamil Nadu and come out with a similar set up.
6. [Sanofi's fixed-ratio combination helps more patients reach mealtime blood sugar target than insulin glargine alone – Pharmabiz.com](#)  
Sanofi recently announced that iGlarLixi, the investigational, titratable fixed-ratio combination of insulin glargine 100 Units/ml and GLP-1 receptor agonist lixisenatide, offers greater control of mealtime blood sugar (post-prandial glucose, PPG) in adults living with type 2 diabetes compared to insulin glargine 100 Units/ml alone. A new post-hoc analysis of data from the LixiLan-L pivotal phase III clinical trial found more patients who received the fixed-ratio combination reached their daily PPG target than those who received only insulin glargine 100 Units/ml. The new analysis was presented at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) 52nd Annual Meeting in Munich, Germany. iGlarLixi is currently under review in the United States and Europe.
7. [Lupin gets favourable ruling from DoP on revision of prices of "Rifampicin capsule and rifampicin syrup" – Pharmabiz.com](#)  
The pharmaceutical major Lupin has received favourable ruling from the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) on its review application for the revision of prices of "Rifampicin capsule and rifampicin syrup". The DoP has directed the NPPA to revise the ceiling prices of "Rifampicin capsule and rifampicin syrup".

Earlier, Lupin had filed review applications under paragraph 31 of the DPCO 2013, against notification S.O. No.1202(E) dated 06.05.2015 issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixing the ceiling price of "Rifampicin capsule and rifampicin syrup".