

Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distant future

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Wipro GE Healthcare invests in local medical device manufacturing and R&D in India

Welcome to the latest edition of Far and Wide, where we embark on a journey to explore intriguing stories and global developments.

Wipro GE Healthcare announced a **significant investment of over Rs 8,000 crore in India** over the next five years to boost local manufacturing and research and development (R&D) initiatives. This investment aims to expand the company's **'Made in India'** products, such as the PET CT Discovery IQ scanner, which will be exported to 15 countries. Additionally, products like Revolution Aspire CT, Revolution ACT, and MR breast coils will be **manufactured locally for global distribution**.

The strategic investment not only **strengthens Wipro GE Healthcare's local manufacturing** capabilities but also enhances its **supply chain resilience**. **Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro GE Healthcare**, highlighted India's thriving healthcare industry and rapidly growing MedTech sector, emphasizing the importance of the 'Make in India' initiative in positioning **India as a global MedTech hub**.

Peter J Arduini, President and CEO of GE Healthcare, underscored India's significance as a key market and reaffirmed the company's commitment to investing in **India's domestic capabilities** and global MedTech manufacturing and R&D. Chaitanya Sarawate, Managing Director and President & CEO of GE Healthcare South Asia, expressed confidence in **India's potential to become a major player in global medical device manufacturing**.

Wipro GE Healthcare currently operates four manufacturing plants in Bengaluru, all of which are export-oriented. The latest plant, established in March 2022 under the Indian government's **production-linked investment (PLI) Scheme**, signifies the company's commitment to India's healthcare agenda and its vision to strengthen India's position in the global MedTech landscape. Established in 1990, Wipro GE Healthcare is a joint venture between GE Precision Healthcare LLC, USA, and Wipro Enterprises Ltd, with operations spanning across India and neighbouring countries.

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Europe

European regulators crack down on Big Tech

European regulators have **initiated several investigations targeting major technology firms**. The most recent **probe implicates Apple, Meta Platforms, and Google**, potentially resulting in substantial **finances by year-end for violations**, such as disparaging competitor products on their platforms. According to EU Antitrust regulators **European Union's Digital Markets Act (DMA)** is central to these investigations, with **potential fines amounting to 10% of the companies' global annual turnover**

In 2023, the EU **identified 22 "gatekeeper" services operated by prominent tech companies**, urging compliance with DMA provisions within six months. These legislations are meant to make it easier for **European users** to move between competing services. Notably, Meta Platforms and ByteDance's **TikTok appealed against their "gatekeeper" status**, albeit unsuccessfully. Apple received its **first ever €1.84 billion EU antitrust penalty** related to Spotify's complaint, vowing to challenge the decision in court.

Source: The Economic Times

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/european-regulators-crack-down-on-big-tech/articleshow/108769614.cms?from=mdr>

Meanwhile, **Google's €2.42 billion antitrust fine** was suggested to be upheld by an advisor to Europe's top court. The European Commission is **also examining Microsoft's behaviour regarding security software**, potential merger rule violations, and the unbundling of its Office and Teams products. Similar regulatory actions are occurring in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, reflecting widespread scrutiny of big tech's market dominance and business practices.



North America

Survey: Younger consumers drive sustainability demand

A plastic packaging manufacturer **Alpla using the survey platform Pollfish**, conducted a study that revealed **American youngsters prefer sustainably packaged products**. The **survey included 1000 Americans 18 years and above**, highlighting that 40% of respondents often opt for items packed sustainably when given a choice.

Additionally, 54% of respondents say **they make choices based on sustainability**, and 67% said they are **willing to make small changes** to their habits or lifestyles to make room for sustainable packaging. while 79% are ready **to pay extra for such products**. In total, 83% of respondents **demonstrate eco-conscious inclinations**. The survey also highlights the **influence of social circles on shopping behaviour**, with 53% of those aged 18 to 34 stating that the **habits of friends and family impact** their choices, compared to 29% of those aged 35 and older.

Billy Rice, **Alpla's sustainability manager in North America**, commented on the widespread recognition of **the value of sustainable packaging**. He highlighted that while most people tend to make sustainable choices, he found it particularly encouraging that **younger individuals are willing to prioritize sustainability** even in challenging circumstances. Rice highlighted their willingness to expend extra effort and money to lead sustainable lifestyles, emphasizing that it reflects a deliberate intention to reduce environmental impact.



Source: Chain Store Age

[Survey: Younger consumers drive sustainability demand | Chain Store Age](#)



South America

France will help Brazil develop nuclear-powered submarines, Macron says



Source: France 24

[France will help Brazil develop nuclear-powered submarines, Macron says \(france24.com\)](https://www.france24.com/en/america/20240401-france-will-help-brazil-develop-nuclear-powered-submarines-macron-says)

During an event at Brazil's modern naval base in Itaguaí near Rio de Janeiro, the leaders of **Brazil and France** emphasised the significance of their defence partnership **amidst global turmoil**.

Brazil's construction of the **Tonelero submarine**, the third of four planned conventional diesel attack submarines, with training, equipment, and technical assistance from France, was marked by **First Lady Rosangela da Silva**.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva highlighted the **partnership as crucial** for peace, while **President Macron stressed their shared global vision**. Macron's visit, the **first by a French president in over a decade**, aims to restore strained relations under former President Bolsonaro. Both leaders discussed **Brazil's security concerns over its vast maritime territory**, including plans for nuclear-powered submarines. Brazil is planning to build its first nuclear-powered submarine, **the Alvaro Alberto, a project** that has suffered significant delays, mainly due to **budget constraints**.

The French naval defence manufacturer **Naval Group** is supporting the design and construction of the submarine, except for the nuclear boiler which is **being designed by the Brazilians**. However, challenges remain in technology transfer for Brazil's nuclear submarine program. Macron also addressed the **stalled EU-Mercosur trade agreement** in Sao Paulo, advocating for a new pact aligned with development, climate, and biodiversity goals.



Asia

Wipro GE Healthcare to invest Rs 8,000 cr in 5 yrs on medical devices manufacturing, local R&D

Wipro GE Healthcare announces a substantial **investment of over Rs 8,000 crore** in India over the **next five years**, boosting **local manufacturing and R&D endeavours**.

This initiative aims to expand **'Made in India' products** like the PET CT Discovery IQ scanner, set for export to 15 countries. Additionally, products such as Revolution Aspire CT, Revolution ACT, and MR breast coils **will be locally manufactured for global distribution**.

Azim Premji, Chairman, emphasizes **India's thriving healthcare industry** and the 'Make in India' initiative's role in global MedTech prominence. Peter J Arduini, CEO of GE Healthcare, **reaffirms commitment to India's MedTech growth**, while Chaitanya Sarawate, **Managing Director of GE Healthcare South Asia**, sees India as a key player in global **medical device manufacturing**.

The **investment underpins Wipro GE Healthcare's** commitment to India's healthcare agenda and strengthens its global MedTech presence. Established in 1990, Wipro GE Healthcare is a joint venture between GE Precision Healthcare LLC, USA, and Wipro Enterprises Ltd, with operations **spanning India and neighbouring countries**.



Source: The ET Health World

<https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/medical-devices/wipro-ge-healthcare-to-invest-rs-8000-cr-in-5-yrs-on-medical-devices-manufacturing-local-rd/108787110>



Australia

Genomics research projects in Australia secure \$9M funding and more briefs

Four genomics-focused research projects led by University of Melbourne researchers received **A\$6.5 million (\$4 million) in funding**. These projects aim to address various health issues, including inherited retinal diseases, endometrial-related health problems, and prostate cancer diagnosis. The Advanced Genomics Collaboration (TAGC) supports these projects, providing access to Illumina's DNA sequencing technology.

Additionally, the **Snow Medical Research Foundation grants A\$8 million (\$5 million)** to a University of Queensland project focusing on using genomics to predict chronic disease risks early.

Source: [MobiHealthNews](#)

[Genomics research projects in Australia secure \\$9M funding and more briefs | MobiHealthNews](#)

This initiative involves **analyzing DNA sequences from millions of participants** and prioritizing diverse ancestries. Furthermore, Monash University researchers developed **McSTRA, an AI software** that enhances MRI image quality and **speeds up scans by ten folds**. Lead researcher Mevan Ekanayake highlights its potential to eliminate patient wait times, improve diagnostic accuracy, and reduce healthcare costs in Australia's high-demand diagnostic services landscape.



Africa

First ever African transgenic mosquito strain developed in response to global malaria resistance

The ongoing **threat of malaria to Africa's health and development remains** a concern despite significant progress in combating the disease. The global estimates of malaria cases were 249 million and malaria-related deaths were 608,000 in 85 countries. The African Region **alone accounted for 233 million (94 per cent) of malaria cases** and 580,000 (95 per cent) of its associated deaths, **according to WHO records (2022 data)**.

With Africa bearing **the brunt of malaria cases and deaths globally**, achieving the **Africa Union's 2030 elimination target** seems **unlikely without additional interventions**. However, hope emerges with the development of a **transgenic mosquito strain** designed to prevent malaria transmission, as a breakthrough in global efforts to eliminate malaria. **Led by the Transmission Zero Programme**, a collaboration between institutions like Imperial College London and Ifakara Health Institute, this innovative genetic tool shows promise.

Yet, challenges remain, including the need for **awareness, collaboration, and regulatory frameworks**. The recent Awareness Webinar organized by the Science Communication Forum highlights the importance of stakeholder engagement in advancing genetic biocontrol technologies.



Source: [Enviro News Nigeria](#)

[First ever African transgenic mosquito strain developed in response to global malaria resistance - EnviroNews - latest environment news, climate change, renewable energy \(environewsigeria.com\)](#)