

1. [Better healthcare critical for economic growth](#) –

Hindustan Times

An authored article by Shailesh Ayyangar comments on healthcare access in India and a viable public healthcare model. It reflects on India's healthcare challenges and stresses on the need of policy solutions to address these challenges, and an increase in budget allocation for healthcare to 2.5% over the next two years. He also writes, a first step could be to direct the collections from the duty towards health expenditure. That can help reduce the expenses that people have to bear.

1. [Better healthcare critical for economic growth](#) – Hindustan Times
2. [Pharma exports up 9.7 per cent, 33 percent growth in US markets in FY 16](#) – Economic Times
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2. [Pharma exports up 9.7 per cent, 33 percent growth in US markets in FY 16](#) – Economic Times

Union Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia said, "The country's pharmaceutical exports is one of the good stories of Indian exports. We have registered 9.7 per cent jump and 33 per cent growth in exports to US market. We see lot of growth potential of pharma exports in coming years." Despite the US FDA issues faced by the several domestic pharma companies last year, the huge exports growth of 33 per cent shows our companies are capable of taking challenges.

3. [Delhi High Court order on copies of Roche's cancer drug draws flak](#) – Economic Times

In a court order on Biocon and Mylan to sell copies of Roche's blockbuster bio-tech based breast cancer drug Trastuzumab, the order had restrained the biosimilar makers from using data relating to the manufacturing process, safety, efficacy and tests till the time a final decision is made on the issue of biosimilarity. Based on Roche's plea, the Delhi High Court in a keenly watched legal tussle said the approvals to Biocon's brand CANMAb and Mylan's Hertraz were "not on the basis of the adherence of the guidelines" and "rules framed under the Drug Act." Roche sells the drug under the brand Herceptin globally.

Siding with Roche's plea, the court noted that the products cannot be called a "biosimilar" of Herceptin, Herclon or Biceltis, or in any way ascribe any biosimilarity with that of the innovator's products. The court came down heavily on India's drug regulatory body for approving the products. Roche comments: Makers of biosimilar drugs are unhappy with a Delhi High Court ruling that imposed certain conditions on Biocon and Mylan to sell copies of Roche's blockbuster biotech-based breast cancer drug, trastuzumab. The April 25 order, which raised questions on the processes followed by the Indian drug controller in approving such drugs, could also affect the availability and affordability of an expensive cancer treatment, said an industry executive.

Reliance Life Sciences in its statement comments that they are yet to receive a copy of the court order.

4. [Boehringer Ingelheim not for immuno therapy drugs](#) – Economic Times
Immuno therapy is a new breakthrough in cancer treatment that uses body's immune system to fight the disease. Boehringer Ingelheim says they will stay out from this space as the company decides to narrow down its focus to metabolic diseases and biosimilar drugs. The German drug maker's decision to step out from the immuno therapy drugs comes as an overall strategic vision of the company, where it wants to focus on key therapy areas and shed out the excess fat in its business by exiting non-core areas.
5. [FDI up 37% after launch of Make in India: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) – Economic Times
In the 17-month period (October 2014-February 2016) up to February after the launch of 'Make in India', FDI inflows have increased by 37 per cent. She also said the overseas inflows grew 29 per cent during the period compared to the 15-month period prior to the launch. The Make In India initiative was launched in September 25, 2014 with an aim to make the country a global manufacturing hub
6. ['Govt gives 138 SEZ developers more time to complete projects'](#) – Business Standard
As many as 138 SEZ developers have been granted more time to complete their projects in the last four years. Regarding the reply on pharma sector, she said the department of pharmaceuticals and the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry are sorting out the issue relating to the difficulties being faced by the bulk drug manufacturers relating to environment issues to give boost to manufacturing.
7. [Underfunding plaguing ICMR: Par panel](#) – Business Standard
Observing that state-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is "plagued with underfunding", a parliamentary panel has recommended greater allocation of funds to it. The Committee observes that in view of the dynamic international health research environment and the current and future health challenges, the role of ICMR is very crucial and if its projects are plagued with underfunding, it can have very serious repercussion and undermine the desired outcomes in the health sector.
8. [More medicine for less](#) – The Hindu
The editorial reflects on the drug affordability issue in India. It states that there is a lack of awareness on the availability of affordable alternatives to expensive brands. Refers to a report in The Lancet that showed that out-of-pocket spending comprises 58 per cent of the total; two-thirds of this is on drugs. one of the persistent problems with low-cost access systems is non-availability of specific drugs. A transparent supply chain managed by state-run procurement agencies can help overcome such bottlenecks
9. [US keeps India on intellectual property priority watch list](#) – Hindustan Times
US has kept India on its priority watch list for "lack of sufficient measurable improvements" to the IP framework despite robust engagement and positive steps on intellectual property protection and enforcement by the Indian government in the last two years. "India remains on the Priority Watch List this year for lack of sufficient measurable improvements to its IPR framework despite more robust engagement and positive steps forward on IPR protection and enforcement undertaken by the Government of India," the USTR said in its report.
10. [Patent experts call for strong innovation eco-system](#) – Pharmabiz.com
India needs a strong innovation eco-system for newer and better medicines. This will enable the pharma industry to bring in quality and affordable drugs to treat critical illnesses. Therefore, the industry will need to maximize the advantage of Prime Minister Modi's initiatives like Innovate in India and Make in India to capitalize on new drug development, stated a panel of experts. At an event titled MHRD Chair on Intellectual Property Rights & Centre for Intellectual Property Rights and Advocacy CIPRA), National Law School India University, Bengaluru in association with the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), a panel discussion was moderated by Prof T Ramakrishna head ministry of HRD, chair on IPR CIPRA.