

1. [TPP 'fundamentally flawed,' should be resisted: UN expert](#) – Business Standard

The top UN human rights expert has called on the 12 nations considering to sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership to resist it as its current form "is fundamentally flawed" and the massive trade agreement must be ratified to conform with fundamental principles of international law. In November last year, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan voiced "some very serious concerns" that the massive trade deal covering almost 40 per cent of the global economy could limit the access to affordable medicines and generics -an impact that would severely affect the world's poorest.

Leaders of India's USD 15 billion pharmaceutical industry had echoed Chan's concern about patent protection and generics.

Commerce minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday that India is preparing to deal with the adverse impacts of TPP and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) will have "serious bearing" for countries like India who are not a part of the trade deal.

2. [AstraZeneca says new lung cancer pill Tagrisso approved by European Union](#) – The Economic Times

AstraZeneca said its new lung cancer pill Tagrisso won early approval for use in the EU, three months after US authorities gave it the green light, in a boost for the company.

Tagrisso, also known as AZD9291, is one of several cancer medicines AstraZeneca hopes will rebuild its sales following patent losses on older drugs. During its defence against a takeover attempt by Pfizer in 2014, the firm forecast the drug could eventually achieve sales of \$3 billion a year.

3. [Seven drugs with \\$1 billion sale potential reaching market in 2016](#) – ET Health

Drug companies are likely to launch seven "blockbuster" drugs in 2016, each with \$1 billion-plus annual sales potential, led by new treatments for liver disease and HIV, according to a Thomson Reuters analysis.

The assessment means the pharmaceuticals industry is on track for another productive year, although not as good as 2015, which saw the arrival of 11 new blockbusters.

The two top hits of 2016 are tipped to be Intercept Pharmaceuticals' chronic liver disease drug obeticholic acid, with a consensus sales forecast of \$2.6 billion in 2020, and Gilead Sciences' new fixed dose HIV drug emtricitabine plus tenofovir alafenamide, on \$2.0 billion.

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4. [Sun Hopes Cut-Price Generic Gleevec Will Win Third Of US Market](#) – Business World
5. [GSK dismisses near-term split as new drugs offset falling Advair](#) – Reuters
6. [Palliative cancer care needs urgent attention](#) – The Times of India
7. [Cancer cure rates better, but new cases on the rise too](#) – The Times of India

4. [Sun Hopes Cut-Price Generic Gleevec Will Win Third Of US Market](#) – Business World

Sun Pharma launched a generic version of Novartis's leukaemia drug Gleevec on Monday in the United States and hopes to poach a third of sales in six months by pricing the copycat some 30 percent cheaper, Sun's North American chief executive said.

Gleevec, or imatinib mesylate, costs up to about \$90,000 annually in the United States, implying Sun's price could be roughly \$60,000. Gleevec posted \$4.7 billion in global revenue in 2015, and Swiss-based Novartis has said the U.S. patent expiry puts around \$2.5 billion in annual sales at risk.

5. [GSK dismisses near-term split as new drugs offset falling Advair](#) – Reuters

GlaxoSmithKline said on Wednesday the chance of it spinning off or selling its consumer health business before 2018 was "extraordinarily low", arguing the group's strategy was delivering, helped by rising sales of new medicines.

Growing demand for recently launched HIV and respiratory drugs helped Britain's biggest drugmaker beat forecasts for fourth-quarter earnings by a small margin, lifting the shares in a sharply lower market.

6. [Palliative cancer care needs urgent attention](#) – The Times of India

World Cancer Day is observed on February 4 to raise awareness about cancer and encourage its prevention, detection & treatment. It is also a day to impress upon policy-makers to make cancer treatment a priority.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in India as over 10,00,000 new cases are diagnosed and around 7,00,000 succumb to it every year. More than 60% of the cases are diagnosed at an advanced stage and most of them suffer from tremendous pain. Rough estimates suggest that nearly 1.5 to 2 million cancer patients die of excruciating pain every year because they do not have access to oral morphine - an inexpensive, safe and highly effective pain medication. Most corporate hospitals, even in cities, do not have access to oral morphine.

7. [Cancer cure rates better, but new cases on the rise too](#) – The Times of India

The pharmaceuticals market in India, valued at \$ 20 billion in 2015, is set to soar to \$ 55 billion by 2020, representing an impressive compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22.4 percent, according to the UK-based research and consulting firm GlobalData.

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