

1. [Pfizer, Germany's Merck begin large ovarian cancer trial](#) - Reuters

Pfizer Inc and German drugmaker Merck KGaA on Wednesday said they had begun a late-stage trial of their immunology drug avelumab in combination with standard treatment for ovarian cancer. The 950-patient study will enroll patients with advanced ovarian cancer who have not previously been treated for the disease, which is diagnosed annually in almost 23,000 American women

and has a high mortality rate. Avelumab is a so-called checkpoint inhibitor, which works by taking the brakes off the immune system.

1. [Pfizer, Germany's Merck begin large ovarian cancer trial](#) - Reuters
2. [India may soon get treatment for Hepatitis C](#) – Economic Times
3. [Blood test may help prevent overuse of antibiotics](#) – Times of India
4. ['Awareness about intellectual property rights is rising in India'](#) – Times of India
5. [Online sales of medicines boom in absence of regulations](#) – Hindustan Times
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9. [Act on Kamble panel report](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. [India may soon get treatment for Hepatitis C](#) – Economic Times

A latest breakthrough treatment for the deadly Hepatitis C virus could soon be available in India as 11 Indian firms have been given licenses by its American manufacturer following an approval from US authorities. The drug called Eplclusa which is developed to treat all genotypes of the Hepatitis C virus by Gilead Sciences in its latest breakthrough treatment was last week approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The deadly Hepatitis C virus afflicts as many as 150 million people worldwide and possibly 12 million in India.

3. [Blood test may help prevent overuse of antibiotics](#) – Times of India

An inexpensive blood test could one day tell doctors whether an infection is caused by a virus or a bacteria, and help prevent unwarranted prescribing of antibiotics, researchers said Wednesday. The diagnostic test, described in the peer-reviewed journal Science Translational Medicine, is being developed by the Stanford University School of Medicine in California. "A lot of times you can't really tell what kind of infection someone has," said lead author Timothy Sweeney, an engineering research associate with the Stanford Institute for Immunity, Transplantation and Infection.

4. ['Awareness about intellectual property rights is rising in India'](#) – Times of India

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) on Wednesday organized a workshop on intellectual property right (IPR) awareness and national intellectual property right policy at SIDCUL in Haridwar. The main objective of the workshop was to create awareness on IPR and its advantages and hold discussion on the national IPR policy 2016 for the benefit of all stakeholders, start-ups, industries and the academia. Speakers at the workshop emphasised on "the need to patronise intellectual property at all levels."

#### **5. [Online sales of medicines boom in absence of regulations](#) – Hindustan Times**

Despite the absence of concrete guidelines on sale of medicines over the internet, about 61% consumers are buying medicines online. Moreover, visits to the physical stores have come down from 72% to 55%, especially for senior citizens, a survey by Bureau of Research on Industry & Economic Fundamentals has found. “Subsequently, placing orders for medicines over the telephone also increases with increasing age, from 15% to 29%,” said the survey covering 4,600 respondents that was commissioned by Consumer Online Foundation, led by Bejon Kumar Misra. Misra has sent a copy of the report to minister of health and family welfare, JPN add a for consideration while making guidelines for e-pharmacy.

#### **6. [Need for a robust steel framework for health in India](#) – Hindustan Times**

The latest edition of Unicef’s State of the World’s Children report suggests that 1.2 million children under the age of five died of totally preventable diseases in 2015. For India, the report has been mixed: India’s key health indicator — Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 38 in 2014, lagging behind Bangladesh (IMR of 31) and Nepal (IMR of 29). Yet this dubious record is hardly debated by society, media, political and administrative system, industry and religious leaders. Underscoring the importance of social and political will to change such a situation, Mahmood Fataha, former director of the World Health Organization’s maternal health programme, said in 1990s: “Mothers are not dying because we do not know how to save them, but because the society has not decided that their lives are worth saving”.

#### **7. [Survey shows elders prefer e-pharmacies](#) – Deccan Herald**

As the government mulls over the future of e-pharmacies, a consumer survey has pointed out people’s overwhelming preference for online purchase of their medicines, particularly for senior citizens. Carried out on 4,600 individuals, the survey released on Wednesday found almost 61% of the respondents resorting to purchase of drugs over the internet, while given a choice 90% of them are inclined to do the same. Indian laws currently don’t allow e-pharmacies. Last year, the NDA government set up a technical panel to review the issues surrounding online pharmacy business that are gaining popularity in the cities even without the legal foundation.

#### **8. [What’s India’s strategy to beat Brexit? Here’s a sneak peak](#) – Financial Express**

India is considering recalibrating its strategy, including renegotiating its tariff offers, for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the EU following Brexit, with demands from key sectors for a separate trade pact with the UK gathering pace, sources said. But with both the EU and the UK busy grappling with Brexit, serious trade negotiations are unlikely to start anytime soon. Textiles secretary Rashmi Verma told FE: “Britain continues to be an important market for us, as it makes up for around 23% of the EU demand for Indian textiles and garments. We have requested the commerce ministry to look into the possibility of a bilateral preferential trade agreement (PTA) with the UK.”

#### **9. [Act on Kamble panel report](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

Drug control authorities in the country have been facing the challenge of regulating the internet sales of pharmaceutical products from 2014 with the emergence of these new class of traders. Initially there were only very few players in the scene and their sales were restricted mainly to customers outside India. Some cases of such sales in violation of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act were detected by Maharashtra FDA during 2014 and 2015. Then after repeated complaints from the retail chemists and wholesalers against the internet sales of medicines, the Drugs Controller General of India appointed a committee under Harshdeep Kamble, commissioner of Maharashtra FDA, to explore the possibility of allowing online trading in pharmaceuticals and laying down specific rules. Although the committee submitted its recommendations in this regard last year, no decision has been taken by the DCGI. In the meanwhile more online traders have entered into the field affecting the sales of traditional players. Now, the online traders are well organized and have formed Internet Pharmacy Association with a dozen leading players offering discounts and catering mainly to the domestic market.