

1. [Merck's Keytruda prolongs life in big lung-cancer study](#) – Reuters

In a large trial, the advanced lung cancer patients who took Merck & Co Inc's Keytruda immuno-oncology medicine and were previously untreated went longer without their disease worsening and showed a survival advantage over those given standard chemotherapy, the drugmaker said on Thursday. An independent data monitoring board recommended that the late-stage trial be stopped due to the favorable results, Merck said, thereby allowing patients who were taking chemotherapy to switch over to the company's treatment.

2. [UK cost agency speeds approval of Bristol melanoma drug cocktail](#) – Reuters

British melanoma patients will be the first in Europe to receive a new drug cocktail combining two immunotherapy treatments, following an unusually rapid approval by the country's healthcare cost agency NICE on Friday. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), which decides if therapies are worth using on the state health service, is more often in the news for delaying or refusing access to pricey modern cancer drugs.

3. [News in numbers | Exports decline to \\$22.17 billion, imports to \\$28.44 billion in May](#) – Mint

Commerce minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the decline in exports is the slowest pace of contraction in 18 months, driven by exports of gems and jewellery, chemicals and engineering goods. Commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the decline in exports has bottomed-out though the pick-up may be slow. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations expects double-digit growth in exports from October onwards, which could help in achieving \$300 billion in exports in 2016-17.

4. [India, Brazil, China team up to push EU to change trademark law](#) - The Hindu Business Line

Failing to convince the EU to change its new directive on trademark protection that could lead to seizure of legitimate pharmaceutical consignments transiting through the region, India has teamed up with Brazil, South Africa, China and Indonesia at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to put pressure on the bloc to make amendments. "The five said they were concerned the new directive could result in possible restrictions on legitimate shipments of goods, in particular essential medicines, while transiting the EU," an official privy to a recent meeting of the TRIPS Council of the WTO told Business Line. New Delhi also emphasised that the new law violated various provisions of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement of the WTO.

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4. [India, Brazil, China team up to push EU to change trademark law](#) - The Hindu Business Line
5. [Indian pharmaceutical exports to cross \\$20 billion by 2020: Study](#) – Business Standard
6. [Glenmark plans to raise \\$200 million](#) – Business Standard
7. [Pharma giants buying up rights for Ayurvedic practices: expert](#) – The Hindu
8. [Yellow fever vaccination facility launched at port](#) – The Hindu
9. [Tata Memorial Hospital, State kick off affordable cancer care project](#) – The Hindu
10. [E-pharmacy body wants govt to end 'inspector raj'](#) – The Times of India

5. **[Indian pharmaceutical exports to cross \\$20 billion by 2020: Study – Business Standard](#)**
According to an Assocham – TechSci research joint study, Indian pharmaceutical exports are likely to cross \$20 billion by 2020 from \$14 billion in 2016, by registering a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of eight per cent. The report was released on Thursday. However, delay in regulatory approvals in US, Russia, Africa and others may cut down export growth to almost half - from a 15 per cent CAGR growth level clocked in 2010-2014 to eight per cent during 2015-2020, said the study "IPR in pharmaceuticals: Balancing, innovation and access".
6. **[Glenmark plans to raise \\$200 million – Business Standard](#)**
Pharma major Glenmark is planning to raise around \$200 million, of which International Finance Corporation (IFC) is planning to invest up to \$75 million. The company plans to raise the money through market issuance of quasi-equity instruments. IFC said the proposed investment of up to \$75 million will be used for expanding manufacturing capacity (primarily in India); building research and development (R&D) capacity for new products (including in India); and reduce debt so that internal accruals can be deployed to R&D.
7. **[Pharma giants buying up rights for Ayurvedic practices: expert – The Hindu](#)**
At the national level seminar organized by Kerala-based Vaidyaratnam Oushadha Sala, Dr P Murali Krishna, professor, Sri Venkateswara Ayurvedic College and Hospital, highlighted how pharma giants are buying up rights for traditional practices, since Ayurveda is able to cure ailments for which modern medicine hasn't been able to offer solutions. Dr. Krishna delivered the keynote address on "Management of skin disorders" at the seminar on Thursday. He said a U.S.-based pharma giant had purchased rights for a traditional ayurvedic practice for 15 years. More such transactions were on the cards, he said.
8. **[Yellow fever vaccination facility launched at port – The Hindu](#)**
The yellow fever vaccination facility was inaugurated by Megha Pravin Khobragade, Deputy Assistant Director General (International Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in the presence of S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, and S. Natarajan, Deputy Chairman, on the port premises on Wednesday. According to a statement issued here on Thursday, Dr. Khobragade said it was the 35th centre in the country to administer yellow fever vaccination and it would help travellers save money and time.
9. **[Tata Memorial Hospital, State kick off affordable cancer care project – The Hindu](#)**
To make cancer care accessible to people living in districts and bring down the incidence of its preventable forms, the State government along with Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) unveiled its 'affordable cancer care for all' project on Thursday. The larger goal is to ensure patients don't have to trek to Mumbai with families in tow, putting their lives and livelihoods on hold for cancer treatment. Funded by pharmaceutical firm Mylan as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, the project's first phase — which involves training and sensitising doctors, nurses and technicians at district hospitals — is already being implemented in Pune, Nashik, Amravati, Jalgaon, Nagpur and Gadchiroli.
10. **[E-pharmacy body wants govt to end 'inspector raj' – The Times of India](#)**
Stressing that the digital platform for disbursing medicines is fully compliant under law, online or e-pharmacies have asked the government to maintain a registry of licensed players, and issue guidelines so as to end "inspector raj". Over the last couple of months, online pharmacies have been "facing harassment, stiff resistance and unwarranted disruptions from the government machinery, particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka, and a trade association that is averse to transparency in this space", Anil Bajpai of Zigy, an e-pharmacy player, said here on Thursday.