

1. [U.S. sees first case of bacteria resistant to all antibiotics](#) – Reuters.in

U.S. health officials on Thursday reported the first case in the country of a patient with an infection resistant to all known antibiotics, and expressed grave concern that the superbug could pose serious danger for routine infections if it spreads. "We risk being in a post-antibiotic world," said Thomas Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In the United States, antibiotic resistance has been blamed for at least 2 million illnesses and 23,000 deaths annually. Experts have warned since the 1990s that especially bad superbugs could be on the horizon, but few drugmakers have attempted to develop drugs against them.

2. [NPPA cuts antibiotic, stomach ulcer and abortion drug prices by 30%](#) – Economic Times

Indian drug pricing watchdog National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has cut prices of 24 more essential medicines, including widely used antibiotics and an abortion pill, by up to 30% through its latest price fixation and revision order. GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK)

Augmentin, Alkem Labs' Clavam and Taxim O and Mankind Pharma's Moxikind CV are among the top five grossers in the segment, according to the pharmaceutical market research company. NPPA has also brought down the ceiling price of abortion drug mifepristone by nearly Rs100 per tablet. The drug is generally prescribed in a kit of four tablets available for Rs500-600, with an additional tablet of Rs300 required to complete the course, according to pharmacies. NPPA had earlier set the ceiling price for mifepristone 200 mg at Rs394.31 per tablet in 2011.

3. [Biotech giant Roche takes NPPA to court over cap on injection price](#) – Economic Times

Biotech giant Roche has taken the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) — India's drug pricing watchdog — to court over the ceiling price it fixed for breast cancer injection trastuzumab. The Swiss company sells the injection under the brand name Herceptin internationally and Herclon in India. On May 9, the NPPA issued a notification capping the price of trastuzumab 440mg/50ml injections at Rs 55,812.29 per pack. NPPA's computation of the

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8. [Drug resistance crisis](#) – Business Standard
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12. [Explore new markets, govt tells pharma exporters](#) – Hindustan Times
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14. [Modi's health initiatives need a booster shot](#) – Mail Today
15. [CDSCO issues checklist for inspection of pharma manufacturing facilities for verification of GMP compliance](#) – Pharmabiz.com

ceiling price was also done without taking into account the price of Herclon, according to Roche's petition. In fact, Roche is involved in a raft of legal battles with biosimilar companies and the government over copies of Herclon and another cancer drug, Avastin (bevacizumab).

4. [Capital goods policy contains little meat](#) – Economic Times (blog)

The motive of the capital goods policy is noble, but its design is not energetic to advance the sector and expand the share of manufacturing in GDP. The policy fails to address the key problem of the lack of research to constantly innovate and upgrade capital goods as global manufacturing stands on the cusp of radical change. Developing basic industries “that make machines to make the machines needed for further development” made sense to achieve industrial growth during the Second Five-Year Plan. Policymakers seem to be stuck in a time warp. As India rapidly globalises, Indian industries need new methods of production, new materials, better robots and artificial intelligence to become competitive. The policy recommends “adoption of the goods and services tax regime ensuring effective GST rate across all capital goods sub-sectors competitive with import duty after set-offs” to ensure a level playing field. A technology development fund for transfer of technology, purchase of intellectual property rights, design and drawings is fine. More important, India needs to develop a knowledge ecosystem that includes a good intellectual property regime to foster innovation and creativity.

5. [Financial crisis may have caused 500,000 cancer deaths worldwide](#) – Economic Times

The global financial crisis may have caused an additional 500,000 cancer deaths from 2008-2010, a new study said Thursday, with patients locked out of treatment because of unemployment and healthcare cuts. For the European Union alone, the estimate was 160,000 additional deaths -- a term used to describe people who would not otherwise have died. For the United States, the estimate was 18,000 and for France 1,500. For Spain and Britain, which provided universal healthcare, no additional deaths were calculated. "We found that increased unemployment was associated with an increased cancer mortality, but that universal health coverage protected against these effects," study author Mahiben Maruthappu of Imperial College London said.

6. [India can reach top 50 in Doing Business ranking in few years: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) – Economic Times

Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said it is "possible" for the country to reach top 50 in the World Bank's Doing Business ranking in the next few years. "The fresh ranking will reflect that it is possible for us to reach that position of 50, not immediately, in the next few years," Sitharaman said in a Facebook interaction on completion of two years of the NDA government. India now ranks 130 out of 189 countries in the ease of doing business, moving up 12 places from 2014, according to the latest World Bank's Doing Business report. Sitharaman gave 9 out of 10 to Modi Government's performance for the first two years, and said that big schemes being launched are keeping ordinary citizens at the core.

7. [Delhi HC continues hearing arguments in FDC pharma ban case](#) – Business Standard

In the court hearing yesterday, the court heard intervenor applications and petitioner responses to arguments previously advanced by the central government justifying the ban. The interveners sought impleadment in the hotly contested matter on the grounds of public interest and social well-being. The interveners made impassioned pleas highlighting to the court the present insufficiency of pharma regulation in the nation and the necessity of the ban by the central government. "This decision (the ban) has come after decades. We are the only country (in the world) with so many unregulated drugs. This is not a global phenomenon as these companies seek compliances themselves elsewhere. I hope my lord will consider the health and safety of citizens as paramount," Bijon Kumar Mishra, an intervening activist said. Parag Tripathi, senior advocate representing Wockhardt Limited questioned the decision making process of the central government in banning the FDC's in question and argued with the help of Supreme Court judgments, the necessity of consultations with the DTAB (Drug Testing Advisory Board) and DCC (Drug Consultative Committee) before the central government could have

taken such action. Another ground for challenge raised by the petitioners was the fact that the government had dichotomously targeted FDC's alone while still allowing the same combination of drugs to be prescribed in the same proportions to patients individually. After hearing the arguments advanced, the court presided by Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw listed the matter again on 30 May for further hearing.

8. [Drug resistance crisis](#) – Business Standard

India must end indiscriminate use of antibiotics. Since 2008, concerns have been growing globally about resistance against antibiotics in bacteria and other disease-causing pathogens — though remedial action has been slow to emerge. The fear is that the unchecked growth of microbial resistance may hasten the end of the antibiotics era without offering any effective substitute for these wonder drugs. Simply put, even trivial infections may turn deadly for want of curative treatment. India is already home to several drug-resistant bugs which are spreading fast and have been noticed even in the operation theatres and intensive care units (ICUs) of several well-regarded hospitals. Since there is no single solution in sight to combat this menace, a multi-pronged strategy is urgently needed. The underlying objective of all anti-drug resistance moves has to be to restrict the use of antibiotics by curbing the tendency to consume them even when other choices are available.

9. [Sun Pharma, Daiichi terminate transaction pacts](#) – Times of India

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries today said the umbrella pact and transaction agreements signed with Daiichi Sankyo and its overseas subsidiaries have been terminated due to divestment of Ranbaxy by the Japanese firm. "The parties have terminated the umbrella agreement as well as the transaction agreements executed between Daiichi Sankyo Company Ltd, Daiichi Sankyo (Thailand) Ltd Ranbaxy, Ranbaxy (Netherlands) BV, Ranbaxy Unichem Company Ltd, Ranbaxy (Thailand) Company Ltd due to divestment of Ranbaxy by Daiichi Sankyo Company Ltd," Sun Pharma said in a regulatory filing.

10. [Meet on intellectual property on May 31](#) – Times of India

MSME-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre will organize an interactive session on 'New national IPR policy: Way forward' on May 31. CII, in association with Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering SJCE-STEP and Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Center (VTPC), is organizing the event in the latter's campus. "After 'Startup India' and 'Make in India', India needs to protect 'Creative India: Innovative India' by registering everything that we create. Every new business owner should be aware of his/ her IP rights and should hire a trusted intellectual property consultant to help drive out the myths and build a strategy to best protect the company," Khyati said. **To understand India's stand on IPR policy and to discuss the new IPR policy and its impact on various industry sectors an interactive session on the new National IPR policy was organized.**

11. [Students can try research in medical field](#) – Times of India

For a student, the SSC and HSC years are turning points. Time management is key to achieve success. You should keep the most inspiring picture of success on your table like APJ Abdul Kalam. You have to set goals, and visualize these goals. Maintain optimum health, take a nutritious, balanced diet and prevent stress through support from parents and teachers. Medical science is still in its adolescence. Many ailments like genetic diseases have no answers. It then becomes our responsibility to find out the answers to bring happiness to the mankind. But it will involve huge research. Students can opt for research which will give India patents and intellectual property rights, and support the 'Make in India' concept in medicine, leading to affordable healthcare.

12. [Explore new markets, govt tells pharma exporters](#) – Hindustan Times

With mounting regulatory hassles leading to declining sales in the US and Europe, the government wants Indian pharma companies to shift their focus towards smaller, unexplored markets. "Emerging markets for pharmaceutical products are Myanmar, Peru, Ecuador, Columbia, Turkey. Venezuela is also a potential but US dollar shortage is creating problems," PV

Appaji, director general of pharma export promotion council, Pharmexcil said, adding, that these are small markets with good future potential. The strategy was chalked out considering the decline in global demand especially from developed countries. The official added that one of the major challenges for exports has been the concentration on a few big and traditional markets.

13. [**Government determined to push through GST Bill in next session: Jaitley**](#) – Hindustan Times
The government has decided to go ahead with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) bill in the Rajya Sabha despite strong opposition by the Congress and its vice-president Rahul Gandhi. The presentation by Sitharaman took up several of the schemes and policy changes that have been brought in by the government. Although she said she would not go through all the details and try and keep the explanations short, by the end of it all the somnolence of the event had started to affect the ministers sitting on the dais as well as the audience.
14. [**Modi's health initiatives need a booster shot**](#) – Mail Today
While the Modi government successfully rolled out some major health initiatives, spending of the common man on healthcare, is still in progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spun the 'achhe din' (good days) dream for the country in the run-up to his election but the health report card of his government spoils the prognosis. While the Modi government successfully rolled out some major health initiatives, the big plans, like the National Health Assurance Mission aimed at reducing pocket spending of the common man on healthcare, is still in progress. Officials are confident of launching the mammoth scheme next year but the experts don't share the optimism because of the crunch in resources.
15. [**CDSCO issues checklist for inspection of pharma manufacturing facilities for verification of GMP compliance**](#) – Pharmabiz.com
To ensure consistency and uniformity in the inspection process, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has issued the checklist of 'Risk Based Inspection of the Pharma Manufacturing Facilities' for verification of GMP compliance as per the provisions stated under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. This checklist would be used by drug regulatory enforcement agencies as a science based tool. It is also envisaged that pharma industry would also find this checklist useful for self-assessment. CDSCO has started imparting training to drug regulators and analysts from state and central governments for inspection of manufacturing units with respect to GMP and GLP based on the components of this document.