

1. [Sun Pharma arms get US subpoena over drugs pricing](#) – Economic Times

Sun Pharma, India's largest drug maker, has received a grand jury subpoena from the anti-trust division of the US Department of Justice seeking documents from the company and its affiliates relating to corporate and employee records, generic products and pricing, communications with competitors and others regarding the sale of generic pharmaceutical products. While the granular details of the subpoena were not available immediately, two market analysts were of the view that the move may lead to a subdued sentimental outlook in the near term for Sun Pharma, which is already grappling with manufacturing compliance issues pointed out by the US FDA at its key facilities like Hallol in Gujarat. A sharp increase in prices of several generic drugs over the last few years have raised alarm in the US and large drug makers have been quizzed as part of congressional inquiries.

1. [Sun Pharma arms get US subpoena over drugs pricing](#) – Economic Times
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2. [Government to conduct study to assess impact of FDI in pharma industry](#) – Economic Times

The Commerce and Industry Ministry has commissioned a study to assess the impact of foreign direct investment in pharmaceutical companies amid concerns over mergers and acquisitions of domestic drug manufacturers. The experts would look into issues like the impact of foreign direct investment in the brownfield pharmaceutical companies and access to affordable medicines. Access to medicines can be ensured only when India would have a strong generic medicine industry. As per the current policy, 100 per cent FDI is permitted in the existing pharma companies through the approval route. 100 per cent FDI is also allowed in greenfield (new) projects. US-based Abbot Laboratories had acquired Piramal Health Care's domestic business for \$3.7 billion. Another US company Mylan bought Matrix Lab while Dabur Pharma was acquired by Singapore's Fresenius and France's Sanofi Aventis purchased Shanta Biotech and certain assets of Orchid Chemicals were acquired by US-based Hospira.

3. [Only a price controller](#) – Business Standard

The list from the department of pharmaceuticals of its achievements in the two years of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government is in fact more of a self-indictment. The list displays both skewed priorities and inadequate attention to what should be areas of foremost concern. It kicks off with what the government considers to be its greatest achievement in the sector: expanding the scope of price control. This is a throwback to the mindset of the days of licences and controls. The aim of the government must be to make available quality medicines at affordable prices to all. Now, if in the first place there are serious concerns about drug quality control in India, then the battle is lost right at the outset. The pharmaceuticals department can argue that it is the Central Drug Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) under the Union health ministry and the state-level drug authorities that have to address the issue of substandard

drugs in India - but that merely reduces the relevance of the pharmaceuticals department where things really matter. As for the robust private pharma sector, it can only keep growing fast if there is greater ease of doing business. For this it is critical to have a smooth, transparent and predictable approval procedure for new drugs. This again comes under the CDSCO. If this is the picture, then it may be a good idea to disband the pharmaceuticals department and consider options such as placing drug price control under the Tariff Commission into which the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has already been merged.

4. [**Government doctors retirement age to be raised to 65: PM**](#) – Times of India
Citing shortage of doctors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday announced raising the age of retirement of government doctors to 65 years and said the Union Cabinet will give its nod to the decision this week. In a rally to observe the second anniversary of his government, Modi said there is a need for more doctors across the country but it was not possible to fill the gap in two years of his government. The decision will cover all government doctors whether serving under states or the central dispensation, he said.
5. [**Focus on public health on World No Tobacco Day**](#) – The Hindu
Various government institutions and social groups have decided to come together to observe May 31 as World No Tobacco Day with the aim of improving public health by reducing tobacco consumption. Though the international theme for the year is ‘Get ready for plain packaging,’ the focus within the State is also to ensure tobacco-free educational institutions,” Paul Sebastian, Regional Cancer Centre Director and Vice-President of Tobacco-Free Kerala, told a press conference here on Friday. Plain packaging refers to standardising the packaging of cigarettes by removing branding elements such as colours, imagery, corporate logos, and trademarks from the boxes.
6. [**Education improves early detection of cancer, says V. Shanta**](#) – The Hindu
Education improves early detection of cancer, V. Shanta, chairperson, Cancer Institute, Adyar, has said. Education about cancer — such as the importance of hygiene and good food habits — should be included at the school level itself, she said. Dr. Shanta was delivering the Kamalam Ramasamy Udayar Oration on obstetrics and gynaecology at Sri Ramachandra University on Saturday. Speaking about the decrease in cervical cancer and the parallel rise of breast, endometrium and ovarian cancers, Dr. Shanta said there was a direct relationship between literacy and the incidence of breast and cervical cancers. “Despite this, India still does not have a definite policy. The vaccine would be most useful in high-risk groups — in the lower socio-economic groups — the rural poor. But the cost is high and it is not affordable for those who can benefit from it without government support. Also, the vaccine only gives about 70 per cent protection and still needs follow-up screening. The compliance rate in screening programmes varies from 25 to 45 per cent and follow up is not easy,” she said.
7. [**CII establishes three IPR facilitation centres**](#) – The Hindu
The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in association with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, has established Intellectual Property Rights Facilitation Centres (IPFC) in Indore, Mysuru and Gandhinagar. They are the first of their kind at Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat. They have been launched with the primary objective to “boost IP culture”, which will enhance the intellectual capital that is vital to the economic development of the State. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released India’s National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy on May 12. The policy, which is in compliance with the World Trade Organisation’s agreement on TRIPS (trade-related aspects of IPRs), aims to sustain entrepreneurship and give a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘Make in India’ scheme, a release said.
8. [**Healthcare booms despite slow funding**](#) – Deccan Herald
The healthcare sector, in particular, has been on the rise — the Indian healthcare market poses a veritable mountain of opportunities for investment and growth and is one of the biggest FDI earners. Given the need for quality and timely medical care, and the spread of smartphones and the internet, it is no surprise that the healthcare industry is on the rise. The advantages of telemedicine and an IT-based healthcare sector are many; while the funding maybe on a

slowdown, more and more people are coming to realise that preventive and awareness based healthcare is a far better option than just curative medicine that traditional hospitals offer. Undoubtedly, within the next few years, the healthcare industry is going to be the driving force behind the Indian economy and the smarter, newer entrepreneurs are jumping on this bandwagon while they still can, even if it means longer hours, harder work and tougher investors.

9. [Boon or a bane?](#) – Asian Age

Intellectual property has long been an enigma. Time and again it has been cause for controversy, as several nuances of it remain largely unexplained. While piracy and counterfeiting continue to take a toll on the entertainment and media industries, most of the problems remain woolly. Earlier this month, the Government of India introduced the revived Intellectual Property Rights policy, which, among many other things, has pledged to raise awareness on IPR and has criminalised any act of violation of the policy. However, while the media and communication industry insiders seemed to have warmed up to the proposed changes, according to patent experts, the common folk should be worried. The Indian music industry and the government have had a long history of public-private partnership. The Indian Music Industry (IMI) and the Indian police have registered more than forty thousand cases of piracy. “Music is one of the industries that bear the maximum brunt of piracy,” points out Savio D’Souza, secretary general of IMI. “We’ve shut down the largest number of websites in the world (about 300) out of 600 such sites,” Savio points out, adding, “Intellectual property is solely owned by the creators; it plays a certain role in society. This new IPR policy, at least on paper, says that the government of the country is very committed to do something about it. And we are looking forward to the positive changes,” he says. Shamnad, however, asks us to bear in mind that the policy does not have the legal backing yet. “It is only a vision statement with an objective. Unless it is translated into law, none of this is enforceable. It’s just something on paper and at the moment is as powerful as a toothless tiger,” he says.

10. [Resistance symptomatic of Chronic corruption](#) – Deccan Herald

The Centre eventually succumbed to strong political pressure against NEET and partially circumvented the court orders for this year by bringing in an ordinance. The ordinance must have been promulgated with a guilty conscience. NEET would be the best thing in India in terms of training medical professionals and leading to affordable healthcare across the country. Once NEET becomes a reality, there will be a uniform nationwide entrance test for all medical colleges, both government and private, serving the dual purpose of producing the best doctors and reducing the cost of healthcare. If medical treatment has become highly unaffordable for the general public, it is primarily because of the commercialisation of the medical services. Thanks to mushrooming of scores of private medical colleges, whose promoters by virtue of their power have turned these institutes into “deemed universities”, the quality of medical education has come down drastically. In private medical colleges, the paying capacity of a student gets precedence over his merit and capability to become a doctor. Naturally, someone who invests crores of rupees in getting an MBBS and PG admission will try to earn and recover it back with handsome returns. This leads to shooting up of medical costs and unethical practices and the vicious cycle never ends. NEET will break this cycle, as merit will take precedence over profit.