1. **India has become a dumping ground for medicines banned in other countries: Govt** – Mint
   Justifying the recent ban on combination drugs, the Centre told the Delhi high court that India has become a dumping ground for medicines which are banned in countries of their origin as they make their way into the country through multinational pharmaceutical companies. The ban was put in place to check the menace of spurious and sub-standard drugs flooding the Indian market over the years.

   Also appeared in *Economic Times*

2. **What was the urgency to ban over 300 fixed dose combination drugs: High Court to govt** – DNA
   "What were the standard procedures adopted by you (government) during grant of licence and what was the urgency which led to withdrawal of the same," the court asked the Centre's counsel while hearing over 180 pleas challenging the government's decision to ban 344 fixed dose combinations (FDCs).

   Also appeared in *Hindu Business Line*

3. **US, EU, Japan question India's policy tweaks to restrict imports** – Mint
   The US has also asked India why it chose to increase the basic customs duty on medical devices and withdraw a duty exemption on approximately 70 lifesaving drugs.

   Japan and the US, participating in a meeting of the WTO's Council on Trade in Goods (CTG) on Friday, jointly introduced an agenda item titled ‘India import-restricting measures’ to highlight their specific concerns about India’s Union budget and other policy measures.

4. **IDMA seeks clarification from DoP & NPPA on reduction in MRP of products below ceiling price** – Pharmabiz
   Recently, the NPPA came up with a notification asking all the manufacturers of scheduled formulations having MRP lower than the ceiling price, including local taxes, to further reduce the maximum retail prices at 2.7105 per cent.
The Indian Drug Manufacturers’ Association (IDMA) has urged the department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) and National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to clarify the reduction in maximum retail prices (MRP) of schedule formulations linked to reduction in wholesale price index (WPI) for the year 2015 as the association believes it is unfair to ask the manufacturers to reduce the ceiling price whose product MRP is already below the ceiling price.

5. **NPPA slashes drug prices but pharma cos struggle to comply** – Bloomberg TV
While prices are being slashed, NPPA retrospective pricing order has thrown the pharma industry in a tight spot. NPPA says the manufacturers and retailers are responsible to comply with notified prices from date of notification in sale of all available stock including pre-manufactured batches of concerned formulation for which ceiling price or retail price has been fixed or revised by the NPPA.

6. **ICMR and National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan sign Letter of Intent** – Business Standard
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Bacteriology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) of Japan signed a Letter of Intent on the sidelines of the meeting of the Health Ministers from WHO South East Asia Region and Western Pacific Region countries at Tokyo today, in the presence of Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare.

Terming the collaboration as another significant milestone in the strong ties between the two countries, the Union Health Minister stated that this will further help in deepening the relations between the two in research and development in scientific areas, particularly public health.

7. **Charted: The astonishing cost of healthcare in India** – Quartz
The Narendra Modi government pushes for the National Health Protection Scheme, which provides a cover of Rs1 lakh per family, as a possible measure to fix India’s creaking healthcare system. But given the incredible rise in costs in the last decade alone, Rs1 lakh for a family of four may not amount to much.

8. **'We expect oncology segment to grow faster as we launch more products'** - Business Standard
US-based pharma major Eli Lilly to strengthen its Indian operations by entering into therapeutic areas with new launches. A strong player in diabetes and cancer treatments, Eli Lilly has launched a once-weekly injectable diabetes medication Trulicity in India.

Edgard Olaizola, managing director, Eli Lilly India speaks to Business Standard about company’s plans and on patent, pricing and regulatory environment.

9. **Don’t put out advertisements guaranteeing treatment: IMA** – Indian Express
The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday sent a circular to all its doctors requesting them to refrain from advertising “guaranteed treatment” to patients to promote their profession. The circular comes in the wake of the Maharashtra Medical Council’s (MMC’s) decision to suspend a doctor couple in Colaba for three months for advertising “guaranteed pregnancy” on the website of their clinic.