1. **Report in Lancet questions conduct of MCI, seeks rejig** – Times of India

British Medical Journal (BMJ) called for a 'radical prescription' to reform the MCI.

A latest report in the `Lancet', has made representations to the parliamentary standing committee to call for a rejig at the Medical Council of India.

Following the parliamentary standing committee report, the health ministry is learnt to have drawn a detailed planned for revamp of MCI. According to sources, the plan includes capping a member's term in the council to a maximum of two terms, each of five years.

2. **Making Pharma sick: Govt's price control could hit essential drug availability** – Financial Express

The story highlights how the recent study conducted by Arvind Sahay of IIM Ahmedabad and Saravana Jaikumar of IIM Udaipur confirms what other studies have shown - the government's Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) of May 2013 has resulted in reducing the availability of essential drugs. It compares the IMS Health study conducted earlier that also showed the sales of price control drugs falling 7% in rural areas while those of non-control drugs rising to 7% after DPCO 2013.

3. **'FDCs of cos with no data submitted to DCGI to prove safety, efficacy banned'** – Pharmabiz

A member of the expert committee formed to assess the rationality of over 6,000 FDCs which culminated into banning of 344 medicines clarified that many of the FDCs did not face a similar fate and were cleared based on the scientific documentary evidences. Actions from the DCGI office were taken on companies who did not register their FDCs with the DCGI and did not show up with the requisite documentary evidence to claim the safety and efficacy of the respective FDC in question.

4. **Healthy, wealthy and wise: Why it's important to invest in health** – Hindustan Times

World Health Organisation's representative to India, Dr Henk Bekedam stresses on building a strong public health system in India.

He talks about how critical he is of India's tobacco taxation policies. Tobacco taxation is one of the most efficient tools to stop people from smoking and a strong deterrent to deter people with some financial difficulty, mainly the young and the poor, he says.

"Health needs to get the right attention and the government need to understand is how important is a healthy population for economic growth," says Dr Bekedam.

5. **NPPA may fix price of 799 formulations in two months time** - Pharmabiz
   The Drug pricing regulator has already fixed ceiling prices of 103 scheduled formulations, and now the NPPA has set targets to fix price for 799 formulations within 2 months time. It is for the first time that NPPA is working based on a timeline to fix the prices as per Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), as it took the 3 years to fix prices for 535 drugs in NLEM 2011.

   Pharma companies might face a tough time with the drug regulator aggressive move. Nearly 40 drug prices are being fixed on daily basis to meet the targets

6. **NPPA issues guidelines for identifying & acting for recovery overcharged amounts from cos** – Pharmabiz
   The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) will now follow a well-defined procedure in identification, examination and short-listing of prima facie actionable cases of overpricing and submit such cases to Overcharging division for further action along with a note explaining the reasons thereof.

   If the company has not already furnished the information in Form I1 and Form V or the information is not enough to draw a conclusion, the Monitoring division will send one time-bound prescribed preliminary notice (PN) to the company and seek requisite information on the prescribed format within 21 days from the date of receipt of the PN or 30 days from the date of issue of PN.

7. **Pharmacovigilance dept to be mandatory for all cos, D&C Act to be amended** - Pharmabiz
   The central government is coming up with a draft for the pharma industry to put in place a system for collecting, processing and forwarding the report to the licensing authority for information on Adverse Drug Reactions (ADR) emerging from the use of the drug manufactured or marketed by the companies in India.

   Dr B. Suresh, President of PCI and member of DTAB says, "It is mandatory for all pharma companies big or small to have a pharmacovigilance system. This initiative will have two outcomes. Firstly it will assure patients safety and second it will also generate employment opportunities as it is mandatory to recruit pharma graduate to work in their pharmacovigilance system."

8. **6 Ways in Which India Has Managed to Keep the Costs of Generic Medicines Very Low** – The Better India
   Indian pharmaceutical industry, known as "the pharmacy of the third world" is currently third in the world in terms of volume and thirteenth in terms of value. It is also one of the largest producers of generic medicines in the world. Drug pricing has been a fiercely debated issue for a long time, with large MNCs and rich pharmaceutical lobbies rallying for stricter patent laws, which in turn would lead to greater profits. But amongst all this, Indian drug companies continue to make reverse engineered versions of the foreign drugs, and sell them at an extremely low cost.

9. **Now, drugs regulator gets a plan for vegetarian capsules** - Economic Times
   GN Singh, Drug Controller General of India (DGCI), spoke about a proposal to replace gelatine capsules with cellulose-based capsules which are of plant origin and are safe for use as compared to animal-based gelatine capsules. The drug controller's move comes just a year after states including Haryana and Maharashtra banned cow slaughter. Quotes in the story is Ajit Singh, managing director of ACG Worldwide, one of the largest capsule manufacturers in India

who says that there will be chaos in the industry as the entire machineries will have to be changed.

10. **Sick? Go easy on the antibiotics** – The Hindu
    Dr. Abdul Ghafur, Consultant, Infectious Diseases And Clinical Microbiology, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai; Dr. R. Ramasubramanian, consultant, Infectious Diseases, and Director, Immune boosters, Adult Immunisation clinic at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai; Giridhar Gyani, founder Director General of the newly constituted Association of Healthcare Providers (India) articulate the urgent need to follow guidelines for antimicrobial resistance in disease pathogens which has become a matter of great public health concern globally.