1. **India should adopt global IPR laws: Intellectuals at Gujarat Global Summit – The Times of India**

At the 'Genes, Gene Editing and the New Biotechnology,' seminar at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, James Greenwood, president and CEO Biotechnology Innovation Organizations, said that if India joined the global intellectual property rights regime, the biotech industry would see a tidal wave of expansion. Pankaj Patel, chairman and managing director, Zydus Group, said that India has the agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) compliance patent law. "The only challenge was enforcement. But after PM Narendra Modi taking over, the enforcement has become proper. We have full TRIPS compliance patent law. We, as a country, have supported that. We also know that India has many poor people who have to pay from their pockets. We cannot afford expensive medicines," he said. "I would urge the government very strongly that we should have the right patent law. We respect patents of every country and companies and we would enforce the patents according to the provision of law in India. This is the way we will develop the environment of research and progress," Patel said. Patel was reacting to Greenwood, who urged the government to join the global IP Right and that provisions of Indian patent law were preventing entrepreneurs and innovators from even entering the field of biotechnology.

2. **India likely to remain under 'priority watch list' in US IPR report – The Hindu Business Line**

India will continue to be under pressure for having an "ineffectual" intellectual property rights (IPR) and patents regime even under the Donald Trump administration, which is perceived to be India-friendly.

India is likely to remain in the 'Priority Watch List' category in the US Trade Representative's (USTR) annual Special 301 Report. "It is quite unlikely that India's position will change this year. Under the new American administration issues such as IPR, patents are going to be significant. It is going strict on those countries that violate IPR laws and not enforce them effectively," a diplomatic source told BusinessLine requesting anonymity.

On January 4, the Office of the USTR started seeking comments as part of its annual exercise to review the IPR laws of all countries. The Special 301 is likely to be released on April 30.

India has been on the 'Priority Watch List' for decades now for having "weak" IPR laws and patent protection. As a result, the USTR had been conducting an out-of-cycle review (OCR) of the country's IPR regime.

3. **'IP protection, access to capital key to India's biotech wave' – Business Standard**
Intellectual property protection and access to capital are two challenges facing a new wave of biotech innovation and investment in India, according to James Greenwood, President and CEO of Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO). BIO is the world's largest trade association representing biotech companies. "Here in India, I see two critical challenges that, if addressed, could usher in a new wave of biotech innovation and investment. The first is intellectual property protection, and the second is access to capital," Greenwood said, speaking at a seminar on biotechnology organised at Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit here. "Biomedical innovation cannot be sustained without a government committed to protecting your work product...No one will invest hundreds of millions of dollars to research new biologics unless government protects the underlying IP," he said, while praising the present Narendra Modi government for taking steps in this direction.

4. **SES highlights long receivables period for Indian pharma companies – Mint**
Leading Indian drug makers like Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Lupin Ltd, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd and Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd have long periods for realizing cash on sales, which raises concerns over the risks associated with a stressed working capital cycle, according to a report by Stakeholders Empowerment Services (SES), a non-profit corporate governance research and advisory firm. The report, which compared receivables turnover ratios of 24 pharmaceutical companies for last three fiscal years, showed that Glenmark's receivables turnover ratio at 2.00 on a standalone basis and 3.03 on a consolidated basis for 2015-16 was the lowest. Lupin, Aurobindo Pharma, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Nectar Lifesciences also featured in the bottom-five list for receivables turnover ratios.

5. **Sunset for public sector drug makers – Business Standard**
Public sector pharmaceutical companies, which had long dropped out of the media's sight, were recently briefly back among the headlines. The central government effectively decided to close four of the five which come under it and are loss-making. (Only Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals makes a profit.) While two will be closed straightaway, an attempt at strategic sale will be made for the other two. But the way the news reports were worded, all four seem eventually headed for the chopping block.

6. **Indian cardiac stents as expensive as imports: MNC association – The Economic Times**
Corporate hospital chains in search of profits might be skewing the price of life saving cardiac stents and a lobby group for multinational stent makers and importers claimed stents made by Indian companies are priced as high as imported ones as the rift between MNC and domestic manufacturers widens over price control on stents. Cardiac stents are tiny wire mesh tubes used to unblock and keep arteries open, supplying blood to the heart and prevent heart attacks. India's drug pricing watchdog, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), is working out a formula to regulate prices of different cardiac stents and has invited stakeholders for discussions and suggestions. NPPA is expected to cap the prices by mid-February, as per rules of the Drug (Prices Control) Order 2013. Contrary to public opinion, Indian stents are not drastically cheaper to imported stents, says the Medical Technology Association of India (MTaI) — a lobby group of research-based multinational medical device makers including Abbott, Medtronic and Boston Scientific.

7. **Trump says pharma 'getting away with murder,' stocks slide – Reuters**
U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday said pharmaceutical companies are "getting away with murder" in what they charge the government for medicines, and promised that would change, sending drugs stocks sharply lower. Trump has blasted other industries for charging the government too much, particularly defence companies, but has made only a few public statements about drug pricing since being elected. He briefly mentioned Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N), Ford Motor Co (F.N), and United Technologies Corp (UTX.N) during the news conference and promised a border tax for companies producing products for U.S. consumers outside the United States.

8. **USFDA accepts Mylan's application for proposed biosimilar Trastuzumab – The Economic Times**
Biotechnology major Biocon and pharma firm Mylan today said that the US health regulator has accepted Mylan's biologics license application (BLA) for MYL- 1401O, a proposed biosimilar trastuzumab indicated for treatment of breast cancer. The proposed biosimilar trastuzumab is one of the six biologic products co-developed by Mylan and Biocon for the global marketplace, the two companies said in a statement. Commenting on the development, Mylan President Rajiv Malik said: "The USFDA acceptance of our BLA for proposed biosimilar trastuzumab marks an important step toward increasing access to this treatment option for patients in the US."

9. **USFDA to re-audit Dr Reddy's Laboratories manufacturing facilities – Mint**
Three manufacturing facilities of Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd facing compliance issues with the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) will be re-inspected by the US regulator during the current quarter ending March, the company said in a presentation at the J.P. Morgan Annual Healthcare conference in San Francisco on Tuesday. Dr. Reddy's, India's second-largest drug maker, received a USFDA warning letter on 5 November, 2015, regarding deviations from current good manufacturing practices (cGMP) at its active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) plants at Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, and Miryalaguda, Telangana, as well as violations at its oncology formulation facility at Duvvada in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, following an inspection by the agency. After receiving the warning letter, the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical major submitted five responses to the US drugs watchdog at regular intervals, giving updates on the remedial work undertaken at the three plants. The company also hired an independent consultant to resolve the compliance issues at these units.

10. **Daiichi shuts India R&D division – The Economic Times**
Japanese drug maker Daiichi Sankyo has shut down its India research division as part of the company's overall strategy to increase R&D productivity as the company narrows down its focus to cancer research. The Daiichi Sankyo India Pharma Limited (DSIN) was established in 2007 and currently employs about 170 people, mainly engaged in conducting drug discovery research targeting infectious diseases and inflammation, according to the company. Following its closure, the DSIN R&D pipeline, including research themes selected by the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund GHIT Fund, would be transferred to Daiichi Sankyo's R&D Division. "Daiichi Sankyo is reviewing its global R&D system with the aim of decreasing R&D operation costs and redistributing resources to the further development of its R&D pipeline," said a statement from the company.

11. **Gujarat govt to sign 250 MoUs related to pharma sector at Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2017 – Pharmabiz.com**
Gujarat government is likely to sign 250 MoUs related to pharmaceutical industry with potential domestic and international investors at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) - 2017 at Gandhinagar between January 10 and January 13, 2017. Four MoUs are from overseas. It had inked 201 such pharma MoUs at VGGS- 2015. These MoUs come at a time when Gujarat has become a favoured pharmaceutical hub accounting for nearly 40 per cent of India's pharma production and 28 per cent of pharma exports. It has also registered a growth of 445 per cent in pharma exports in the past one decade. According to official sources, exports worth 3,060 million US Dollars has been achieved in 2016 from Gujarat in comparison to exports worth 562 million US Dollars in 2006.

Gujarat is hosting Vibrant Gujarat under the theme Connecting India to the World with focus on 'Make in Gujarat' series to promote Gujarat's pharma manufacturing strength aligned with Make in India.

12. **Plan to set up registry of e-pharmacies augurs well for online pharmacy growth: Prashant Tandon – Pharmabiz.com**

The Drug Controller General of India's (DCGI) plan to set up a registry of e-pharmacies augurs well for the growth of online pharmacy which will in turn lead to patient safety by checking entry of rogue e-pharmacy players and counterfeit drugs in supply chain. The plan to form registry of e-pharmacies was mulled over by DCGI after acknowledging recent recommendation given by Dr Harshdeep Kamble subcommittee to put in place a national portal for registration of online pharmacies. This will pave the way for regulation of e-pharmacies as per provisions of the law. The reason behind the initiative is to ensure that only registered players can sell medicines on e-prescriptions received from registered doctors. Welcoming the drug regulator's initiative to create registry of e-pharmacies, founder, CEO, 1mg, Prashant Tandon said "If the right ones are clearly identified, wrong ones will be rooted out from the system. With this, there will be a clear regulatory oversight with full operation details and qualifications of the registered entities. All registered e-pharmacies show a logo and registration number which is verifiable from the regulator website. The e-pharmacies and drug regulators can work together to educate consumers about anti-counterfeit drugs."