1. **Biosimilar drugs are priced too high and do little to improve accessibility: Doctors – The Economic Times**

   Despite exceptions to the rule, leading doctors in India think biosimilar drugs by Indian companies are priced too high and only marginally lower than an innovator drug, deterring physicians from leaning towards biosimilars and prefer the more expensive brands sold by multinational companies or their partners.

   The billion dollar biosimilar drugs market which Indian drug companies are touting as the next big opportunity to break out of the competitive margins of generic drug has not moved the needle in terms of affordability.

2. **Medical breakthrough! Aurigene closer to developing cancer treatment capsule – The Economic Times**

   Aurigene Discovery Technologies has moved one step closer to developing a capsule that can potentially alter the treatment paradigm from painful intravenous injections currently used to treat advanced form of cancers such as melanoma, lung cancer and advanced renal cell carcinoma. The Bengaluru-based company is an independent subsidiary of Dr Reddy's Laboratories and its United States-based partner Curis Inc.

3. **Superbugs and subsidies draw big pharma back to antibiotics – Mint**

   Big Pharma is creeping back into development of new antibiotics after decades of largely ignoring the business due to the scant rewards offered by such medications.

   With the planet on the brink of losing its miracle cures for bacterial diseases, research incentives from governments are spurring drugmakers to renew efforts to fight antimicrobial resistance and replenish the arsenal of infection-fighting drugs.

4. **Torrent Pharma to buy Glochem manufacturing unit – The Times of India**

   Ahmedabad-based Torrent Pharma on Thursday said it has entered into a binding agreement to acquire city-based Glochem Industries' Vizag-based API manufacturing facility along with some drug master files (DMF) on a 'slump sale basis'. The company, however, did not disclose the deal size.

A DMF is a submission to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that may be used to provide confidential detailed information about facilities, processes, or articles used in the manufacturing, processing, packaging, and storing of one or more human drugs.

5. **DRL's arm Promius Pharma launches new brand identity – The Times of India**
Hyderabad-based pharma giant Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) on Thursday announced that its subsidiary Promius Pharma LLC has launched its new visual identity and corporate brand -- The Power of Humans Being. It expresses the core belief at Promius Pharma that "every patient is a person first" and its mission to "help patients get back to what matters most—being a person," the release said.

Commenting on the brand launch, Promius Pharma chief commercial officer Anil Namboodiripad said, "Our new corporate brand identity clearly establishes Promius Pharma as a strong and innovative company whose driving force is to foster better health for all people. Our R&D pipeline reflects the convergence of deep patient insights, pre-clinical, clinical and regulatory expertise in the development of products that address pressing medical needs of various patient subgroups."

6. **USFDA nods to desi drugs up 84% in 1 year – The Times of India**
Drug approvals given by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to Indian companies nearly doubled year-on-year, with little-known firms including MSN Lab, Shasun Pharma, Granules India, Ajanta Pharma and Gland Pharma making a foray into the world's biggest and most lucrative market.

Interestingly, the growth came during the period when biggies like Sun Pharma and Dr Reddy's had reduced filings from their plants due to compliance issues, dispelling the long-held view that regulatory agencies, particularly USFDA, harboured a vendetta against the domestic industry.

7. **25% of vaccines go waste due to lack of cold chain – The Times of India**
At least 25 per cent of the vaccines go waste even before reaching the doctors and patients while many lose their efficacy by the time they are administered due to lack of quality supply chain and logistics management system.

This is posing a major challenge for the government as well as public health agencies working to expand the immunisation coverage, mainly in the hinterland where supply chain logistics and infrastructure are in poor shape.

8. **Big pharma ready to swallow the Brexit pill – The New Indian Express**
Pharmaceutical companies have survived largely unscathed from the turmoil that has gripped virtually every other sector in the stock market. Big hitters such as AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Shire and BTG actually enjoyed a slight uptick in their share prices on the very day the EU referendum result pummelled many of their FTSE blue-chip peers.

The sector is widely seen as a defensive play to which investors flee for safety when markets are volatile. This explains why pharma shares held up so well as the wider stock market was crumbling. It also explains why smaller biotech stocks, which are inherently high-risk assets, were stung in the aftermath of the result: not because Brexit will have any fundamental impact on the sector in the near term, but because tetchy investors shifted to safe-haven assets.

9. **Alembic Pharma says plants successfully inspected by USFDA – IndiaToday.in**
Drug firm Alembic Pharmaceuticals two API facilities at Panelav have been successfully inspected by the USFDA, the company today said. "The company's API facilities i.e. API I and API II both located at Panelav have been successfully inspected by the USFDA between June 20, 2016 and June 29, 2016. The company did not receive any Form 483 observations," Alembic

Pharmaceuticals said in a BSE filing. In April this year, the company had received four observations from the US health regulator after the inspection of Panelav facility.

10. **Medicine price curbs hit supplies – ET Healthworld.com**
    The government's move to curb prices of essential medicines has had an unexpected fallout - several drugs, including those for liver treatment, cancer, dog and snake bites and even IV saline, are either in short supply or have gone missing from hospitals and chemist shops. Sources said that while IV saline is in short supply even in government hospitals, few major private hospitals have rescheduled cancer treatments due to shortage of drugs.

11. **Gilead's single tablet regimen, Epclusa receives US FDA approval to treat genotypes of chronic hepatitis C – Pharmabiz.com**
    The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Gilead Sciences' Epclusa (sofosbuvir 400 mg/velpatasvir 100 mg), the first all-oral, pan-genotypic, single tablet regimen for the treatment of adults with genotype 1-6 chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

    Epclusa is also the first single tablet regimen approved for the treatment of patients with HCV genotype 2 and 3, without the need for ribavirin. Epclusa for 12 weeks was approved in patients without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis (Child-Pugh A), and in combination with ribavirin (RBV) for patients with decompensated cirrhosis (Child-Pugh B or C).

12. **US FDA committee recommends approval of Jardiance for cardiovascular indication – Pharmabiz.com**
    US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Advisory Committee voted 12-11 that substantial evidence exists to establish that Jardiance (empagliflozin) reduces cardiovascular (CV) death in adults with type 2 diabetes (T2D) and established CV disease. Jardiance, which is marketed by Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly and Company, is the only oral T2D medicine shown in a clinical trial to reduce the risk of CV death.

    "Today's robust discussion and resulting vote are important as we look to gain approval of a new indication for Jardiance as the first type 2 diabetes treatment to provide a cardiovascular benefit," said Thomas Seck, M.D., vice president, clinical development and medical affairs - metabolism, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceutical, Inc. "We look forward to continuing to work with the FDA in our ongoing efforts to provide options that help reduce the risk of cardiovascular death in adults with type 2 diabetes and established cardiovascular disease."

13. **IIPA urges DCGI sub-committee to set up registry of online pharmacies – Pharmabiz.com**
    The Indian Internet Pharmacy Association (IIPA) has urged the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) constituted sub -committee formed under the chairmanship of Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Dr Harshdeep Kamble on online pharmacy to help set up a registry of online pharmacies to ensure clarity on the legitimate players and frame interim guidelines.

    In most countries, the legitimate players are given specific operating licenses that are shared with consumers to fight the menace of cross border internet pharmacies. IIPA recommends a similar model for India, and also a crackdown on all illegitimate players, online and offline. Meanwhile, Maharashtra FDA Commissioner has also maintained that online pharmacies can sell only OTC drugs and not prescription drugs until the guidelines are framed.