1. **India's pharma market's missing the pep – Mint**

Sales of medicines in the Indian market slowed down in the June quarter, growing by only 6.4% over a year ago, according to data from market research agency AIOCD Awacs. In the preceding quarter, growth was 9.5% but even this was lower than the December quarter's 14.9%. The addition of new drugs to the list of medicines under price control and the after effects of the ban on several fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs are the two main reasons for slower growth. Between the two, the FDC problem's contribution to the slowdown is bigger. For instance, in June, sales of FDC drugs were down by 14.6% over a year ago, while that of non-FDC drugs were up by 7%. The ban's effect will continue for about three more quarters.

2. **Pharma cos may report strong revenue growth for Q1 FY17 – Business Standard**

The pharma sector may report strong revenue growth for the first quarter of the current fiscal, a foreign brokerage report said. "The key during the results season though would be updates on facility resolution across companies," US brokerage firm Jefferies said in its 'Pharmaceuticals: 1Q17 Preview' report. "We expect a mixed set of results for the sector. Overall, we expect revenue growth of 17 per cent led by exclusivity launches and margins to improve 50 bps year on year. Similar to the past few quarters, the key focus will remain on facility status," the report said.

3. **Brexit has not changed anything for the time being: Tomasz Kozlowski – Business Standard**

The European Union (EU) believes its trade and investment relations remain key components for a strategic partnership with India. In an interview with Sanjay Jog, EU Ambassador to India Tomasz Kozlowski says the free trade agreement between the EU and India will benefit both sides and the negotiations will gather momentum. "We continue with our ambitious trade agenda with partners around the world, including India. Trade is vital for the prosperity of the EU, whether it has 28 or 27 member states. It is the world's largest trader and it will continue to be India's first trading partner, so the economic rationale to engage with the EU remains important. Trade and investment relations remain key components of the EU-India strategic partnership," he said.

4. **India becomes first YAWS-free country – The Hindu Business Line**
   India was acknowledged as the first country in the world to become YAWS-free. JP Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, received an official citation from the World Health Organisation and the UNICEF for Elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNTE) and for being YAWS-free on Thursday. YAWS is a kind of bacterial infection that affects skin, bones and joints, while tetanus, another bacterial infection, leads to muscle spasms that can be fatal.

5. **'Section 3(d) of Indian Patents Act stifles innovation' – The Hindu Business Line**
   Kalpana Reddy, Senior Director, Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) at the US Chamber of Commerce, believes the controversial Section 3 (d) of the Indian Patents Act has to be done away eventually as it is not beneficial for India. Reddy, who particularly focuses on promoting IPR in India, said the National IPR Policy needs further improvement. "The formal position of the government has not changed even with the formulation of the policy. We don't expect India to make a change. Under TRIPS also, compulsory licences should be used in extreme circumstances. They are not supposed to be common, but are supposed to be used as the last resort. There could have been other alternative without undermining the intellectual property rights. Companies make significant investments to build technologies. They want to ensure that these investments remain secure. So, nobody is saying India cannot issue compulsory licence. It is the reasons behind that. So we don't expect the policy to say that India will not issue compulsory licenses. But I think industry would be more confident if there is transparency in the system because the threat of compulsory licensing is always there," she said.

6. **Strategise to improve routine immunisation: Nadda to officials – The Times of India**
   Union Health Minister J P Nadda today asked officials to find ways to improve routine immunisation so that India can stop relying on special 'mission-mode' projects to deliver vaccines to children. Buoyed by the success of his ministry's flagship programme, 'Mission Indradhanush', Nadda, at a WHO event, asked officials to strategise so that the mission targets are included into routine immunisation. Noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed for conducting antenatal check ups on the 9th of every month, Nadda said his ministry is deliberating on how to formalise Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Yojana.

7. **Diluted patent laws will spike drug price: Experts – The Hindu**
   Drug prices in India are likely to escalate if the government dilutes patent laws under pressure from monopoly companies in the West, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) experts participating in a meeting here have warned. Mr. Kurian said any attempt to suppress the compulsory licensing system or amend section 3 (D) of the Indian Patent Act would lead to a spurt in the price of drugs, affecting a large section of the Indian population and impacting on the public health system. Inaugurating the meet, Chief Secretary S.M. Vijayanand called for a broadbased IPR literacy campaign in Kerala. Legal educator N.R. Madhava Menon called for policy initiatives to address commercialisation, the weakest link in the IPR chain. Many patented inventions that failed to generate interest in India are known to have become commercially successful in countries with a better IPR ecosystem, he said.

8. **India, EU officials to meet today on stalled FTA talks – The Indian Express**
   Chief negotiators of the proposed India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) will meet on Friday to discuss the "way forward", a senior commerce ministry official said on Thursday.
   The meeting is important as it comes a week after Britain's business minister Sajid Javid called on India's commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman and discussed the possibility of a trade pact between the two countries, post-Brexit. On Wednesday, Sitharaman had said that the offers for the proposed — known as the India-EU Broad-based Bilateral Trade & Investment Agreement — "have to be tempered because Britain is now out of the EU". She, however, added that the FTA with the EU "won't be worse for us".

9. **Granules India to buy stake in US firm – Deccan Chronicle**
   Hyderabad-based pharma company Granules India on Thursday that its US-based subsidiary Granules Pharmaceuticals Inc has agreed to acquire 12.5 per cent stake in USpharma. USpharma is a development-stage US-based pharma company specialising in research, development and manufacture of high entry-barrier generic pharmaceuticals, including controlled-release, controlled substance and patent-challenge products. According to the company, this investment will allow Granules to participate in product selection and have right of first refusal to market the select products which are under development by USpharma.

10. **US FDA approves expanded indication for Pfizer's Prevnar 13 for18-49 age group – Pharmabiz.com**
    Pfizer Inc. announced that Prevnar 13 (Pneumococcal 13-valent Conjugate Vaccine [Diphtheria CRM197 Protein]) received US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for an expanded age indication to include adults 18 through 49 years of age, in addition to the already approved indication for adults 50 years and older, for active immunization for the prevention of pneumonia and invasive disease caused by 13 Streptococcus pneumoniae (S. pneumoniae) serotypes (1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, and 23F). Prevnar 13 is the only pneumococcal vaccine approved across the lifespan. With this Prevnar 13 is approved for: Adults 18 years of age and older for the prevention of pneumococcal pneumonia and invasive disease caused by 13 Streptococcus pneumoniae strains in the vaccine; Children 6 weeks through 17 years of age (prior to the 18th birthday) for the prevention of invasive disease caused by 13 Streptococcus pneumoniae strains in the vaccine.

11. **Gujarat health ministry sets up high-level committee to finalise theme for pharma sector for VG 2017 – Pharmabiz.com**
    To push the interest of the healthcare sector especially the pharma industry, the state government recently constituted a high level committee to deliberate over the topics or area of importance that can be highlighted during the forthcoming Vibrant Gujarat (VG) 2017 summit. The main role of this committee will be to have close interactive meetings with key industry stalwarts, policy makers from the state to finalise an appropriate theme for the VG 2017 under the pharma banner. This is strategically a very important move, especially since this year the Gujarat government has decided to promote pharma as one of the key sectors during the VG summit 2017. A move prompted by the impressive performance of the pharma sector during the past VG summits in respect to compliance.

12. **Dr Reddy's recalls 9,330 bottles of Sirolimus tablets in US – Moneycontrol.com**
    Pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories is recalling 9,330 bottles of Sirolimus tablets, used for prevention of organ rejection after kidney transplant, in the US due to presence of impurities. According to the latest Enforcement Report of United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), Dr Reddy's US arm Dr Reddy's Laboratories Inc is recalling 9,330 bottles of Sirolimus tablets, 1 mg on account of failed impurities.