1. **Donald Trump promised to repeal Obamacare. Now what? – The Economic Times**

Republican President-elect Donald Trump vowed on the campaign trail to repeal Obamacare, but making good on that promise may be easier said than done. President Barack Obama's 2010 national healthcare reform law extended medical insurance to 25 million more people by expanding the Medicaid plan for the poor and creating subsidized coverage for individuals.

Republican lawmakers, who have voted more than 50 times to repeal all or part of the law, have begun pressing Trump to deliver. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Wednesday repealing Obamacare is a "pretty high item on our agenda" for the new Congress.

But a complete repeal of Obama's Affordable Care Act may not be immediately in the cards, as Republican lawmakers now hold 51 seats in the Senate at latest count, well short of the 60 seats required to overturn it.

Similar reports –

- Will ensure Obama Care does not get repealed under Trump administration: Josh Earnest – Business Standard
- President-elect Donald Trump means angst for 'Obamacare' consumers – The Indian Express

2. **Trump's anti-tariff stance on drug import cheers companies – Hindustan Times**

Donald Trump's win in the US presidential elections may create a new set of opportunities for Indian generic drug makers. Trump is expected to remove the restrictions on drug imports as he said this would give American patients greater access to drugs manufactured abroad. "The market for generics will remain strong in the United States as our reasonable pricing supports their agenda of keeping healthcare costs low," said RC Juneja, chief executive officer at Makind Pharma. "Trump's proposal to lift entry barriers for drug makers that offer safe, reliable and cheaper products may create new opportunities for Indian firms," said DG Shah, secretary general of Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance. Also, Trump's healthcare website promises that he will not "not allow people to die on the sidewalks and the streets of our country" for lack of access to proper healthcare.

3. **Expert group on regulatory issues of Indian vaccine industry – Business Standard**
The Union Health Ministry today said it will form an expert group to examine regulatory issues for Indian vaccine industry. It also urged the domestic vaccines manufacturers to accord prime importance to meeting domestic demand and also to take initiatives in developing critical vaccines. "Indian vaccines manufacturers should accord prime importance to meeting domestic demand, upscale research and development related work, and also take initiatives in developing critical vaccines such as Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV)and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines," the Union Health Secretary, C K Mishra, said.

4. **Online sales take a toll on pharmacies – The Hans India**
Brick and mortar medical shops are crying foul as online pharmacies are eating into their business. Close to 10,000 pharmacists in Telangana State are a worried lot as sale of medicines online by startups like Bookmeds, Netmeds, 1mg.com, Medstar, Medplus and many more are causing a serious dent into their profits.

According to estimates, the pharmacy market in India is one lakh crore rupees a month and in Telangana State it is pegged at Rs 20,000 crore a year. Of this the share of retail market is Rs 10,000. A Sridhar, treasurer, Greater Hyderabad Retail Medical Shops Association argues, “Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, does not differentiate between medicines sold offline and online. There is an immediate need to take a relook at the Act.

5. **Govt to launch 15-day campaign to trace TB cases – Business Standard**
The government will launch a 15-day campaign to trace tuberculosis cases on the lines of its polio drive, a top official announced at the launch of the India TB Research and Development Corporation (ITRDC) today. "We will be going on a campaign mode from January 1 to January 15, 2017 to do active case finding (of TB). We will be identifying high risk areas and seek the help of various stakeholders. Initially, this will be only for 15 days but after 6-7 months, we can have it on a larger scale," Sunil Khaparde, Deputy Director General (TB) of the Health Ministry, said.

ITRDC is a flagship initiative to fight tuberculosis on mission mode with the aim to develop new tools -- drugs, diagnostics and vaccines -- which will help lower the incidences of TB as well as fatalities due to it.

6. **Cipla, Mylan apply for WHO’s prequalification of AIDS drug 'dolutegravir' – The Times of India**
The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) announced that two of its generic manufacturing partners are the first companies to apply for pre-qualification of generic dolutegravir (DTG), a new antiretroviral that the MPP licensed from ViiV Healthcare in 2014. Cipla and Mylan have applied to WHO for prequalification of generic versions of the 50 mg tablet of DTG, a necessary step in allowing international procurers such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNICEF and UNITAID to purchase and distribute the treatment in developing countries, says a statement.

"We congratulate our generic partners on achieving this milestone so quickly after signing agreements with the MPP," said Greg Perry, MPP's executive director. "We have worked closely with our partners on rapid product development to ensure the availability of generic DTG in low- and middle-income countries shortly after its rollout in high-income nations."

7. **FDA to go tough on pharma companies – The Times of India**
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Nashik has decided to go tough on pharmaceutical companies across the district to ensure they follow all guidelines and not breach legal provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The decision of the FDA comes on the backdrop of a recent case where a pharmaceutical company was found not adhering to the provisions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, after which it was issued a show cause notice. Senior officials said "In October, the

vigilance branch of the Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration had got information about some clandestine operations at the company located at Musalgaon in Sinnar. The company is into manufacturing of tablets, capsules and oral liquid for the past 15 years."

8. **Patent denied, price of prostate cancer drug may go down - ETHealthworld.com**
The Indian Patent Office has denied a patent to Xtandi (Enzalutamide), a steeply-priced wonder drug used in prostate cancer, on the pre-grant opposition filed by a clutch of entities, including Mumbai-based BDR Pharma, Drug Company Fresenius Kabi and Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance. The refusal to grant a patent paves the way for the entry of drug's generic version at a fraction of the price - at least 60-70% cheaper. At present, Japan's Astellas Pharma sells the drug in India at Rs 3.35 lakh for a pack of 112 capsules for a month's dose.

   The patent was opposed on grounds of "lack of inventive step, lack of novelty, and lack of clarity and sufficiency", according to the order, a copy of which was accessed by TOI . The drug was discovered by University of California, and patent application made in 2007 in the Delhi Patent Office, while it was opposed by Fresenius Kabi in 2012, and by BDR Pharma in 2013.

9. **CDSCO plans to launch centralised portal towards regulating online pharmacy – Pharmabiz.com**
As a part of framing a policy on the use of information technology in online pharmacy, Central Drug Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) is planning to launch a centralised online system which will help make use of new technologies to deliver medicines effectively in a regulated and feasible manner.

   Online pharmacy is currently governed by Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 but recommendations from all stakeholders have been sought on the broad contours of a policy that will also ensure a level playing field for online pharmacies vis-a-vis traditional retailers. This comes close on the heels of Drug Consultative Committee meet on November 6, 2016 headed by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) accepting the much awaited recommendations recently submitted by a select group of state drug regulators on online pharmacy under the chairmanship of Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Dr Harshadeep Kamble.

10. **Health groups decry govt move to undermine affordable access to drugs by dismantling NPPA and diluting price controls on essential medicines – Pharmabiz.com**
Health groups in the country have expressed grave concern over the recent reports that the government, through discussions with the Niti Ayog, is proposing sweeping changes to the regulatory framework for pharmaceuticals, which will grievously impact access to affordable medicines. Ignoring the reality of unacceptably high out-of-pocket spending on medicines, the government is proposing to dismantle the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and remove or significantly dilute price controls on essential medicines, these groups stated.

    Calling on the government to abandon the ill-conceived ideas of dismantling the NPPA and diluting the DPCO and to prioritise public health and the right to life and health of patients in India, the health groups alleged that the moves towards dismantling price controls on essential medicines and winding up of the NPPA are being advanced at the behest of industry lobbies, under the pretext of removing "unnecessary hurdles" and "ease of doing business" in India and with little or no proper public consultation. These ill-conceived attempts to de-regulate the medicines market and in particular the prices of essential medicines will not only result in a surge in the prices of commonly used medicines but also violate Supreme Court directions to regulate the prices of all essential and life saving medicines.