1. **Govt working on law to safeguard patients' privacy – The Times of India**

In an attempt to safeguard patients' privacy, the health ministry plans to bring out a law to protect health data and medical information. The proposed law will have specific provisions for collection, storage and dissemination of individual health data. While the ministry has roped in National Law School, Bengaluru, to put together the first draft of the law, it also plans to set up an e-health authority for standardisation of such data and to ensure confidentiality. The proposed law will also have provisions for action against any breach of data, which is in huge demand mainly in the drug manufacturing industry.

2. **Pharma companies may report subdued performance in Q2 FY17: Report – The Economic Times**

Domestic pharmaceutical companies are likely to report subdued sales, EBITDA and PAT figures in the second quarter of this fiscal, even as the formulations business may see a strong recovery, a report said. "We expect the pharmaceutical companies to report subdued performance on sales, EBITDA and PAT front in Q2 FY17 led by the quiet US business on lack of fresh ANDA approvals due to the pending US FDA issues.

"Pharma companies are likely to report sales, EBITDA and PAT growth of 10.2 per cent YoY, 9.4 per cent YoY and 14.3 per cent YoY, respectively in Q2 FY17," Reliance Securities said in its report here.

3. **Health Ministry to develop comprehensive response framework for Zika – The Economic Times**

The government is stepping up its efforts to prevent Zika from entering and spreading in India. Further to the measures already taken by India so far, health minister JP Nadda has directed a special committee to develop a comprehensive strategic response framework and action plan for the disease within ten days.

Zika virus is spread by the same mosquito that carries dengue and chikungunya and has been regarded as great cause for worry for pregnant women because it causes microcephaly--a birth defect. The World Health Organisation ruled it a public health emergency of international concern in February this year following an outbreak in Latin America.

4. **Domestic growth seen lifting Sep quarter earnings at pharma firms – Mint**
   Notwithstanding compliance issues and pricing pressures in the US, a pick-up in domestic sales in the September quarter is likely to help the earnings of Indian pharmaceutical companies, with analysts expecting most firms to continue reporting double-digit growth in the subsequent quarters. Higher sales of anti-malaria drugs, anti-infectives and respiratory products during the monsoon (when incidences of dengue, malaria, chikungunya, cold and flu, and waterborne infections rise) as well as firm growth in drugs for chronic diseases have pushed up the overall domestic market growth during the quarter, analysts said.

5. **Cipla signs deal to set up first biosimilars unit in South Africa – Mint**
   Indian pharmaceutical major Cipla has signed a memorandum of agreement for South Africa's first biosimilars manufacturing facility to be set up at a cost of nearly $91 million. The agreement with KwaZulu-Natal Dube Trade Port Special Economic Zone for Cipla BIOTEC's new facility was concluded on the margins of Brics summit in Goa, said the South African ministry of trade and industry in a statement on Saturday. The Memorandum of Agreement was signed at a meeting held at Cipla's offices in Goa which was attended by South Africa's minister of trade and industry Rob Davies; KwaZulu-Natal MEC for economic development, tourism and environmental affairs Sihle Zikalala; and Divian Govender, South Africa CEO and global chief business officer of Cipla BIOTEC.
   Similar reports –
   - Cipla signs deals to set up first biosimilars units in South Africa – The Hindu Business Line
   - Cipla signs deal to set up first biosimilars unit in South Africa – ETHealthworld.com

6. **RCEP and drug IP issue – The Hindu Business Line**
   The 15th round of meetings on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement begins in China on October 17. RCEP is a free trade agreement under negotiation between the ten-member Association of South East Asian and six countries, which have established trade agreements with ASEAN: Australia, India, New Zealand, China, Japan and Korea. A key niggling point at RCEP is the inclusion of intellectual property in trade agreements. And such provisions would work against access to affordable generic drugs exported from India, say civil society groups. The fortnight is also expected to see a development on the use of plastic or glass as packaging material for medicines. The case is scheduled to come up at the National Green Tribunal.

7. **Healthcare in India: From innovation to action – The Financial Express**
   Healthcare in India has not received the priority it deserves and much more needs to be done in a country as big and diverse as ours—ranging from budget allocation and robust systems to policy implementation and better infrastructure. The existing healthcare system is overworked and overextended. The patient is at the receiving end and suffers the most, because most treatment options either do not to reach her or reach too late. At the same time, we have made advancements and this must be recognised. Terminally-ill cancer patients can now be effectively cured if they have access to life-changing treatment for skin cancer and lung diseases. Game-changing cardiovascular disease medications allow a much better quality of life to so many young heart patients in the country. AIDS is no longer a death sentence.

8. **Delay in patents can slow down improvement in medicine: Experts – Business Standard**
   Delay in the patents for various innovations can slow down the improvement in the field of medicine, said health experts here on Sunday. According to them, there is an inordinate delay in granting patents in India, which ranges from five to 10 years and in most cases the idea becomes obsolete. Although the government has started indulging in many schemes and provisions, patients are yet to reap benefits from them and hence many physicians themselves have indulged in creating innovative therapies or treatments that can be made available to patients at a very economical cost, experts said. The doctors were attending a conference where they and experts revealed various innovations for the benefits of patients.

9. **US health department wants ayurveda cures for cancer documented – The Times of India**
   In a major fillip to India's efforts to globalise ayurveda and other traditional medicines, the US department of health and human services' premier National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI) have expressed interest in documenting ayurveda's success stories in treating cancer. Dr G Gangadharan, director, MS Ramaiah Indic Center for Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine, Bengaluru, who was part of an Indo-US joint delegation working on traditional medicine, said: "Some time in June, the US institutes expressed interest in documenting the success of ayurvedic treatment for cancer." The delegation concluded in March 2016 its first meeting with the agenda 'Collaborative Research on Traditional Medicine'.

10. **Almost 3.5 lakh Indians died of diabetes in 2015 – Scroll.in**
    With a genetic predisposition brought to the fore by changing lifestyles, deaths due to diabetes increased 50% in India between 2005 and 2015, and is now the seventh most common cause of death in the country, up from the 11th rank in 2005, according to data published by the Global Burden of Disease. Ischemic heart disease continues to be the highest cause of death, followed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cerebrovascular disease, lower respiratory infection, diarrhoeal diseases and tuberculosis. In 2015, 346,000 people died of diabetes, which caused 3.3% of all deaths that year, with an annual increase of 2.7% from 1990, according to the Global Burden of Disease study.

11. **WHO issues guidance on GRP for medical products, stakeholders, comments sought by year-end – Pharmabiz.com**
    World Health Organisation (WHO) has now issued guidance on good regulatory practices (GRP) for medical products. The norms are for national regulatory authorities (NRAs), laboratories, manufacturers, academia researchers and stakeholder organizations. These segments will have to revert with the comments before December 2016.

    GRP is built on transparency and good governance to ensure making public confidence in health products. The national regulatory systems, and international regulatory cooperation programmes, remain relevant, current and flexible as technology evolves and unforeseen needs and emergencies occur, stated WHO in its norms.

12. **Health ministry to set up mini drug testing lab at Ahmedabad airport – Pharmabiz.com**
    Health ministry will soon set up a mini drug testing lab at Ahmedabad airport as a part of its mandate to control exports and imports of spurious drugs. The lab will be set up at a strategic location in an area of minimum 3,000 sq ft and will be equipped with analytical modalities like AAS, GC, HPLC, IR and NIRS among others for effective detection, analysis and reporting on drug quality.

    This will enhance the capability to analyse and detect spurious, NSQ drugs and counterfeit medicines which are ready to be exported at the airport in less than 40 seconds time without any manual intervention, according to a senior CDSCO official.