1. Need to pay urgent attention towards preventive aspects of NCDs: Nadda – Press Trust of India

Union Health Minister J P Nadda today said support of private sector is crucial in designing school curriculum to inculcate healthy lifestyles among children and stressed the need to pay urgent attention towards preventive aspects of non-communicable diseases).

Nadda said that most of the major non-communicable diseases (NCDs) generally labeled as 'lifestyle diseases' are acquired and social behaviour change plays a major role in preventing them.

Also reported by-

- Need to pay urgent attention towards preventive aspects of NCDs: Nadda – Business Standard

2. Call for more private-public partnerships in health sector – The Hindu Business Line

To achieve more cost-effective healthcare solutions, Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda called for more public-private partnerships to leverage technology. While addressing the Ministerial Session at FICCI HEAL, Nadda said the biggest challenge for the government was to provide quality and affordable healthcare services in far-flung corners of the country as healthcare services were concentrated in urban areas and not available to vulnerable sections of the society.

3. USFDA requires strong warnings for opioid cough drugs – The Times of India

After an extensive review of the latest scientific evidence, US Food and Drug Administration announced class-wide changes to drug labeling, including patient information, to help inform healthcare providers and patients of serious risks associated with combined use of certain opioid medications, and a class of central nervous system (CNS) depressant drugs called benzodiazepines. Among the changes, the FDA is requiring boxed warnings - FDA's strongest warning - and patient-focused medication guides for prescription opioid analgesics, opioid-containing cough products, and benzodiazepines - nearly 400 products in total - with information about the serious risks associated with using these medications at the same time.

4. India short of 5,00,000 doctors, bodies on shoulders reminders of health crisis – Business Standard

Millions cannot access India's overburdened hospitals and inadequate medical facilities, a crisis illustrated by the fact that India is short of nearly 500,000 doctors, based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) norm of 1:1,000 population, according to an IndiaSpend analysis of government data. With more than 740,000 active doctors at the end of 2014 — a claimed doctor-patient population ratio of 1:1,674, worse than Vietnam, Algeria and Pakistan — the

doctor shortage was one of the health-management failures cited by the report of a parliamentary committee on health and family welfare, which presented its findings on March 8, 2016.

5. **Startups revolutionising India's heathcare sector – Hindustan Times**
   Healthcare startups are coming up in a big way in India, recognising the need for making quality healthcare accessible to country's billion plus population. Six to eight percent of investments in Business-to-Consumer (B2C) startups in India are made in the healthcare sector, reveals a joint study by FICCI and KPMG in India titled – 'Indian healthcare startups – An inside look into funding'.

6. **Lupin gets US FDA nod for antibacterial drug azithromycin suspension – Business Standard**
   Gavis Pharmaceuticals Llc, the US subsidiary of LupinLimited, has received tentative approval for itsazithromycin for oral suspension, 300 mg (100 mg/5 mL) and 1200 mg (200 mg/5 mL), from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The approved product is the generic version of Pfizer Inc's Zithromax oral suspension. Lupin had earlier received final approval for itsazithromycin tablet (250 mg, 500 mg & 600 mg) andazithromycin for oral suspension USP, 100 mg/5 mL and 200 mg/5 mL from the US FDA which was filed from its Goa plant.

   Also reported by-
   - Lupin arm gets tentative FDA nod for anti-bacterial drug – The Economic Times

7. **CDSCO to recruit 500 drug inspectors to enhance cGMP compliance – Pharmabiz.com**
   The Central Drug Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) is planning to recruit 500 more drug inspectors in the coming one year going by its mandate to double the manpower by the end of 2017. Meanwhile CDSCO has already concluded the process of recruiting 147 drug inspectors which will enhance inspections of manufacturing units in line with current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP). A total of additional 1,195 posts were sanctioned for the upgradation of manpower and labs under the 12th five year plan. Central government has also allocated Rs. 900 crore for enhancing manpower and capacities of minilabs at port offices and mobile labs at CDSCO level.

8. **Indian pharma segment may get impacted by TPP and TTIP agreements: Exim Bank – Pharmabiz.com**
   An Exim Bank study "Indian Pharmaceutical Industry: Challenges and Prospects" has noted that although the Indian pharmaceutical industry acquired a noteworthy position in the global pharma sector, there are various challenges faced with regard to the changing regulatory environment and slowdown in trade. The Study highlighted that the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Agreements are likely to have serious implications for the Indian pharmaceutical industry, and could materially affect the Indian generic industry. Moreover, the Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme (PICS) regulatory environment is envisaged to be a vital challenge for the India pharma industry, particularly the MSME pharma segment, as they would have to invest significantly to upgrade their facilities to be at par with the harmonized GMP framework of the PICS.