1. **Despite being on rough end, annual report from US FDA's OGD shows Indian firms won key approvals in 2015** – Economic Times

FDA's Office of Generic Drugs (OGD) has released their annual report which highlights some key approvals won by Indian companies. Out of the 90 first-time generic drug approvals, around 14 are won by Indian drug companies. Quoted in the story is OGD Director Kathleen Cook "Generic drugs now account for 88% of prescriptions dispensed in the US, and saved the US health system $1.68 trillion from 2005 to 2015."

The faster turnaround of approvals is also the result of the Generic Drug User Fee Act (GDUFA)

2. **Prime Minister should step in to revamp MCI, say ex-bureaucrats & doctors** – Economic Times

Five former secretaries of health and bio-technology departments as well as former MCI members and prominent doctors have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his involvement in revamping the regulators. It is in view to bring transparency and ensure that owners of hospital chains and colleges having 'deep conflicts of interest' are not part of the body.

3. **Cabinet to soon consider National IPR policy: Nirmala Sitharaman** - DNA

The IPR policy will soon be taken up by the Cabinet for consideration. "We are taking it up. In fact it has already reached the cabinet secretariat. I hope it will come on the agenda of the cabinet soon," said Sitharaman. The cabinet will also into the aspect of TPP and the impact it will have on India's trade.

4. **India wants to resume talks with EU and FTA as soon as possible: Sitharaman** – Business Standard

Talks over an FTA with officially known as the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), had been launched in 2007. However, these negotiations were stalled since 2013 as both sides are yet to bridge substantial gaps on crucial issues such as data security.

5. **Booster Dose** – Financial Express

With the draft guidelines for biosimilars, India may be transitioning towards a more accessible and cost effective pharmaceutical industry. The guidelines are expected not only to reduce the time for approval but also enhance their safety, given that makers will have to evaluate a minimum of 200 patients for two years as part of clinical trials.

6. **Cipla partners with non-profit body FIND to increase detection of Hepatitis C** – Economic Times
   Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) works on accelerating development and delivery of affordable diagnostic test for poverty-related diseases. The partnership is in order to capitalize on the (blockbuster oral drugs like Sofosbuvir). "Our plan is to work with the UNITAID project and build diagnostic capacity and have this complemented by the Cipla partnership, which will focus on demand creation," said FIND.

7. **IPC launches reporting form for MvPI to ensure safety of medical devices** – Pharmabiz
   The reporting form called as Medical Device Adverse Event reporting form (MDAE) will help generate independent, evidence-based recommendations on the safety of medical devices and to communicate the findings to all key stakeholders. The recommendations were a part of the recent industry consultation meet held at Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ghaziabad to discuss the adverse event reporting format for reporting serious adverse events as a part of the programme among other pertinent areas related to its implementation.

8. **Indian drug companies blame Modi Govt for thwarting licences to sell generic medicines** – IBTimes
   Lee Pharma, a Hyderabad based mid-sized drug company mentioned that DCGI did not allow it to sell cheaper and generic versions of a diabetic drug possibly due to the Modi government's assurance to US Pharma companies over the issue of protecting intellectual property rights (IPRs). "The DCGI last year in one of the hearings said it would go back to seek the views of the commerce ministry .The application, however, was rejected this year," said Lee Pharma Patent Attorney.