1. **CAG flays DST's funding of pharma projects; points to Rs 73 crore loss** – Economic Times

Lack of due financial diligence in selection of pharma projects by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and loans released to unsound companies which later defaulted on their repayment has led to a loss of Rs 73.68 crore to the exchequer, the CAG has found.

The audit report, which has been submitted in Parliament, found that in none of the 19 projects were the outcomes known to DST as the project-completion reports were not submitted by industry partners.

Thus, after investing Rs 95.27 crore in 19 projects, the purpose of the programme to build capabilities, develop drugs and provide the same at low cost was not realised, the report added.

2. **Seven-member committee to examine online drug sale issue** – Economic Times

A seven-member committee has been formed to look into the the issue of online sale of drugs, Lok Sabha was informed today.

Drugs Consultative Committee ( DCC) has constituted a seven-member sub committee to examine the issue of online sale of drugs, while taking care of the risks and concerns related to such sales, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said in a written reply to Lok Sabha.

"All measures considered necessary for safeguarding the interests of consumers are being taken by the government", he added.

3. **Law intern copies tracts of article into HC ruling** – Times of India

In an unprecedented move, a Delhi High Court bench has apologized for the mistake committed by a law intern who copied tracts from a foreign journal into its judgment without acknowledgment.

Taking a serious view of plagiarism, a division bench of Justices Pradeep Nandrajog and Mukta Gupta Tuesday suo moto recalled the November 27 order and struck off paras 4-37 from the 106 page judgment on a patent dispute between Indian drug firm Cipla and multinational giant Hoffman La Roche.

4. **Hetero gets DCGI approval to market Hepatitis C drug** – Economic Times

Drug maker Hetero has received approval from DCGI to market generic version of Gilead's Harvoni, a drug used in the treatment of Hepatitis C, in the country.

Hetero is the first company in India to receive the approval for the fixed-dose combination Ledipasvir-Sofosbuvir (90mg/400mg) from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), the company said in a statement.

*Same article appeared in Hindu Business Line, Financial Express, Business Standard, Financial Chronicle and The Hindu*

5. **'We will likely conduct future courses in an online format'** – Express Pharma
   ACCESS Health International, in collaboration with the World Bank and University of Edinburgh, recently conducted a workshop for policymakers which aimed at helping them manage markets to support public health outcomes. Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Country Director, ACCESS Health International gives more details about the course and its objectives, in an interaction.

6. **Indian pharma firms gear up for US product launches: Report** – Business Standard
   While the domestic formulations market is poised for steady growth (13-14 per cent over FY15-18), analysts and brokerage firms expect the US generics business to fuel growth for Indian pharmaceutical companies.

   According to brokerage firm Anand Rathi's report - growth opportunities, patent expiry worth $72 billion are estimated in the US. Already, some companies including Alembic, Natco and Indoco have either successfully filed for complex or differentiated generics as well as para-IV filings aimed at this opportunity.

7. **USFDA issues import alert against medicines made by Pan Drugs** – Economic Times
   The US health regulator has issued an import alert for the human and animal medicines made by Gujarat-based Pan Drugs Ltd for violation of manufacturing norms.

   According to information available on the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) website, the regulator has issued import alert on drugs, including anti-biotics, for both human and animals manufactured by the company for (GMP) Good Manufacturing Practices violations.