1. **Senators introduce bill aimed at getting generic drugs to market – Reuters**

Four U.S. senators - two Democrats and two Republicans - introduced a bill on Tuesday aimed at preventing big pharmaceutical companies from using safety rules to prevent generic drugs from coming to market.

Senators Charles Grassley, chair of the Judiciary Committee, and Patrick Leahy, the top Democrat, are sponsors of the bill along with Senators Mike Lee and Amy Klobuchar, the chair of the antitrust subcommittee and top Democrat, respectively. The Food and Drug Administration, which ensures the safety of the country's food and drug supply, has a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy program, called REMS, which is designed to ensure that the riskiest drugs are dispensed safely.

2. **Novo diabetes drug cuts heart risks by less-than-hoped 13 percentage – Reuters**

Novo Nordisk's (NOVOb.CO) top-selling diabetes drug Victoza cut the risk of heart attack, stroke and cardiovascular death by 13 percent in a closely watched study, but the result disappointed investors who had hoped for more. The stock fell around 5 percent in Copenhagen on Tuesday. Victoza is only the second diabetes drug to show such heart benefits, after Eli Lilly (LLY.N) and Boehringer Ingelheim's pill Jardiance. Victoza's effect was evident across risks.

"To me, the impressive thing about this trial is the consistency across clinical endpoints and its robustness," said John Buse, professor of medicine at the UNC School of Medicine, who worked on the study.

3. **Drugmaker Shire buys bowel drug rights from Pfizer - Reuters**

Irish drugmaker Shire Plc said on Tuesday it would buy from Pfizer Inc the rights to an experimental drug, designed to treat moderate-to-severe inflammatory bowel disease. The drug, PF-00547659, has successfully completed mid-stage studies and late-stage trials are expected to begin after consultation with global health authorities, Shire said in a statement

4. **Indian pharma tycoons foray into new drugs to shore up growth – Mint**
   Indian drug makers are embarking on a research spending spree to master more complex therapies and their billionaire founders look willing to absorb the costs. The goal? To reach more people like Ryan Matzner, an asthma patient who lives thousands of miles away in New York. For years, the 31-year-old app developer has been a regular buyer of a pocket-sized purple disc made by GlaxoSmithkline

5. **Aurobindo Pharma to step up product launches in US – Business Standard**
   Indian pharmaceutical major Aurobindo Pharma Limited, which has crossed $2 billion revenue mark in FY16, is planning to step up the momentum this year by increasing the number of launches in the US market as it aims to reach $3 billion in revenues in next two years. Even though Aurobindo had launched as many as 28 products in the US market in the previous year, it has carried forward 7 ANDA final approvals received during the year for the launch in the current year.

6. **US specialty pharma firms to change their M&A strategies: Moody's – Business Standard**
   US specialty pharmaceutical industry is expected to witness the start of merger and acquisitions activity as companies look to augment their portfolio with products targeted at unmet medical needs. "Despite the ongoing challenges weighing on the US specialty pharmaceutical sector, companies will steadily resume M&A with a more refined focus," said Moody's Investors Service. According to the ratings agency, it expects acquisitive specialty companies to increase their focus on products with unmet medical need, companies with pipeline drugs and those providing geographic expansion.

7. **Display of rate card by diagnostic labs made mandatory – The Hindu**
   Minister for Health and Family Welfare U.T. Khader has directed officials to initiate action against private medical facilities and diagnostic labs that fail to display the rate card for their services. Responding to complaints that private medical institutions were collecting exorbitantly high sums for various diagnostic tests, Mr. Khader directed the officials of his department to inspect the medical facilities and diagnostic labs to see if they were displaying the rate card of their services as per the rules of Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act. "The officials of the Department will inspect these institutions and take action against violators," he said.

8. **'Remove harmful IP provisions from RCEP trade deal which threaten access to affordable medicines' – The Times of India**
   Health and patient organisations have raised concerns about the inclusion of "harmful" intellectual property proposals in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal that could potentially raise treatment costs by creating new forms of monopolies and delaying the entry of affordable generics in the market.

9. **India warned against pitfalls in ASEAN trade agreement – The Hindu**
   As talks for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) — a regional trade agreement among the 10 ASEAN countries — continue in Auckland, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has warned India that it will no more remain 'the pharmacy of the developing world' if the proposals in the pact are adopted. MSF Access Campaign and other civil society organisations are pushing for the removal of harmful intellectual property provisions that could potentially increase drug costs by creating new monopolies and delaying the entry of affordable generics in the market.

10. **Ajanta Pharma launches anti-dementia drug in US – India Today**
    Ajanta Pharma today announced the launch of anti-dementia Memantine Hydrochloride tablets in the US market. In a BSE filing, the company announced "the launch of Memantine Hydrochloride tablets in the US market through its wholly-owned subsidiary Ajanta Pharma USA Inc". Memantine Hydrochloride tablets is an anti-dementia drug and is a bio-equivalent to

generic version of Namenda. "The company has launched it in 2 strengths 5 mg and 10 mg tablets to address different levels of treatment," it added.

11. **Suven gets patent for CNS molecules from Canada, Hong Kong – ET Healthworld.com**
    Drug firm Suven Life Sciences has received a patent each from Canada and Hong Kong for molecules to be developed as drugs for treatment of various central nervous system disorders.
    The product patents are "valid through 2032 and 2030, respectively," Suven Life Sciences said in a filing to BSE. With these new patents, the company has a total of 23 patents from Canada and 20 patents from Hong Kong, it added.

12. **Pharmexcil to compile document on India's pharma exports to Europe in next 4 yrs – Pharmabiz.com**
    Keen to boost India's market share in Europe, Pharmexcil is planning to start its work on compiling a document forecasting India's possible compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) during the next four years. This move comes in the wake of pharma being identified by the government as one of the top export sectors with high potential, which is expected to grow at a high CAGR in USD terms during the next four years. It is in this context the government has asked Pharmexcil to prepare this forecast of possible CAGR during the next four years, considering 2015-16 as base year with a growth of 4.5 per cent of India's pharma exports to Europe. To spruce up the activities, Pharmexcil has already called upon all the stakeholders to share current statistics and market trends to aid this effort.

13. **CDSCO working towards drafting new Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 2016 – Pharmabiz.com**
    Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) is working towards drafting a new Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 2016 and a Medical Devices Act, 2016. The move follows after the ministry of health and family welfare initiated steps to revisit the D&C Act 1940 and Rules 1945. The effort is to match up with the current regulatory requirements related to safety, efficacy and quality of drugs and medical devices.

    The government has taken a decision to remain updated to newer technology and with the onset of several revised guidelines that have come in not just from global regulatory authorities but also India. Moreover, for the government, pharmaceuticals is a priority sector and therefore it has found it critical to ensure that its regulations are required to be strengthened.