1. **Roche anticipates quicker U.S. approval for new MS drug – Reuters**

Roche's new multiple sclerosis (MS) drug could be approved in the United States this year, earlier than previously forecast, the Swiss drugmaker said on Tuesday, after winning the U.S. regulator's priority review status for the medicine. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) accepted marketing applications for Roche's Ocrevus medicine, for both the relapsing-remitting and primary-progressive forms of MS, the company said in a statement.

2. **Gilead wins U.S. nod for drug for all types of hepatitis C – Reuters**

U.S. health regulators on Tuesday approved a combination drug by Gilead Sciences Inc that is the first available treatment for all six major forms of hepatitis C, advancing the company's leadership in the field and sending its shares up more than 4 percent.

Gilead said in a separate statement that it priced the drug at $74,760 for a 12-week regimen.

3. **USFDA nods to Indian drugs up 84% in 1 year – The Economic Times**

Drug approvals given by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to Indian companies nearly doubled year-on-year, with little known firms including MSN Lab, Shasun Pharma, Granules India, Ajanta Pharma and Gland Pharma making a foray into the world's biggest and most lucrative market. Interestingly , the growth came during the period when biggies like Sun Pharma and Dr Reddy's had reduced filings from their plants due to compliance issues, dispelling the long-held view that regulatory agencies, particularly USFDA, harboured a vendetta against the domestic industry .

4. **Acquired tastes – Business Standard**

In an editorial, John Foley highlights how Nestle is no closer to the medicinal Kit Kat. Nestle's hiring of a medical-sector executive as its first outside chief executive in almost a century looks like a nod in that direction. In reality, the convergence between food and pharmaceuticals will be slow, and works best when the transfusion runs in the other direction.

5. **Pfizer to invest $350 million in China biotech hub, first in Asia – The Financial Express**
   Pfizer Inc will invest $350 million to build a biotech centre in China, the latest in a series of moves by pharma industry giants to set up shop in the world's no. 2 drugs market with the aim of securing faster approvals for their products. The facility in eastern Hangzhou region – Pfizer's first biotech centre in Asia – is expected to be completed by 2018, the firm said in a statement on Tuesday.

6. **Funds for bright ideas – The Hindu Business Line**
   Do you have innovative ideas? Here's a chance to win a handsome funding award of ₹50 lakhs to pursue it. The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and IKP Knowledge Park (IKP) will support the projects. Proposals under the Grand Challenges Explorations India programme need to broadly focus on the healthcare area and should aim to develop affordable diagnostics and technology. "The GCE-India programme looks to foster entrepreneurship in India. Our goal is the search for drug delivery systems, diagnostics, and technology enabled service models and medical devices that can potentially be made accessible to all," says K VijayRaghavan, Secretary, DBT.

7. **Sanofi-Boehringer Asset Swap Keeps Global Pharma Consolidation Active in 2016 - BusinessWorld**
   Big consolidation in global pharmaceutical industry remained strong and alive in 2016 with the latest portfolio swap deal between European drug giants Sanofi and Boehringer Ingelheim got formally signed on Monday (June 27). The $19 billion deal, which is similar to the 2014 vaccine-oncology business exchange between Novartis and GSK, will help Sanofi consolidate its consumer health or over the counter business to meet its 2020 goal to become the world leader in this segment. While, the transfer of Merial—the animal health business of Sanofi to Boehringer will make the German company a leader in veterinary business. Sanofi and Boehringer said on Monday that they have signed the contracts to secure the strategic transaction initiated in December 2015 which consists of an exchange of Sanofi's animal health business ("Merial") and Boehringer Ingelheim's consumer healthcare business.

8. **The Future Of Healthcare In India - BusinessWorld**
   In an opinion piece as a part of 'Businessworld SDGs' a series of articles on the role of business in the Sustainable Development, Dr Natchiket Mor talks of healthcare costs in India. He said the challenge before us is not one of resources. As a country we are already spending more than enough money on healthcare; we produce almost all of the drugs that we need locally, at a fraction of global costs; we have the finest physicians and nurses; and our technological capabilities are internationally recognized. What we need is a health system that uses these resources effectively.

9. **Patent systems should be country-specific favouring national interest: India at WIPO – Business Today**
   In the opening statement at the 24th session of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)'s Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) in Geneva on Monday, the Indian delegation has expressed concerns over the attempts towards harmonisation of laws and reiterated "that harmonising patent laws across countries with asymmetric distribution of intellectual property assets has served the interests of rent seekers rather than that of the public in developing and least developed countries."

10. **Gwalior cancer hospital to sign MoU with govt – The Times of India**
    Cancer hospital in Gwalior will sign an MoU with the Union ministry of health to start a cancer institute in the city. The existing cancer hospital will also be upgraded, said union minister for health JP Nadda in Gwalior on Tuesday. He also performed bhumi pujan for a Rs 150-crore super specialty hospital in the city.

11. **Drug that helps addicts may benefit cancer patients too – The Indian Express**
    A drug which is used to treat addicts can have a beneficial impact on cancer patients also if it is given in low doses, say scientists. The drug naltrexone (LDN) not only causes cancer cells to stop growing, but it also alters their internal machinery, making them more likely to kill themselves, the researchers found. When used in small doses, the drug can alter the genes that regulate how a cancer cell behaves, the findings showed.

12. **New method can kill cancer cells in two hours, shows study – The Hindu**
    Researchers have developed a new, non-invasive method that can kill cancer cells in two hours, an advance that may significantly help people with inoperable or hard-to-reach tumours as well as young children stricken with the deadly disease. The method involves injecting a chemical compound, nitrobenzaldehyde, into the tumour and allowing it to diffuse into the tissue. A beam of light is then aimed at the tissue, causing the cells to become very acidic inside and, essentially, "commit suicide", researchers said.

13. **Health Ministry issues draft Medical Devices Rules, 2016 – Pharmabiz.com**
    The Union health ministry has issued the draft Medical Devices Rules which will be applicable in respect of substances covered under sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of section 3 used for in vitro diagnosis; substances that are in the nature of mechanical devices covered under sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of section 3; and devices specified from time to time by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette under sub-clause (iv) of clause (b) of section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940). Medical device already marketed in India prior to the commencement of these rules shall continue to be marketed as hitherto before subject to the condition that the manufacturer shall provide evidence of previous sale in India and apply for license within a period of ninety days from the date the device is notified under sub-clause (iv) of clause (b) of section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940). The Central Government shall, by notification, specify the date from which medical device referred in clause (2) shall be regulated in accordance with these rules.

14. **Andhra, Telangana lead in pharma exports, achieves Rs.33,000 cr in 2014-15 – Pharmabiz.com**
    Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states, which are already hot investment destination for the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry, have emerged as the leading pharma exporters in the country. The two states contributed more than 30 per cent of India's total pharma exports. For the year 2014-15, the pharmaceutical exports from AP and TS have crossed more than Rs.33,000 crore. According to Dr P V Appaji, Director General of Pharmexcil, the pharmaceutical exports in India have been growing at a rate of 17 per cent in rupee terms and around 10 per cent in dollar terms during the current fiscal. "Last year our total exports stood at Rs.94,275 crore, while this year we have crossed more than Rs.1.12 lakh crore. In fact this is a big achievement for Indian pharma as we have crossed this mark for the first time," informed Appaji.

15. **The new pharma FDI policy undermines Indian generics, which may make drugs more expensive – Scroll.in**
    In an editorial, Leena Menghaney, a lawyer working for access to medicines in developing countries, highlights on the impact of government relaxing FDI norms for pharma companies. She said how the Union government's decision to allow up to 74% foreign direct investment in pharmaceutical companies through the automatic route could threaten competition in the pharmaceutical sector and India's role as a supplier of low cost, life-saving drugs across the developing world.