1. **Valeant forms internal committee to oversee drug pricing** – Reuters

   Valeant raised the price of Isuprel by about 720 percent and Nitropress by 310 percent, after acquiring the heart medications in 2015. Prices of the other two drugs, used to treat a genetic disorder that causes copper to build up in the body's organs, were raised by 5,878 percent and 3,162 percent, respectively. Valeant has acknowledged mistakes in its drug pricing practices amid U.S. congressional probes, said on Thursday it has formed a new committee to oversee pricing of the company's drugs. The Patient Access and Pricing Committee will initially be chaired by Joseph Papa, Valeant's new chairman and chief executive officer. Valeant said that, among other issues, the committee will review the pricing of Nitropress, Isuprel, Cuprimine and Syprine - four products at the center of a hearing last week before the Senate Special Committee on Aging

2. **Delhi HC questions government's decision; drug ban saga continues** – Economic Times

   In the ongoing FDC drug ban case, the Delhi High Court has extended by another week the stay granted to over 60 pharmaceutical companies. Around 11 combinations out of the 344 combinations for which firms have moved the court have brands that were approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), according to a lawyer representing a large drug maker in the matter. In this case, subsequent manufacturers of the same codeine combination did not need an approval, but Corex's approval was revoked based on data from the other manufacturers instead of Pfizer, Justice RS Endlaw told government's counsel, additional solicitor general (ASG) Sanjay Jain. "Obviously, they could not have had data," he added.

3. **Malvinder and Shivinder Mohan Singh to contest arbitration panel order on damages to Daiichi** - Economic Times

   Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder Mohan Singh will challenge the order of an arbitration panel that asked them to pay Rs 2,562.78 crore in damages to Daiichi Sankyo. In a majority ruling this week, the three member panel in Singapore said the brothers hid key info while selling their controlling stake in Ranbaxy Lab to the Japanese company in 2008. The Singh brothers will appeal in the arbitration tribunal and also in one of the Indian courts, said two

people familiar with the matter. The arbitration order is a major setback for Malvinder Mohan Singh. His younger brother, Shivinder Mohan Singh, isn't associated with the family business now and has joined the Radha Soami Satsang Beas, a philosophical and spiritual organisation that is well known in Punjab and is headquartered near Amritsar.

4. **Government earmarks 500 crore for Tech Facilities in Premier Institutes** – Economic Times
   The government will invest close to Rs 500 crore to set up research parks, technological business incubators and startup centres in premier educational institutes like the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and National Institute of Technology, according to a senior official. These institutes had recently made proposals to the ministry of human resources development and the department of science and technology (DST) for such facilities. The official cited earlier told ET that the HRD ministry has committed Rs 50-80 crore towards over Rs 100 crore needed for each research park while the department of science and technology is likely to invest close to Rs 100 crore for setting up of technology business incubators (TBIs) and startup centres. The funds will be released when the institutes are ready.

5. **Indian drug units violate most US pharma regulators' rules** – Business Standard
   Country's drug factories rank among top in the US regulator's list in this regard, and we're talking of big names. Drug manufacturing units in India accounted for 60 per cent of reported data integrity violations in the records of the US sector regulator from 2011 till date, highlighting serious quality control issues. Data integrity is an issue of serious concern for health regulators globally and violations have resulted in delayed product approvals and, in some cases, import alerts for pharma companies. Currently, 15 plants in India have import alerts against them. The increase in regulatory scrutiny comes after the share of India-made products in the US market increased from 18 per cent to 33 per cent in the five years till 2014.

6. **Bhupesh Bhandari: Listen to Dinesh Thakur** – Business Standard
   Bhupesh Bhandari, in his opinion article in BS is seeking support for Dinesh Thakur. Dinesh Thakur, the Ranbaxy whistleblower, seems to be waging a lone battle against sub-standard medicine. After the Supreme Court threw out his plea that sought "the creation of a framework for the recall of drugs and a commission to examine faulty drug approvals", Thakur has been diligently uploading information he has collated over the years on his website. It is an eye opener. Indian pharmaceutical sector, which makes the finest medicine in the world, sells sub-standard stuff to Indians. Thakur's work shows that this is not the complete picture: the big companies too are responsible for the sub-standard drugs in the market. Indian companies, says Thakur, regularly do drug recalls in the United States and the European Union but never in India. "The key reason why we do not see such action in India is because the Indian drug regulatory law does not have a legal framework mandating such recalls," he wrote on April 18. "There is no legal requirement under the law for the manufacturer to initiate a nation-wide recall and there is no procedure to monitor such recalls."

7. **Lupin, Tata Motors lead in R&D spending** – Business Standard
   While Indian pharmaceutical companies and infotech companies are leading India Inc in research and development (R&D) expenses and patent applications, but a majority of local companies are lagging global peers in R&D spending. According to statistics, pharmaceutical firm, Lupin spent the most in R&D as percentage of its net sales (8.9 per cent).

8. **Digital human models key to future clinical research: Study** – Business Standard
   Computer simulations of disease processes and detailed digital models of our organs could provide more accurate monitoring and outcome measurements for clinical trials, according to a new research. The research being presented at the University of Sheffield in the UK today aims to develop a model of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) using MRI technology. Currently, the condition is diagnosed by inserting a catheter into the patient, often in the neck or groin to test the pressure in the pulmonary artery. It's an invasive test that can be distressing to the patient.

9. **Govt raises support for exports under MEIS, eases rules for outbound shipment** – Financial Express
   Total potential revenue losses due to incentives under the MEIS will go up to Rs 22,000 crore a year from the earlier Rs 21,000 crore. All 5,012 products covered under the MEIS will be eligible for global coverage from May 4, according to the directorate general of foreign trade. This means irrespective of the export destinations, the outbound shipments of all items contained in the MEIS list will be eligible for specific benefits under the scheme. Earlier, exports of as many as 2,787 products were eligible for MEIS benefits only if they were shipped to specified regions. The country's exports contracted for a 16th straight month through March. Exports dropped 16% in the last fiscal to touch a five-year-low of $261 billion, as shipments of petroleum and engineering products declined sharply due to gloomy external environment.

10. **With Rs 30K cr turnover, Baddi emerges global pharma hub** – The Indian Express
    Growth of the pharmaceutical industry in the state, which till now had been known mostly for tourism, apple production and hydro-power sector, also means Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh industrial belt is ranked at number 14 globally in terms of value of bulk drugs being manufactured here. With an annual turnover of Rs 30,000 crore, of which Rs 9,500 crore involves exports, Baddi, Himachal Pradesh's largest industrial township in Solan district, has turned into a major pharmaceutical hub – ranked third globally – manufacturing more than 150 bulk drugs, having demand in 200 countries. There are more than 700 pharmaceutical manufacturing units located in Baddi-Barotwiala-Nalagarh belt, of which 548 are leading drug manufacturers.

11. **We have to strike our own balance** – Express Pharma
    As a platform to burnish India Pharma Inc's global image, the Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GoI, spoke to Express Pharma on the sidelines of PHARMEXCIL. On the issue of warning letters, batch recalls against pharmaceutical manufacturing plants in India, and the damage caused to Brand India Pharma, Minister says, the quality or safety of the end product has not been the issue at all in any of the cases. The inspection procedure has become too process driven. For instance, if an inspector notices scope for improvement in a particular process, which does not necessarily mean that these process is wrong, his interpretation is that since there is a gap, there is a possibility of manipulation, so it deserves a 483. On the role of industry and Indian regulatory system to plug the gaps, he says, One major gap during the inspection process is that staff at the middle and lower levels, may not speak fluent English or understand the accent. Inspectors coming from non-English speaking countries might not speak fluent English as well.

12. **Accredited Social Health Activists** – The Hans India
    Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) is community health workers instituted by the Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) as part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). One of the key components of the NRHM is to provide every village in the country with a trained female community health activist. Selected from the village itself and accountable to it, the ASHA will be trained to work as an interface between the community and the public health system. She will act as a depot older for essential provisions being made available to all habitations like Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORS), Iron Folic Acid Tablet(IFA), chloroquine, Disposable Delivery Kits (DDK), Oral Pills & Condoms, etc. She is paid Rs 40 for registering a pregnant woman, Rs 200-250 for each institutional delivery and Rs150 for each family planning procedure.