

1. [Notebandi Sounds a Death Knell for Already Neglected Social Sector](#) – The Quint

An August 2016 report by the consultancy firms KPMG and OPPI pointed out the dismal health scenario in the country. Their end argument is obviously that the private sector needs to play a greater role but the numbers are startling. Demonetisation has unleashed a number of debates on its impact on the economy, one of them being how the focus of the government has shifted from black money to a 'cashless' economy. In the initial phases, some demonetisation supporters were expressing hope about a possible increase in spending in the social sector by the Government of India once RBI reclaims all the black money.

2. [NPPA likely to put ceiling on stent prices by mid-February](#) – The Economic Times

The prices of stents — tiny wire mesh tubes used widely by surgeons to unclog arteries and prevent heart attacks — may be capped by mid-February next year now that the government has notified them in the country's drug price control order.

The decision comes months after the health ministry included stents in the National List of Essential Medicines and after much objection by stent-makers and some doctors who had called for differential pricing for superior versions of these stents.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) on Wednesday evening notified bare metal, drug eluting and biodegradable stents in Schedule-I of the country's Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO) 2013. According to the DPCO, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority — India's drug pricing watchdog — is expected to fix the ceiling prices of these stents within 60 days of them being notified.

Similar reports –

- [Coronary stents set to get cheaper](#) – The Times of India
- [Coronary stents now in DPCO 2013 list; NPPA to fix price in 60 days](#) – Business Standard

3. ['Low spending on health stalling affordable care'](#) – The Hindu

Indian Council of Medical Research Director General Soumya Swaminathan termed inadequate medical research, absence of indigenous drug development and low spending on health the main factors deterring affordable healthcare in nation. "It is estimated that nearly a million people in the country go below the poverty line every year because of catastrophic health expenditures," Dr. Swaminathan while delivering the Administrative Staff College of India's

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4. [No fresh approval for cocktail drugs](#) – The Times of India
5. [Finnish government agrees on health care reform plan](#) – Reuters.com
6. [Pharma industry expansion opposed](#) – The Hindu
7. [Glenmark bets big on innovation](#) – Business Standard
8. [Health biggest casualty in big bank queues](#) – The Times of India

(ASCI) Foundation Day Lecture here on Wednesday. "There is hospitalisation following an accident, for cancer, heart disease or even tuberculosis that can result in significant spending of household income." The college is celebrating 60 years of its establishment. Dr. Swaminathan said India spends only one percent of its GDP on health while most other countries in the region spend more. "Thailand and other countries spend at least seven to eight percent of the GDP on health," she said.

4. [No fresh approval for cocktail drugs](#) – The Times of India

The government has reiterated that no fresh approval should be granted by state licensing authorities to companies for manufacturing "cocktail" therapies, thus tightening the noose around "irrational and unsafe" fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs. Recently, two licences for FDC drugs, issued by Uttarakhand and Daman, were cancelled, official sources said. This comes even as the government prepares for its legal fight against the pharmaceutical industry by filing an appeal in the Supreme Court against the Delhi high court's December 1 order that overturned the health ministry's ban on 344 FDCs. While the controversy has been raging for the past few months, there have been close to a dozen FDC launches, mostly by small pharma companies, in the diabetic, dermatology, respiratory and anti-infective categories (see graphic). An FDC drug is a cocktail of two or more active drug ingredients in a fixed ratio of doses. Under the law, a combination drug is a 'new' drug, and should undergo stringent clinical studies to prove it is safe and efficacious.

5. [Finnish government agrees on health care reform plan](#) – Reuters.com

The parties in Finland's ruling coalition agreed on Wednesday on a complex reform of health care and regional administration after years of negotiations that almost toppled the centre-right government last year. The deal is likely to soothe fears over the government's ability to pass difficult reforms as the Nordic country's economy slowly returns to growth after a decade of stagnation. The reform aims to curb future health care costs by around 3 billion euros (\$3.1 billion) as Finland struggles with an ageing population. Overall, the government plans to find savings worth 10 billion euros to balance public finances over the long term. The reform opens up business prospects for private players in the health care system and moves responsibility for the provision of services to 18 new health care regions, starting from 2019, from more than 300 local governments at present.

6. [Pharma industry expansion opposed](#) – The Hindu

"We have been experiencing pollution due to many chemical industries in and around this area. We do not want upgradation of any industry polluting our village," said many residents of Malkapur. They fear that their lives would get completely spoiled if more industries were permitted in their area. However, some representatives of Turkala Khanapur welcomed the establishment of new industries stating that it would provide employment. Public hearing presided over by Joint Collector V. Venkateswarlu was held on proposed modifying of Emmennar Pharma Private Limited Unit - III to bulk drug and intermediates manufacturing unit at Turkala Khanapur in Hatnoora mandal of Sangareddy district on Wednesday.

7. [Glenmark bets big on innovation](#) – Business Standard

Even as the Street's confidence in Glenmark Pharmaceuticals remains strong, the company has unveiled growth plans for the next 10 years. This stresses innovation, complex generics and the speciality segment. Dermatology has been its core area of competence and it has named the oncology and respiratory segments as additional areas of focus. Glenmark believes about 30 per cent of its overall revenue by 2025 will be from the speciality and innovative segments. All these are steps in the right direction. Basic generics are already seeing competitive pressure in the US and companies are struggling to maintain their growth momentum. It is here that differentiated and complex products, as well as innovation, will prove helpful.

8. [Health biggest casualty in big bank queues](#) – The Times of India

Most of the banks in the Old City witnessed heavy crowd on Wednesday and the ATMs were flooded with people. Public sector banks were more crowded compared to the private banks and people were seen complaining about health problems. "I am a cardiac patient and my health does not permit me hectic bank visits," said Sara Begum, a customer waiting for her turn outside State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH) at Shah Ali Banda.