

1. [NPPA to soon fix ceiling prices of stents](#) – The Economic Times

The national drug pricing regulator, NPPA, is working on fixing ceiling prices of stents as the government has notified it in the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 2013. The decision of the Department of Pharmaceuticals comes months after the Ministry of Health in July included stents in the National List of Essential Medicines.

"We are on the job. We will do it as soon as possible," National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) Chairman Bhupendra Singh told PTI. In a notification, DoP has put "bare metal stents and drug eluting stents (DES), which include metallic DES and bioresorbable vascular scaffold (BVS)/biodegradable stents" in the Schedule I of DPCO 2013. NPPA is requested to take further action urgently, a letter to the chairman stated.

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- [Fix MRP and ceiling price of coronary stents by March 1: Delhi HC to Centre](#) – Hindustan Times
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2. [Pharma companies influence policy, says former health secy](#) – Daily News and Analysis

Former union secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and founding member of Public Health Foundation of India, K Sujatha Rao has now turned author with soon-to-be launched Do We Care, on India's healthcare system. In an interview with DNA, she talks on the abysmal spending on healthcare in India and how pharmaceutical companies influence policy decisions. Rao believes that even with the constraints, there is a lot bureaucrats can do to bring about change.

3. [India is one of the growth drivers of our emerging markets strategy: Merck Healthcare CEO](#) – Forbes India

Merck KGaA, the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemicals group, expects to make rapid strides in the Indian market with its new biologic drugs, targeted at therapeutic areas including oncology and fertility, says Belén Garijo, member of the group's executive board and CEO of Merck Healthcare. Garijo, 56, took charge of the Darmstadt, Germany-based group's health care vertical in 2011. In an interview to Forbes India, she says Merck is the second-fastest-growing multinational pharma company in India and that it will not shy away from making further investments in the country to support its ambitious growth plans.

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5. [Pharma hiring trends for 2017 indicate robust manpower growth across quality control & manufacture](#) – Pharmabiz.com

4. [Drug companies can't rely on extreme price hikes in US: Glen Saldanha – The Economic Times](#)

Indian generic drug companies that have built billion-dollar businesses by venturing into the US market may have to taper their expectations on pricing. The US market, which has no price control, will not be the same going forward, with an uproar over exorbitant price increase spooking several drug makers. "We don't see extreme price increase as a possibility going forward," Glen Saldanha, managing director of Glenmark Pharma, told ET.

Saldanha's comment comes at a time when the US Department of Justice (DOJ) has filed charges against a few Indian companies, along with several others, alleging price collusion. Sun Pharma, its US subsidiary Taro, Dr Reddy's, Aurobindo Pharma and Heritage Pharma, which is the US subsidiary of Emcure, have been named in the DOJ report. These companies have allegedly increased the prices of certain drugs by six times in a span of one year. Glenmark, though, is confident of 16-17% growth for the company in markets like the US, driven by specialty generics.

5. [Pharma hiring trends for 2017 indicate robust manpower growth across quality control & manufacture – Pharmabiz.com](#)

Indian pharma industry which showed robust hiring of qualified candidates in quality control and manufacturing departments in 2016 is expected to sustain a similar growth momentum in 2017, according to industry observers. In 2016, the pharma manufacturers focused on hiring across quality control departments including quality assurance. The Indian industry wanted to prove its quality image as a manufacturing hub for global drug companies. The sector had received a beating following observations by international regulatory authorities. Therefore the intent of the sector was to prove that it was serious on quality processes and systems to be in place, Uma Nandan Misra, dean, Pharmacy Training Institute, Bengaluru told Pharmabiz.