1. **NPPA begins stakeholder consultation for fixing ceiling prices of coronary stents – Pharmabiz.com**

Following the notification of coronary stents as scheduled drug by the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) on December 21 this year, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has started the process of stakeholder consultation for fixing the ceiling prices of coronary stents.

It has convened two meetings on January 5, 2017 also, and for these meetings it has invited civil society associations, non-government organisations and any other civil society stakeholder; and all India hospitals/nursing home associations involved in cardiac care procedures and dealing with cardiac stents. On January 6, the NPPA will hold two separate meetings, one with eminent cardiologists, and another with medical device distributors, carry forward agents, their associations or in individual capacities. For consultation the NPPA has invited a total of 54 companies and industry associations like ASSOCHAM, BDMA, CIPI, CII, FICCI, IDMA, IPA, OPPI, MTAI, etc. It has also invited NGOs like Consumer Association of India, Oxfam India, PHFI, AIDAN, etc.

2. **Biologics enter top selling drugs' list – The Times of India**

The global pecking order of blockbuster drugs has undergone a huge shift with seven out of 10 top selling drugs now being biologics. Even the top-selling drug, Humira for rheumatoid arthritis, is a biologic therapy, having toppled Pfizer's anti-cholesterol drug Lipitor, the top-grossing blockbuster drug for many years. Biologics, also called biopharmaceuticals, have revolutionised treatment in chronic and serious illnesses like rheumatoid arthritis, cancers and diabetes, and nudged traditional drugs out of the top slots, with sales increasing year on year. As against this, drugs which are chemically synthesised, have witnessed plunging sales, with only Gilead's Harvoni, being the lone drug to have bettered sales over the last two years.

3. **Backdoor patents could hurt patients – The Hindu Business Line**

Earlier this month the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance was up in arms over a proposed rule change being considered by the Centre to provide a longer period of data exclusivity to "new" drugs, which it believes will severely impact the availability of low cost affordable generic medicines in India. The move comes allegedly at the behest of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), which is the arm of the US government tasked with the role of enforcing US intellectual property in markets around the world. The proposal change will result in increasing the data exclusivity period from the current four years to 10 years. Data exclusivity protects data generated in the course of clinical trials of a drug. Before a drug can be marketed, the approval regulations require drugs to undergo detailed clinical testing to ensure it is safe and efficacious. The cost of undertaking tests is considerable, involves human subjects and is, therefore, an arduous exercise. Most governments

award a drug company that has undertaken clinical trials with a period of “exclusivity” which ranges anywhere from five to eight years.

4. **Pharma’s stumble after six-year run may offer value buys – The Times of India**
The six-year bull run in pharmaceutical shares has been halted in 2016 on account of persistent regulatory woes and pric-ing pressures. The Nifty Pharma index underperformed the benchmark Nifty for the first time in seven years in 2016. With four sessions remaining for the year to end, the Nifty Pharma index is down 17.3% so far in 2016, compared to the Nifty which is down 0.5%. The Sensex is down 1.1% in 2016 so far. "Because of this tightening of (US) FDA regulations, there are observations or import bans on plants of Indian pharma companies. This is responsible for the break in Indian pharma companies' run. Plus, there is pricing pressure on the US generics side," said Dhiraj Sachdev, senior fund manager at HSBC Global Asset Management.

5. **Innovative antimicrobials from New Zealand labs could help 'Make in India' – The Economic Times**
Eco-friendly antimicrobial agents that are being developed by a team of researchers at New Zealand's University of Auckland could contribute in some of the key identified sectors in 'Make in India', says an Indian-origin member of the scientific team. Scientists associated with the Biocide ToolBox (BTB) programme are targeting the discovery and invention of eco-friendly biocides - chemical agents which control or kill bacteria - to design a range of products and solutions like antifouling coatings and food packaging. The programme, funded by the nation's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), is a major antimicrobial research programme hosted by the University of Auckland and closely networked with the University of Otago, Scion and the Cawthorn Institute in New Zealand.

6. **Vitamins drive new launches in pharma as Cos focus on OTC segment – Business Standard**
Drug companies increasing their focus on the over the counter (OTC) segment to offset the impact of price cap and restrictions on fixed dose combinations (FDCs), coupled with lifestyle changes of the urban population has meant a boom for the vitamins and nutritional supplements space. The last 24 months has seen 648 new initiatives (NI) in this space out of the total 6,828 new drug launches during the period. In fact, while in value terms, the anti-infectives space did better clocking Rs 817 crore in moving annual turnover (MAT), in terms of number of new initiatives, the vitamins segment saw the maximum traction at 648, followed closely by anti-infectives (520) and pain (465). This is as per data collected from the AIOCD-AWACS, the market research wing of All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), the association representing over 500,000 medicines sellers across India.

7. **From online diagnostics to healthcare ATMs, India's big plans for mobile health – Scroll.in**
The government of India is now India is betting on technology to improve plug the big gaps in rural healthcare – the shortage of human resources, and accessibility and affordability of healthcare. The National Health Systems Resource Centre set up in 2007 under the National Rural Health Mission is the apex body for technical assistance on healthcare and is in charge of setting up mobile health, or mHealth, infrastructure. Speaking to Scroll.in, Dr Jitendar Kumar Sharma, head of healthcare technology and innovations at the centre outlined what the system is designed to do.

8. **First phase of Pharma City to become operational by 2018 – Pharmabiz.com**
The first phase of prestigious Pharma City project on the outskirts of Hyderabad is moving at a faster pace and is expected to be completed by end of 2018. As part of this, the state government of Telangana has already acquired 5640 acres of land out of required 15,000 acres and had already started building basic infrastructure facilities like roads, drainage and common effluent treatment plants. “We are planning to build a chain-type Pharma City, which is designed as a self contained facility with residential townships for people working there in addition to a pharmaceutical university and a research centre among other things,” informed K. Taraka Rama Rao, minister for industries and information technology.