

1. [HC seeks Centre's stand on fixing MRP of coronary stents](#) – **The Economic Times**

The Delhi High Court today asked the Centre as to why the maximum retail price (MRP) of coronary stents, used to treat narrowed or weakened arteries in the heart, has not been fixed despite these devices being included in the national essential list of medicines (NLEM).

"What do you have to say with regard to fixation of MRP of coronary stents?" a bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal asked while issuing notice to the Centre and seeking its response by December 22, the next date of hearing in the matter. The order came on a PIL claiming that the rate of the coronary stents has not been fixed despite it being included in NLEM 2015 by way of a notification issued on July 19 this year.

The petition, which has been moved by a lawyer, has alleged that the government and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) are being "insensitive and irresponsible" towards the people by not taking any steps to fix the price of such stents which are allegedly being sold at higher rates in the country.

*Similar report –*

- [Court asks about Centre's stand on fixing MRP of stents](#) – The Hindu

2. [Global drug market to reach \\$1.5 trillion in 2021: Study](#) – **Business Standard**

Total spending on medicines globally is forecast to reach \$ 1.5 trillion by 2021, up 33 percent from 2016 levels, even as annual growth moderates from the record pace set in 2014 and 2015, according to new research released by the Quintiles IMS Institute. While historically large numbers of high-quality new medicines will emerge from the R&D pipeline in the next five years, pricing and market access pressures, lower volume growth in pharmerging markets and greater savings from patent expiries will contribute to the lower rate of growth.

The report, 'Outlook for global medicines through 2021: Balancing cost and value', found that medicine spending will grow at a 4-7 percent compound annual rate during the next five years, down from the nearly 9 percent growth level seen in 2014 and 2015. The total global spends for

1. [HC seeks Centre's stand on fixing MRP of coronary stents](#) – The Economic Times
2. [Global drug market to reach \\$1.5 trillion in 2021: Study](#) – Business Standard
3. [Life-saving drug scarce, patients suffer](#) – The Times of India
4. [Govt considering compulsory licensing for 'other tobacco items'](#) – The Hindu
5. [Fewer rural women opting for private healthcare: Study shows increased access to government hospitals](#) – Firstpost.com
6. [Digitising healthcare at grassroots](#) – Millennium Post
7. [Need of the hour is cost effective healthcare: Min](#) – The Times of India
8. [Trump's Vow to Control Drug Costs Alerts Another Industry](#) – Bloomberg Quint
9. [U.S. Senate joins House to pass sweeping new health bill](#) – Reuters.com
10. [Pfizer fined \\$106 mn for 'unfair' prices of epilepsy drug](#) – Business Standard
11. [US FDA raises fresh concerns on Sun Pharma's Halol plant](#) – Business Standard
12. [Suven Life Sciences gains on securing one Product Patent in India](#) – Mint

pharmaceuticals through 2021 will increase by \$ 367 billion on a constant-dollar basis. Spending is measured at the ex-manufacturer level before adjusting for rebates, discounts, taxes and other adjustments that affect net sales received by manufacturers. The impact of these factors is estimated to reduce growth by \$ 127 billion, or approximately 35 percent of the growth forecast through 2021.

3. [Life-saving drug scarce, patients suffer](#) – The Times of India

Thousands of patients are reeling under a crisis due to a scarcity of the drug and some of them have even developed liver and neurological complications, doctors said. Dr SK Sarin, director of Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), said two patients suffering from Wilson's disease have already come to the hospital for transplant due to liver failure. "I have written to the Drug Controller General of India. They replied that the government is working to solve the crisis," he said. Some doctors have suggested that the government should import the drug and provide it to patients at subsidised rates till the crisis of the indigenous drug subsides.

4. [Govt considering compulsory licensing for 'other tobacco items'](#) – The Hindu

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the proposal to bring the manufacture of 'other tobacco products' such as khaini, tobacco blended pan masala, hookah or gooduku tobacco, zarda, bidis and other chewable/eatable tobacco related items under the ambit of compulsory licensing is under consideration with a view to address public health issues. In a written reply in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, she said initial stakeholder consultations in this regard were held with the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Planning Commission, Department of Commerce, Tobacco Board, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and office of Development Commissioner, Micro Small & Medium Enterprises. Comments on the proposal have been sought from concerned Central Ministries / Departments, State Governments and Union Territories, the minister said, adding that information of existing production capacity for these items has also been sought from the State Governments and Union Territories.

5. [Fewer rural women opting for private healthcare: Study shows increased access to government hospitals](#) – Firstpost.com

There was a 24 percent rise in rural women accessing public healthcare between 2004 and 2014, according to a new report by Brookings India, a think tank, significant in a country where half the rural population uses private healthcare, which is four times costlier. Overall, there was a 6 percent rise in dependence on public healthcare for out-patients and 7 percent for in-patients over the decade ending 2014, said the Brookings report, which analysed National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data over this period. An in-patient is formally admitted for at least one night to a hospital, while an out-patient visits a hospital, clinic, or associated facility for diagnosis or treatment.

6. [Digitising healthcare at grassroots](#) – Millennium Post

The science fiction author William Gibson famously quipped the future is here, it's just not evenly distributed. There is arguably no greater manifestation of our uneven world than that of healthcare," says the noted technology writer Richard Hartley. "In the wealthiest countries, thousands of people in their 60s and 70s are kept alive with cardiac pacemakers that are remotely monitored over the internet, and adjusted by algorithms with no human intervention. In poorer states, three-quarters of a million children under five are dying each year because of shit in their water," he adds.

Inequity in healthcare distribution holds true for India as well—in comparison to South Asian and Sub-Saharan African countries and also among its states. As per Credit Suisse First Boston's latest wealth-data book, the inequality in India has sharpened, with the top 1 per cent possessing 58.4 per cent of the national wealth in the country.

7. [Need of the hour is cost effective healthcare: Min](#) – The Times of India

"At present, Kerala has the highest per capita spending on health care among states in India and we need a cost-effective healthcare system," said health minister K K Shylaja. She was inaugurating the national management summit titled 'towards a healthy India-Management of Health care' organized by TKM Institute of Management, Kollam in association with Apollo Hospitals, Chennai here. Addressing a gathering of students, teachers, researchers, healthcare professionals, administrators and government officials, the minister called for an integrated approach for improving the quality and accessibility of the state's healthcare system. "The private sector has played a commendable role in healthcare, yet there is a long way to go. The government is taking initiative in this path. The establishment of Kerala Health Mission is aimed at bringing comprehensive improvement in health sector particularly the government hospitals," she said.

8. [Trump's Vow to Control Drug Costs Alerts Another Industry](#) – Bloomberg Quint

President-elect Donald Trump promised to drive down the cost of medicines, defying investors who saw a boon in his election last month and injecting himself again into a contentious economic debate. "I'm going to bring down drug prices," Trump said, according to a transcript of an interview posted on Time magazine's website as it named him its Man of the Year. "I don't like what's happened with drug prices."

Over the past 18 months, companies including EpiPen allergy shot maker Mylan NV and Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc. have borne the brunt of public outrage over costs. Last week, the chief executives of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Pfizer Inc. sparred over the reasons their industry's reputation has suffered, including the role that prices have played.

Trump has joined that critical chorus. His comments published Wednesday were his latest swipe at American industries he views as out of line. He has singled out Carrier Corp. and Ford Motor Co. in efforts to keep jobs in the U.S., and on Tuesday called out Boeing Co. for the cost of replacing the Air Force One presidential aircraft.

9. [U.S. Senate joins House to pass sweeping new health bill](#) – Reuters.com

The U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to support sweeping legislation that will reshape the way the Food and Drug Administration approves new medicines. It will also provide funding for cancer and Alzheimer's research, help fight the opioid epidemic, expand access to mental health treatment and advance research into precision medicine. Two years in the making, the 21st Century Cures Act was passed last week by the House of Representatives and will now go to President Barack Obama to sign into law. Supporters say it will speed access to new drugs and devices, in part by allowing clinical trials to be designed with fewer patients and cheaper, easier-to-achieve goals.

10. [Pfizer fined \\$106 mn for 'unfair' prices of epilepsy drug](#) – Business Standard

Britain's competition regulator on Wednesday imposed a record 84.2 million pound (\$106 million) fine on the pharmaceutical manufacturer Pfizer, and a 5.2 million pound (\$6.55 million) fine on the distributor Flynn Pharma after finding that each broke competition law by charging excessive and unfair prices for an anti-epilepsy drug. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) also ordered the companies to reduce their prices. The fines — the highest the CMA has imposed — follow prices increase by up to 2,600 per cent overnight after the drug was deliberately de-branded in September 2012, the CMA said in a statement. Pfizer rejected the findings and said it would appeal against the decision, BBC reported.

**11. [US FDA raises fresh concerns on Sun Pharma's Halol plant](#) – Business Standard**

The US Food and Drugs Administration (USFDA) has found deviations in goods manufacturing practices at Sun Pharmaceutical's Halol plant — a development which might delay revival of the drug maker's US business. The Halol plant is a key manufacturing unit for Sun Pharmaceutical, which earns about half its revenue from the US market. Halol contributed in high single digits to the company's US sales till it was served a warning letter in December 2015. The resolution of quality issues at the plant is thus crucial for the company else it will not be able to receive fresh product approvals from this plant.

The US FDA made adverse observations (known as Form 483), following an inspection at the plant on December 1. Sun Pharma confirmed the development. "A Form 483 observation letter was issued by the US FDA after the inspection. We are currently in the process of responding... within the stipulated timeline of 15 days," Sun Pharma said in a notification to stock exchanges.

**12. [Suven Life Sciences gains on securing one Product Patent in India](#) – Mint**

Suven Life Sciences has secured one product patent from India corresponding to the New Chemical Entities (NCEs) for the treatment of disorders associated with Neurodegenerative diseases and the Patent is valid through 2024. With these new patents, the pharma major has a total of twenty granted patents from India. These granted patents are exclusive intellectual property of Suven and are achieved through the internal discovery research efforts. Products out of these inventions may be out-licensed at various phases of clinical development like at Phase-I or Phase-II.