

1. ['Drug pricing control regime short-sighted'](#) – The Times of India

Up in arms against the central government's drug pricing control regime, the Indian pharma industry feels it is a short-sighted move that will stifle innovation in the country. Instead of slashing prices of drugs, the government must focus on holistic development of the healthcare sector, pharma honchos said here on Tuesday.

"If the healthcare system is not set, the whole focus goes towards pricing and that is what is happening in India today. if you see the prices of any of the products, they are the lowest (in India).. if we talk of further lowering the cost, then I think we are in for a problem," Dr Reddy's Laboratories chairman Satish Reddy said while speaking at the BioAsia 2017 CEO Conclave. The DRL chief said that the government must try to work towards improving the standard of overall healthcare in the country by improving infrastructure and skill sets. He pointed out that the healthcare spend in India is one of the lowest and that needs to change.

1. ['Drug pricing control regime short-sighted'](#) – The Times of India
2. [Reducing healthcare budget, pricing pressure squeezing pharma industry, say leaders](#) – The Economic Times
3. ["Medical devices rules notified on Jan 31"](#) – Press Trust of India
4. [Gene may determine risk of lung disease: Study](#) – Business Standard
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8. [Biocon Foundation collaborates with Dept of Health & Family Welfare to set up Smart eLAJ Clinics in Karnataka](#) – ETHealthworld.com
9. [Pharma PSUs Are Not Ready To Die!](#) – Bloomberg Quint
10. [Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance demands streamlining of approval of new drugs, biosimilars & revamping of CDSCO](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. [Reducing healthcare budget, pricing pressure squeezing pharma industry, say leaders](#) – The Economic Times

Indian pharma industry captains have reiterated their concerns over constant reduction in the healthcare budget of the Central government and an increasing pressure on price reduction which is resulting in squeezed margins. India spends about 1 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on public health, compared to 3 percent in China and 8.3 percent in the United States. Despite this low budget allotment, the contribution has been decreasing or kept stagnant in India since several years. According to Glen Saldanha, chairman and managing director, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, "The government is keen on reducing the drug prices, which are already at the world's lowest, squeezing the Indian pharma industry that has already become very competitive with large number of MNCs and domestic players operating in this space." He was speaking on the sidelines of Bio Asia 2017 in Hyderabad on Tuesday. While the government's healthcare budget has been reducing, even public-private partnerships have largely not been successful, said Dr Vasanth Narasimhan, global head of drug development and chief marketing officer, Novartis. K. Taraka Rama Rao, Telangana's industries minister attributed this to the lack of people's confidence in government healthcare institutions.

3. ["Medical devices rules notified on Jan 31"](#) – Press Trust of India

Government has notified a bill related to manufacturing of medical devices, including coronary stents, in the country in order to streamline the quality issues, Parliament was informed today. "The government after exhaustive stakeholder consultations has notified the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 on January 31, 2017," Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Ananth Kumar said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. This will help in streamlining the quality management protocol for manufacture of medical devices and remove a major hurdle to domestic manufacturers of medical devices including coronary stents, he added. The coronary stents have been included in the First Schedule of Drugs (Prices Control) Order 2013 (DPCO 2013) vide notification dated December 21, 2016 and the NPPA is mandated to fix the ceiling prices of coronary stents, he added.

4. [Gene may determine risk of lung disease: Study](#) – Business Standard

Genes of some smokers may increase their risk up to 72 per cent of developing a deadly lung disease -- the third biggest killer in the world, researchers have found. Although smoking is a strong risk factor for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) -- a group of incurable lung ailments, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis which makes it difficult to breathe -- not all people affected by COPD are smokers and not all smokers develop the disease. In the study, the researchers from the University of Leicester and University of Nottingham in Britain analysed 24 million genetic differences in 350,000 people from 13 countries to identify those who are at a higher risk of developing COPD. The findings showed that those in the highest risk group were at 3.7 times the risk of developing COPD than those in the lowest risk group.

5. [Diabetes deaths increased by 35% in 10 years in India](#) – The Times of India

Deaths due to diabetes in India has been increasing, the Rajya Sabha was informed by the health ministry on Tuesday. It would appear that India is not only the capital of diabetes, but care is so poor that deaths due to the condition is increasing. The Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that according to the Global Burden of Disease Report 2015, the number of deaths due to diabetes increased from 2.24 lakhs (in the year 2005) to 3.46 lakhs (in the year 2015). "Thus, leading the shift from 11th position to 7th position in terms of cause of death due to diabetes," the house was told in a written reply by the minister of state (health and family welfare) Fagga Singh Kulaste. The minister's reply also mentioned that the Indian government has been implementing the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) for interventions up to district level under the National Health Mission. "It has a focus on awareness generation for behaviour and life-style changes, screening and early diagnosis of persons with high level of risk factors and their treatment and referral (if required) to higher facilities for appropriate management for non-communicable diseases including diabetes," it said.

6. [Hospitals use stent prices to open path for gouging patients](#) – Daily News and Analysis

Angioplasty was supposed to be the low-cost life-saving option to open-heart surgery for cardiac patients. But in India, it appears hospitals' inflated stent prices are beating the economics of angioplasty, according to the findings of the Legal Metrology Organisation (LMO), which is crusading against the practice. Recently, LMO had carried out an inspection at Breach Candy, Global, Harkissondas, Fortis, Hiranandani, Kokilaben, Asian Heart and Lilavati Hospitals, when some irregularities were noticed. "We found that all hospitals have different prices for stents, varying from Rs 1.05 lakh to Rs 1.90 lakh. Some were purchasing from importers, some distributors and some from manufacturers," said an LMO official. He added that the prices were exorbitantly inflated at every level with no value addition. "Also the same stents were found to be branded differently and sold at different MRP. As per the LMO rules, there cannot be two MRPs for the same product. We have requested the NPPA to expedite the process of fixing standardised specification of stent and the MRP in order to stop fleecing of patients," said the official.

7. **[‘Pharmaceutical innovation has significantly contributed to society’ – The Hindu](#)**

The breakthroughs, collaborations and challenges in the field of medical sciences were highlighted by the experts, industry leaders and representatives of the corporate companies on the second day of the BioAsia 2017 conference. Delivering his keynote address, Paul Stoffels, Worldwide Chairman of Pharma, Chief Scientific Officer, Johnson & Johnson, USA, said the pharmaceutical innovation has significantly contributed to the society as increased life expectancy was the result of hygiene measures and innovation. “If you look at the abilities of the new insights and also the technological platforms, I think we should be able to do a lot more. We are working towards significant collaborations around the world to have impact on the diseases from cancer to tuberculosis and from interventional cardiology to consumer products,” he said. Vas Narasimhan, Global Head of Drug Development & CMO, Novartis, Switzerland spoke on the challenges in the field of research and development.

8. **[Biocon Foundation collaborates with Dept of Health & Family Welfare to set up Smart eLAJ Clinics in Karnataka – ETHealthworld.com](#)**

Biocon Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Health and Family Welfare of Karnataka to establish eLAJ smart clinics in 15 Primary Healthcare Centres across six districts in Karnataka. eLAJ clinics are technology-enabled, smart clinics equipped with multi-parameter monitoring device developed by PacketBIO, the technology partner of Biocon Foundation, which enables multiple diagnostic tests and generation of electronic medical records (EMRs) of patients. The eLAJ model has been designed to deliver data-based healthcare on the basis of socio-demographic and health indicators obtained from community-based screenings. This innovative health delivery model will facilitate effective preventive and primary healthcare intervention in the rural areas of Karnataka for the benefit of communities with poor access to quality healthcare.

Mr. K.R. Ramesh Kumar, Minister for Medical, Health and Family Welfare along with Ms Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder, Biocon Foundation, inaugurated the first eLAJ smart clinic under this collaboration at Mallathahalli today. The Government of Karnataka and Biocon Foundation are focused on building a scalable and sustainable healthcare model that will make affordable healthcare accessible to rural communities.

9. **[Pharma PSUs Are Not Ready To Die! – Bloomberg Quint](#)**

The government's decision to explore the strategic sale of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Bengal Chemicals – even as questions were asked of the move last week by parliamentarians including those from the BJP – shows a lack of imagination by successive governments. The two public sector undertakings (PSUs) were pioneers in laying the foundation for the self-sufficiency in drug production in this country. With such a platform, an almost unlimited supply of money, access to government infrastructure and a helpful regulatory and patent regime, they had all the ingredients for lasting success. It is difficult to understand why the government has not been willing to re-purpose these investments. Rather than sell off the land, there is a great opportunity for the government to include these industries in the 'Make in India' project. It is sad that while we import simple drugs like paracetamol, PSUs like IDPL and Bengal Chemicals are allowed to disappear into oblivion.

10. **[Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance demands streamlining of approval of new drugs, biosimilars & revamping of CDSCO – Pharmabiz.com](#)**

Close on the heels of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's announcement to amend Drugs and Cosmetics Rules in Budget 2017-18 to make drugs affordable, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance has sought streamlining the process of new drug approval, transparent and clear regulatory process for biosimilar approval and revamping CDSCO structure and organisation to serve patients' interest at

par with developed markets. Today Indian pharma's biggest bottleneck in overseas market is functioning of our drug regulatory system which is taken into account to determine quality of drugs supplied by the country's drug makers. It is our long standing demand for restructuring and strengthening regulatory regime so that it can take science based decision to promote public health on the lines of global practices with minimum interference from bureaucracy, said DG Shah, Secretary General of Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.