1. **Pharma companies want you to pay more for 'risky' bioresorbable stents – The Economic Times**

Would you pay a higher price for a 'technological advancement' that might be worse for you? That may sound bizarre, but it is what stent manufacturers are demanding. In the ongoing tussle over fixing a ceiling price for stents, companies want the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to fix a higher price for bioresorbable stents or stents that get absorbed by the body after they finish the job of propping open a clogged artery. But the latest study on them published in the premier medical journal Lancet has shown that the risk of restenosis -the artery narrowing again after stenting -might be higher with bioresorbable stents.

According to the study, published in the November 2016 issue of Lancet, a three year comparison of drug eluting metallic stents (DES) and bioresorbable scaffolds (stents) showed that the device might perform as well as a metallic stent clinically , but it also meant an "increased risk" of stent thrombosis (blockage). Bioresorbable stents were introduced into the Indian market and in Europe by Abbott in 2012. However, it did not receive US FDA approval till March last year.

2. **Health ministry set to clarify on sale of drugs by e-pharma firms – Mint**

The health ministry is set to clarify that it is legal for e-pharmacy companies to sell drugs online, industry secretary Ramesh Abhishek said on Monday. “The Drugs and Cosmetics Act does not say that you cannot have e-pharmacy. There is some clarity required on this. So, what the ministry of health is doing is working on some clarifications which will clarify this is allowed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act,” Abhishek said.

Offline pharmacy associations such as the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists that has gone on strike multiple times has claimed that easy access to medicines online can lead to irrational use, increase the risk of drug reactions, illegal sales and drug addiction among the youth. E-pharma companies argue that they only sell medicines based on valid prescriptions, and that it is easier for users to find medicines on an online platform than in physical stores.

Similar report –

- ‘Clarifications on online sale of medicines soon’ – The Indian Express

3. **Alarm bells as diabetes, Hepatitis C drugs fly off shelves – The Times of India**
   Medicines that treat the Hepatitis C (sofosbuvir) and diabetes (teneligliptin) emerged as the highest-selling drugs in 2016 among the new launches in the domestic retail market, a grim reminder of the alarming spread of lifestyle diseases in India. The medicines and combinations for Hepatitis C, a liver infection, had the highest sales among the top 10 brands launched over a two-year period, with Natco Pharma's Hepcinat (sofosbuvir) netting sales of Rs 158 crore, followed closely by Sun Pharma's Revital H, a health supplement, with Rs 148 crore, data culled from market research firm AIOCD Awacs shows. Overall, the market, which is valued at Rs 1.07 lakh crore, showed a robust growth of over 10% for the year, buoyed by strong sales of anti-diabetic and cardiac therapies. Diabetes therapy Mixtard from Novo Nordisk has become the first brand to cross Rs 500 crore in sales, while Sun Pharma, Abbott and Cipla retained their slots as top companies in the domestic retail market for 12-month period ended December 2016.

4. **TB institute warns against use of new drug – The Hindu**
   Uncertainty continues to shroud the fate of 18-year-old girl suffering from Extreme Drug Resistant (XDR) Tuberculosis who is waiting for the drug Bedaquiline (BDQ). The National Institute of Tuberculosis & Respiratory Diseases (NITRD) on Monday told the Delhi High Court that the drug could not be administered without proper tests as it might lead to the TB-causing bacteria becoming further drug resistant and may spread to the community and have catastrophic effects. The Institute said, “It is wrong to suggest that conducting Drug Susceptibility Testing and waiting for its results is merely a bureaucratic requirement..It is absolutely essential to study the drug resistance of the bacteria in the patient's case so as to formulate the right BDQ containing regimen lest the bacteria become DBQ resistant and spread in the community.” The Centre, meanwhile, sought two more days to file its affidavit.

5. **Think before you go under the knife. Study finds overuse of health care worldwide – Hindustan Times**
   Up to 70% of hysterectomies in the United States, a quarter of knee replacements in Spain and more than half the antibiotics prescribed in China are inappropriate, overused health care, researchers said on Monday. Experts who carried out a series of studies across the world found that medicine and health care are routinely both over- and underused, causing avoidable harm and suffering and wasting precious resources. The studies, commissioned by The Lancet journal and conducted by 27 international specialists, also found rates of Caesarian section deliveries are soaring – often in women who do not need them – while the simple use of steroids to prevent premature births has lagged for 40 years. “A common tragedy in both wealthy and poor countries is the use of expensive and sometimes ineffective technology while low-cost effective interventions are neglected,” a statement issued by the specialists read. The World Health Organization estimates that 6.2 million excess C-sections are performed each year: 50% of them in Brazil and China alone.

6. **Paul: Trump backs health repeal, replacement at same time – The Economic Times**
   A Republican senator who challenged Donald Trump for the White House nomination says the president-elect "fully supports" repealing President Barack Obama's health law only when there's a viable alternative to replace it. Republican leaders in the GOP-controlled Congress are moving toward a vote on repeal legislation in coming weeks, but they anticipate a transition period of months or years to a replacement. Some Republican lawmakers are expressing reservations about scrapping the law, which now covers 20 million people, without a near-term replacement. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who clashed with Trump during the GOP primary, said in a tweet late Friday that the two had a conversation and that Trump agreed with Paul's approach. "I just spoke to @realDonaldTrump and he fully supports my plan to replace Obamacare the same day we repeal it," Paul tweeted. "The time to act is now."

Trump aides did not immediately respond questions about the conversation and how it had come about. Nothing about revamping the nation's $3 trillion-a-year health care system will come easy, but GOP leaders want congressional committees to have legislation dismantling much of Obama's overhaul ready by late January. They're hoping Congress can quickly send a measure to the incoming president that would phase out the law, perhaps a couple of months later.

7. **Former Dr. Reddy's exec-led Slayback Pharma raises $60 mn from KKR – VC Circle**
Slayback Pharma, LLC, a privately held pharmaceutical company founded by a former executive of Indian drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, has raised $60 million (around Rs 400 crore) from global investment firm KKR, it said in a statement. The financing will help Slayback accelerate the development of its portfolio of generic and specialty pharmaceutical products, KKR said in the statement. Slayback was founded in 2011 by Ajay Singh, who was vice president of strategy, portfolio and business development at Dr. Reddy's for its North American generics division, a spokesperson of the firm said.

   The firm works closely with active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) suppliers and contract manufacturing organisations (CMOs) based in India (though not exclusively), in addition to employing formulation and technical staff in India, the spokesperson said without divulging further details.

8. **ICMR issues guidelines on diagnosis & management of celiac disease – Pharmabiz.com**
The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued guidelines on diagnosis and management of celiac disease which will help physicians, pathologists, nutritionists and other related disciplines to take care of these patients in an efficient and scientific manner. Besides, these guidelines will serve to rationalise the treatment of celiac disease in the country as well as serve as a reference for the postgraduate students interested in this area. Celiac disease has been increasingly reported from several states of north India. Recognising its importance, ICMR constituted a Task Force on Celiac disease which recommended that ICMR should develop guidelines for the diagnosis and management of celiac disease in India. This need was felt since in India tropical enteropathy or environmental enteropathy is widely prevalent, and the incidence of parasitic and other infections of the small intestine is also significant. This meant that guidelines for management of celiac disease which are available internationally, have to be customised for the Indian conditions. Hence this activity of formulating Indian Guidelines was undertaken by the expert group.

9. **14th edition of BioAsia 2017 to be held in Hyderabad from Feb 6-8 – Pharmabiz.com**
The 14th edition of BioAsia 2017 is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad at Hyderabad International Convention Center (HICC) from February 6. This time BioAsia 2017, is expected to bring together on its platform some of the top influential executives from global pharma and biotechnology powerhouses such as Dr. Paul Stoffels, Worldwide Chairman of Pharmaceuticals and Chief Scientific Officer from Johnson & Johnson, Vasant Narasimhan, Global Head of Drug Development and Chief Medical Officer from Novartis, Dr. Patrick Vallance, President Worldwide Pharmaceuticals, R&D from GSK, among many others. In fact during the past more than a decade now, BioAsia, has been the leading flagship annual event of the state government. Organized by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Telangana, this event has emerged as a preeminent technology and bio-business convention in Asia for Life sciences, pharmaceuticals and healthcare.

10. **Health ministry to mandate upgradation of Schedule M units to WHO-GMP level – Phamrabiz.com**
The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has submitted a proposal to the Union health ministry to mandate upgradation of Schedule M units across the country to WHO-GMP level under the purview of Drug Rules towards good manufacturing practices adopted globally. This is also in line with Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)'s plans to bring about uniformity in

inspections of Schedule M units across the country as a part of its programme to upgrade Schedule M units to WHO-GMP standards. Says Dr G N Singh, DCGI, “Government will soon make it mandatory for schedule M units to raise their standards to WHO-GMP through a notification in the interest of the public under the current provisions of the law.” The current upgradation to WHO-GMP level is being evolved around the learning from global regulatory counterparts on current good manufacturing practices (cGMP) which will help manufacturers in adopting global GMP practices.