

1. [Budget 2017 wishlist: Expectations from the healthcare sector](#) – Business Standard

Sector size: \$110 bn (2016)

Employment figure: 4.2 mn (2016)
(Source PIB.nic.in)

Contribution to GDP: 4.7% of GDP is spent on healthcare

(Source World Bank.org)

Key issues or areas of concern for each sector:

Need for introducing universal health care coverage with due weightage to quality of care delivered

Growing burden of non-communicable disease

Sector demands:

Viable reimbursement models for the private sector

Ensure GST is not applicable to health care services

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2. [View: Govt should reduce over dependence on Chinese imports of pharma raw materials](#) – The Economic Times
3. [NE has potential to push Indian medical systems: Jitendra Singh](#) – Business Standard
4. [GSK grabs AstraZeneca executive to replace pharma head](#) – Daily News and Analysis
5. [Sanofi among six FDI proposals worth ₹1,186.5 crore cleared](#) – The Hindu Business Line
6. [Zydus buys US speciality pharma co](#) – The Times of India
7. [Drug to treat drug resistant TB not accessible: Doctors](#) – Deccan Chronicle
8. [After more than 6 decades of Pharmacy Act roll out, most of the states yet to appoint pharmacy inspectors](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. [View: Govt should reduce over dependence on Chinese imports of pharma raw materials](#) – The Economic Times

The expectations of the country from Budget 2017 has gained significance and momentum in light of the disruption caused in the Indian economy by the demonetisation scheme, albeit for a short term. These are economic theories which suggest that GDP growth of the country could be lower in FY17 than FY 16 one can expect some announcements aimed at soothing the pain caused by the scheme as well as keeping in mind the government's mantra of simplifying the tax reforms in the country. The pharma sector is one of the key sectors of the Indian economy with India being the second largest market in Asia. The government has recognised the need for providing an impetus to the industry and the sector is one of the key focus areas in the Make in India campaign of our Prime Minister.

There is a need to reduce the over dependence on China for import of active pharmaceutical ingredients ('APIs') (raw materials used to make bulk drugs) and become self-sufficient. Therefore, there is a need to take immediate concrete steps to create adequate infrastructure in the country to boost the manufacturing of APIs in India with investment-based tax incentives such as special zones or manufacture and export of APIs and special package schemes similar to Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme ('M-SIPS') or Electronics Manufacturing Cluster Scheme.

3. [NE has potential to push Indian medical systems: Jitendra Singh](#) – Business Standard

Development of North Eastern Region Minister (DoNER) Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that India has evolved from an era of communicable diseases into an era of non-communicable diseases. The DoNER Minister also said Indian medicinal system should be emphasised more for medicinal purposes. Emphasising on the importance of Indian medicinal system Ayurveda, Singh said the northeastern region has huge potential for the organic products which have huge health

benefits. "The northeast region has huge potential for the organic products which have huge health benefits. This unexplored potential needs to be explored," said Singh. He was speaking at the inauguration of two-day International Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic plants of India.

4. [GSK grabs AstraZeneca executive to replace pharma head](#) – Daily News and Analysis

GlaxoSmithKline's global head of pharmaceuticals, Abbas Hussain, is to leave Britain's biggest drugmaker after being passed over for the top job and will be replaced by Luke Miels from AstraZeneca. Hussain, the brother of former England cricket captain Nasser Hussain, had been a contender to take over from Chief Executive Andrew Witty, who steps down at the end of March, but the job went to GSK's consumer health boss Emma Walmsley. "Succession processes are challenging for everyone involved and, unfortunately, it is rare that all of those involved stay with the company," Witty said. Miels' defection, announced by GSK on Thursday, is a blow for AstraZeneca, which has seen a string of high-profile scientists leave in the last 18 months. Its head of oncology, Mondher Mahjoubi, left to join French biotech company Innate Pharma a month ago, while Sanofi poached one of its top researchers in March. AstraZeneca said Miels, who heads its European business, would stand down with immediate effect and the company had started the process to find his replacement.

5. [Sanofi among six FDI proposals worth ₹1,186.5 crore cleared](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The government has cleared six Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals totalling ₹1,186.5 crore. These include four from pharmaceutical companies including Sanofi-Synthelabo and Boehringer Ingelheim. It also deferred a decision on six proposals and rejected three, according to an official release circulated on Thursday. The decisions were taken by the Finance Ministry based on the recommendations of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board in its meeting on December 29. Approval was given to Sanofi-Synthelabo (India) Private Ltd (SSIPL) to acquire the consumer health care business of Boehringer Ingelheim India Private Ltd (BI) as a going concern on a slump sale basis. The non-compete covenants that have been agreed by BI International GmbH as part of the global transaction with Sanofi France was also approved. The transaction did not involve any flow of funds. As part of a separate proposal, BI India was allowed to acquire the animal health business of Sanofi in India which includes certain assets of SSIPL at ₹156.5 crore. The non-compete covenants set out in the Global AH Agreement to be implemented in India were also approved.

6. [Zydus buys US speciality pharma co](#) – The Times of India

Zydus Cadila has acquired Sentynl Therapeutics, a US-based speciality pharma company, focused on marketing of products in the pain management segment. The transaction will be EPS-accretive.

With this acquisition, Zydus makes a foray into the speciality pain market in the US valued at \$8 billion. It gains access to the segment's distribution network and a large prescriber base, says a company statement. This acquisition will also enable the Zydus group to leverage its existing assets in the US.

Speaking on the development, Pankaj Patel CMD Zydus Cadila said, "We have always looked at opportunities that can add value to our operations and the acquisition of Sentynl opens up a new business avenue for us in the speciality prescription segment in the US. With a strong commitment to offer effective treatment solutions with a focus on pain management, this new development offers us a platform to launch more speciality products in the US market."

7. [Drug to treat drug resistant TB not accessible: Doctors](#) – Deccan Chronicle

Despite the fact that Bedaquiline - a medicine used to treat Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MTR TB) - hurriedly introduced last year with the motive of making India TB-free, it continues to be in trial and is still available only in six centres in the country. A young girl from Patna was recently denied the 'Miracle Medicine for TB' despite being in dire need. "Though the drug falls under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), as of now, it is used in only six centres around

the country in order to check its feasibility,” said Dr Sunil Khaparde, deputy director general, ministry of health and family welfare, Government of India. “When the medicine was initially launched, the patient would have to stay in Tambaram – the only centre in the state where the eligibility test is conducted – for two months for initial treatment. However, now, it just takes two weeks. Following the test, the patient can continue his treatment at the district training office at his district,” said former state TB officer Dr Lakshmi Murali.

8. [After more than 6 decades of Pharmacy Act roll out, most of the states yet to appoint pharmacy inspectors – Pharmabiz.com](#)

Even though more than six decades have passed since the Pharmacy Act was enacted to regulate pharmacy profession in the country, barring two states, rest of the country is yet to appoint pharmacy inspectors mandated by the Act to check and enforce Section 42 and Chapters III, IV and V of this Act or any Rules made there under. As per section 42, the drug distribution is done by only registered pharmacists. Section 26A of the Pharmacy Act empowers the state pharmacy councils with the sanction from the state governments to appoint pharmacy inspectors having prescribed qualifications. The Act also authorizes the inspectors to inspect premises where drugs are dispensed, to enquire whether persons engaged in dispensing are qualified and to act against any violation of the Act.