

1. [Japanese companies make cautious return to Indian pharma market](#) – The Economic Times

After burning their fingers more than once in India with troubled acquisitions, Japanese drug makers are back in this market, this time through the age-old route of product launches. Japanese companies received the highest number of drug approvals from the Drug Controller General of India in 2016, beating their American and Swiss counterparts. Out of the 20 approvals that came in the past year, five went to four Japanese companies: Eisai, Takeda, Dainippon Sumitomo and Mitsubishi Tanabe.

“Most (Japanese) organisations are of the view that it is better to go alone or through collaborations instead of going the acquisition route,” said Sanjit Lamba, the India head of Eisai Pharmaceuticals.

2. [Govt mulls setting CGHS price of stent as cap under NLEM](#) – Business Standard

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has proposed a few options for capping stent prices, just before its three-day consultation with all stakeholders, which starts tomorrow. In July, stents were brought under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which led to capping of their prices. For this, the exercise of consultations began in August, with industry lobbies at loggerheads over how drug-eluting stents that vary in quality should be treated. In December, the Department of Pharmaceuticals included stents under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013 following which, the pricing authority started the pricing process, which it now wants to complete by February.

"In case of coronary stents, hospitals / nursing homes are acting as de-facto retailers," said NPPA in its notification to justify the options it has come up with. One of the options is to apply Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) rates for stents with an annual increase of 10 per cent in prices. At present drug-eluting stents are priced at around Rs 23,000 while bare-metal stents are priced at about Rs 12,000.

3. [Government plans law as attacks on doctors by patients' kin rise](#) – The Economic Times

Taking cognisance of increasing cases of violence against doctors by kin or attendants of patients, the government is mulling drafting a central law to ensure protection of the caregivers. Over 75% of

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doctors across the country are reported to have faced at least some form of violence, estimates by the Indian Medical Association shows. Following complaints from the medical fraternity, the government had set up an inter-ministerial committee in 2015 to examine such issues and evaluate ways to ensure safety of those who save lives. In its recommendations, the panel has suggested the health ministry initiate the process to bring a central act on the issue. The proposed law may have stringent provisions like making any act of violence against a doctor, medical professional or hospital authority a non-bailable offence, a source said.

4. **[HC asks Centre to decide on mandatory sealing of health care](#) – Business Standard**

The Bombay High Court has directed the Centre to treat a petition -- seeking mandatory sealing of health care products and consumer durables -- as if it was a representation made to it and take appropriate decision expeditiously, preferably within six months. The direction was issued recently by a division bench headed by Justice Shantunu Kemkar which was hearing a PIL filed by advocate Gitanjali Dutta. However, the bench made it clear that it was not commenting upon the merits of the petition. The PIL demanded that cosmetic goods, personal hygiene products, skin and hair care creams and lotions should be sold only in sealed packets or containers.

5. **[Battle for access to tuberculosis medicine reaches HC](#) – The Economic Times**

Patients with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB) can separately import the potentially life-saving 'bedaquiline' if they don't qualify for the drug under India's conditional access programme with US drugmaker Johnson & Johnson, the government has said. The issue was brought up on Monday when an XDR TB patient's father took New Delhi's LRS TB hospital to the Delhi High Court for refusing to administer bedaquiline because the patient was not a Delhi resident. The patient, who is from Bihar, is not under LRS' care anymore, argued the counsel for the hospital at the Delhi court. The counsel said the patient could procure the bedaquiline directly from J&J with the help of Zarir F Udwadia, a Mumbai-based consultant chest physician who recommended its use.

6. **[Suven Life Gains On Patent Nod For Neuro-Degenerative Drug](#) – Bloomberg Quint**

Shares of the pharma firm gained as much as 4.1 percent after it said it has been granted a patent each by Eurasia and Norway for a drug used in the treatment of neuro-degenerative diseases. In a BSE filing today, Suven Life said it has been granted one product patent from Eurasia and one product patent from Norway corresponding to the New Chemical Entities (NCEs) for the treatment of disorders associated with Neurodegenerative diseases. The patents are valid until 2032 and 2025, respectively, the company added. With the new patents, Suven has a total of 20 granted patent from Eurasia and 6 from Norway.

7. **[USFDA warning to Wockhardt's Ankleshwar plant over data integrity issues](#) – Business Standard**

US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has issued a warning letter to Wockhardt's Ankleshwar plant for data integrity issues, destruction of records and other violation of good manufacturing practices. Three of the company's plants, including the one at Ankleshwar, are under an import alert. In its warning letter FDA said the company failed to take measures to prevent microbiological contamination. Further it said the company failed to record complete data of medical tests and

failed to exercise control over computers to ensure only authorised personnel make changes in production and control records.

8. **[Sanofi Pasteur and MSD end joint vaccines business in Europe](#) – ETHealthworld.com**

Sanofi and its vaccines global business unit Sanofi Pasteur confirmed today the end of their vaccine joint-venture with MSD (known as Merck & Co. Inc., in the United States and Canada), Sanofi Pasteur MSD (SPMSD). Sanofi Pasteur and MSD will separately pursue their own vaccine strategies in Europe, integrating their respective European vaccines business into their operations. The change in operations took effect January 1, 2017.

Since its announcement in March 2016, the project has been managed in an open dialogue with the SPMSD employees, unions and relevant external stakeholders, in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations. During the transitional period following the announcement of the ending of the joint-venture, SPMSD and Sanofi and Merck, its shareholders, have been focused on a smooth and orderly transition while achieving their public healthcare goals and upholding their commitments to their employees, customers and business partners.

9. **[Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw: e-health push can build 'Swastha Bharat'](#) – Business Standard**

2016 was a landmark year for India as demonetisation nudged the country towards an inclusive, less-cash dependent digital future. In 2017, the government should push for the increased adoption of technology to transform the country's public health care system and ensure a healthy future for all Indians. The low priority accorded to health care in India over the years has resulted in a vicious cycle of disease, death and destitution in the country.

10. **[GST to push digital technology in pharma sector: Dr Sandeep Narula](#) – Pharmabiz.com**

Pharma sector is set to witness a massive surge in the adoption of digital technology with the roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) this year. As of now due to uneven tax structure in the country, companies are facing massive challenge in tapping the unexploited market. Once GST becomes operational, the companies will be increasingly adopting digital technologies viz. social networking tools, Internet of Things (IoT), block chain technology, cloud computing, analytics to ensure faster and wider access to the market, said Dr Sandeep Narula, professor at IIHMR University, Jaipur. The uniform tax structure to be introduced by GST across the country will have tremendous impact on marketing, business model of pharma companies and will unleash opportunities for digitalisation in pharma.