

1. [Govt targets 500 combination drugs, confrontation with pharma companies looming](#) – The Times of India

After banning 344 combination drugs earlier this year, the government has turned its attention to another 500 such medicines, setting the stage possibly for another round of confrontation with the pharma industry. According to a person familiar with the development, the central drug regulator has sent letters to nearly 300 companies, which have sought marketing approvals for fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs. Some of these firms have been issued show-cause notices and asked to conduct Phase IV trials — a post-marketing study — as evidence to show their products are safe and effective. But in a sign that the government is not taking a totally adversarial stand on the issue, some companies have been granted no-objection certificates (NOCs) for their products. The exact number of approvals could not be ascertained. Pfizer has received a letter granting it an NOC, a company spokesperson confirmed to ET. The company did not reveal the name of the combination drug for which the letter was issued.

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2. [Over-dependence on China for key pharma raw material worrying: ASSOCHAM Paper](#) – Business Standard

India may have emerged as a key supplier of generic and affordable medicine for the world market, its overwhelming dependence on China for a crucial raw material, known as Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) to the extent of over 65 per cent of the requirement, has emerged as a main worrying area, an ASSOCHAM-RNCOS joint paper has noted. This is all the more disconcerting in the face of louder narrative against reducing trade gap with China which is well over USD 51 billion, adds the ASSOCHAM study. The API is the organ by which active pharmaceutical ingredients are manufactured from raw materials through both chemical and physical means. While rapid growth in new medical technologies is spurring the demand for APIs worldwide today with the increased import of raw pharma ingredients from the emerging markets, India's rising dependence on imports from China for many APIs that go into the making of a number of essential drugs has been cited as an area of concern for the policy makers.

3. [Three pharma companies to focus on](#) – Business Standard

Indian pharma companies have seen topsy-turvy fortunes for more than a year now. After a weak June quarter impacted by drug pricing and fixed dose combination bans, companies have reported good growth in the September quarter. Led by rebound in acute segment, domestic pharma market

has grown 12.6 per cent in the September quarter, the fastest pace in many quarters. Benefits are likely to accrue to Sun Pharma, Lupin, Dr Reddy's, Cadila, Glenmark, and many others.

4. [Heart attack, lung disease, stroke: 3 killers in India](#) – The Times of India

Heart attacks, lung obstruction and strokes are the three top causes of death in India, accounting for over one-third of deaths. Along with diabetes and chronic kidney diseases, they make five non-communicable diseases that are part of the top ten causes of death. Communicable diseases in the top 10 include lower respiratory tract diseases like bronchitis and pneumonia, diarrhea, TB and diseases occurring to prematurely born babies. Road injuries are the tenth most prevalent cause of death. Together, these 10 make up 60% of the 10.3 million deaths in India every year.

5. [Telemedicon to focus on digital healthcare](#) – Business Standard

The 12th international conference 'Telemedicon 2016' on November 10-12 here will focus on the digital transformation in healthcare in India, said an official on Tuesday. "Digital interventions have not only improved access, affordability and quality of healthcare, but also created opportunities for innovations in the primary healthcare sector in the country," said Telemedicon organising secretary Sanjay Sharma in a statement here. Organised by the Telemedicine Society of India in collaboration with the American Telemedicine Association, the three-day conclave is expected to generate business worth \$20 million (Rs 133 crore) through sale of healthcare products and solutions.

6. [Big Pharma's India shadow](#) – Mint

The medical world is in the grip of a fierce debate triggered by the findings of two academic studies both related to the impact on us of statins, the group of drugs which act to reduce levels of cholesterol in the blood and are routinely given to those who have cardiac issues. An article in The Lancet, Interpretation of the evidence for the efficacy and safety of statin therapy, concluded that "statin therapy has been shown to reduce vascular disease risk during each year it continues to be taken, so larger absolute benefits would accrue with more prolonged therapy, and these benefits persist long term." It de-emphasised the side-effects from prolonged use of the drugs.

7. [Suven Life up 5% on patents for neuro-degenerative drug](#) – The Economic Times

Shares of Suven Life Sciences rose over 5 per cent today as the company has been granted one product patent each by Europe and Israel for a drug used in the treatment of neuro-degenerative diseases. The stock gained 5.22 per cent to Rs 204.30 on BSE. At NSE, shares of the company went up 5.27 per cent to Rs 204.50. The company has been granted "one product patent from Europe and one product patent from Israel corresponding to the New Chemical Entities (NCEs) for the treatment of disorders associated with neuro-degenerative diseases," it said in a BSE filing today.

Similar reports –

- [Suven Life gets patents in Europe, Israel for neuro-degenerative drug candidate](#) – Mint
- [Suven Life Sciences gains after securing two product patents](#) – Business Standard
- [Suven gets product patent for neuro-degenerative drug](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [Suven Life Sciences Bags Two Patents](#) – Bloomberg Quint

8. [Eywa Pharma raises \\$30 million](#) – Mint

Singapore-based generic pharmaceutical firm Eywa Pharma Pte Ltd has secured \$30 million from a group of investors including Eight Roads Ventures India, the proprietary investment arm of FIL, Fidelity International Ltd, and the US-based F-Prime Capital Partners. Envestor Ventures Ltd, together with its affiliates (part of the Shriram Group), also participated in this funding round. Other terms of the deal were not disclosed. Incorporated in 2015, Eywa is engaged in research and development, manufacture, marketing, sale and distribution of generic finished dosage formulations and provides affordable generic pharmaceuticals across the world.

Similar report –

- [Eywa Pharma raises \\$30 mn from clutch of investors](#) – Business Standard

9. [Maha FDA suggests to NPPA to bring imported cardiac stents & drug eluting stents under price control](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Based on an extensive survey covering hospitals in Pune, Nashik and Mumbai, the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently suggested to the drug pricing regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to bring imported cardiac stents and drug eluting stents (DES) under price control. For this, the FDA has cited case studies wherein the margins of these products can be brought down significantly even by 30 per cent or more to make it affordable at the point of care. This comes at a time when the government is in advanced stages of framing a policy on medical devices as part of its mandate to make medical devices affordable through an effective and rationale pricing policy. While medical devices including DES have been notified as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 but the Union health ministry has recently accepted the recommendations of an expert panel constituted to examine the issues relating to the essentiality of coronary stents and has decided to include coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) with immediate effect.

10. [R&D SPENDING BY PHARMA COS](#) – Pharmabiz.com

A Pharmabiz study of R&D spending by 25 research based Indian pharmaceutical companies reveals that their research expenditure during 2015-16 went up by 24 per cent as compared to the previous year. These 25 companies spent a total amount of Rs 11,710 crore for R&D during 2015-16 as compared to Rs 9,439 crore in the previous year. And on an average these companies are spending more than 7 per cent of their net sales on R&D. In fact the average R&D spending of these companies stood at 7.8 per cent in 2015-16 as against 7.1 in the previous year. Among the 25 companies, Sun Pharma, the largest Indian pharmaceutical company, spent the highest amount of Rs.2,303 crore on research during the year. Dr Reddy's Lab spent Rs.1,790 crore. Lupin's R&D expenditure stands at Rs.1,732 crore which is almost 55 per cent more than what the company spent in the previous year. Cipla's R&D spend increased by 22.7 per cent to Rs 1,035 crore during 2015-16 from Rs 844 crore. Alembic and Ajanta Pharma are the two companies which reported a 100 per cent increase in their R&D spend during 2015-16 over the previous year. R&D expenditure of some of the companies such as Ipca Labs, Piramal Healthcare, Venus Remedies, Unichem Labs and Panacea Biotec, however declined during 2015-16 for some unexplained reasons.