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Catchup Capsule: Key APAC Insights You Need To Read

by [Ian Haydock](#)

Given its ever-growing role as a critical component of the global biopharma industry, you can't afford not to be up to speed on Asia. This selection of recent insights from our experienced on-the-ground team will help.

A selection of key stories you may have missed from the Asia-based content team for *Scrip* and the *Pink Sheet* over the past few weeks, reflecting the diversity and depth of issues facing the biopharma industry in this critical and fast-changing region.

In this edition: the current state of COVID-19 antivirals in India; interviews with up and coming Korean and Chinese bioventures; more government support for Indian industry; and how one past acquisition has not worked out as planned.

(Highlighted text provides links to the original story.)

COVID-19 Antivirals In India One Year On

COVID-19 doesn't seem to be going away any time soon and antivirals remdesivir and favipiravir remain part of the treatment armamentarium. "Safety inventories" are in place for remdesivir in India, while a key physician anticipates an uptick in the use of favipiravir amid a surge in cases in parts of the country. Anju Ghangurde in Mumbai [reviews where things are](#) a year on.

Korean Venture Looks To Take AI Tech Global

The South Korean AI-driven drug discovery venture Standigm is vying with global rivals in the space to show concrete validation of its approaches in partnered projects, while eyeing international expansion and new fundraising, its CEO says in an [interview with Jung Won Shin](#) in Seoul.

India Plows More Funds Into Industry Support Schemes

Following a huge incentive scheme for APIs, the Indian government has come up with more funding for a new program of support for formulations and more. [Vibha Ravi in Mumbai](#) looks at

whether this \$3bn push will prove to be the one that major Indian pharma companies need to break into the top league.

China's CANBridge Hones In On Rare Diseases

The Beijing/Boston-based bioventure shocked the industry with its recent announcement of the return of exclusive rights to an oncology assets in the greater China area to its US licensee, in an effort to focus squarely on rare diseases. CEO James Xue shares his views in [this exclusive interview](#) with *Scrip's* Brian Yang in Beijing. (This article has now been made free access with registration.)

Past Acquisition Yields Few Benefits For Dainippon

The Japanese firm's recent decision to halt development of its lead oncology asset, gained through a multi-billion-dollar acquisition where it was the main attraction, not only has a financial cost but may prompt more strategic deal-making, [Ian Haydock in Tokyo reports](#).

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