

1. [Delhi HC quashes government ban on fixed dose combination drugs](#) – Mint

In a major relief to the pharmaceutical sector, the Delhi high court on Thursday quashed a government-imposed ban on fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs. The cases—filed by several drug companies in as many as 454 petitions—question the validity of the ban imposed by the government on FDC drugs. This was based on a 10 March notification, by which the government banned 344 FDC drugs, which extended to about 6,000 brands, citing health risks and lack of any therapeutic justification.

Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw allowed the petitions of the drug companies, in effect setting aside the March notification. The high court in its judgment said that the government did not follow proper procedure for banning the FDC drugs and did so in a haphazard manner. An FDC is a cocktail of two or more active drug ingredients in a fixed ratio of doses. These drugs are popular in India due to advantages such as increased efficacy, better compliance, reduced cost and simpler logistics of distribution.

During the hearings, the government maintained that the ban was in public interest as the combination drugs were not safe for health and have been banned in several other countries.

Other key reports –

- [Delhi High Court quashes government ban on over 300 medicines like Corex, Saridon](#) – The Economic Times
- [Pharma companies bat for settlement out of court on FDC issue](#) – The Economic Times
- [Delhi high court sets aside Centre's decision to ban 344 fixed dose combination medicines](#) – The Times of India
- [FDC ban controversy: Appeals expected, as pharma industry gets a breather](#) – The Hindu Business Line
- [HC quashes government notification banning FDC drugs](#) – Business Standard
- [Delhi HC sets aside ban on 344 combination drugs](#) – The Hindu
- [Delhi HC scraps government ban on 344 fixed dose combination drugs](#) – Hindustan Times

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7. [India can end HIV epidemic by 2030, says health minister Nadda](#) – Hindustan Times
8. [Pharma export records 1.96% negative growth in bulk drug and formulations, Ayush export rises 16%](#) - Pharmabiz.com
9. [Experts welcome India's denial of patent to prostate cancer drug, Xtandi](#) – Pharmabiz.com
10. [AIOCD's proposal for refresher course cannot be welcomed and supported: TN IPA](#) – Pharmabiz.com

- [Delhi High Court scraps central government's ban on 344 FDC drugs](#) – Daily News and Analysis
- [Delhi HC quashes ban on 344 fixed dose combination medicines](#) – The Indian Express
- [How and why Delhi High Court revoked ban on 344 popular drugs](#) – The Indian Express
- [Delhi HC scraps ban on drug cocktails, says decision was taken 'haphazardly'](#) – The New Indian Express

2. [Need for immediate review of recruitment rules in AYUSH Ministry: Parliamentary panel](#) – **The Economic Times**

Noting that not much attention is being paid by AYUSH Ministry in updating recruitment rules for various posts, a parliamentary panel has said that there is an urgent need for a comprehensive review of all such rules to bring uniformity and leaving no scope of discrimination. "The committee notes that not much attention is being paid by the Ministry of Ayush in up keeping and updating the recruitment rules for various posts in the Ministry."The representatives of the Ministry of Ayush conceded before the committee that they were not even in the possession of all the recruitment rules pertaining to different posts belonging to Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani streams," the Committee on Subordinate Legislations (2015-17) said in its 16th report on rules and regulations framed under various acts of Parliament pertaining to Ministry of Ayush.

3. [Health officials asked to explain 2,234 new HIV infections in the past two years](#) – **Hindustan Times**

After the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) revealed that 2,234 people in the country have been infected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) from 2014 to 2016, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), based on the complaint filed by an activist, has instructed health officials to submit a report within eight weeks. The health department, however, claimed that the figures indicate self-reported cases and lack credibility.

NHRC released the directive on November 23, asking NACO and other concerned officials to respond to the complaint and file a report. Responding to the same, Dr Shobhini Rajan, assistant director general (blood safety) said that they have already filed a response, pointing out the loophole in infection reporting and spread guidelines.

4. [China looking to buy Indian Pharma](#) – **The Times of India**

Chinese investors are looking at opportunities to acquire pharmaceutical companies in India, an expert with a government-backed think tank said. "Today, more and more Chinese companies see India as their first destination when going global," Wang Dehua, Director of the Institute for the Southern and Central Asian Studies at the Shanghai Municipal Center for International Studies, said in a commentary on Thursday published in the state backed Global Times. Last July, Shanghai-based Fosun Pharmaceutical Group announced it was looking to acquire an 86 per cent stake in India's Gland Pharma for \$1.26 billion. If successful, it would be the largest pharmaceutical deal involving any Chinese company in India.

5. [World AIDS Day: Beyond condoms, India must protect generic drug industry](#) – **Firspost.com**

Over the last one decade India has emerged as the pharmacy of the world. Nearly 17 million people in developing countries receive low-cost medicines from India. It's a very good thing, but unfortunately, one facing constant threats. After India joined the World Trade Organisation in 1995, it signed several trade agreements with it and the member nations including the US and the European Union, both of which have constantly been lobbying for strong intellectual property rights through free-trade (FTAs) and bilateral agreements. "And while it opened new markets for India, in hindsight, it also allowed them ways to pressure India to change its intellectual property rights (IPR) rules, thus threatening India's generic drug market," says Loon Gangte, regional coordinator of International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC), South Asia. ITPC works towards enabling people in need to access optimal HIV treatment.

6. [It's time to prioritise primary healthcare](#) – Deccan Chronicle (Opinion column)

Primary healthcare in most Indian states is in shambles. This is despite a national flagship programme, National Rural Health Mission, having run for more than a decade and having pumped public investments of over Rs 1.3 lakh crores from 2005-06 to 2014-15. NRHM, which was aimed at strengthening government health delivery system in rural areas with a focus on the primary care, was launched in 2005 with much fanfare and hope. Then, the commitment of the Central political leadership to the health sector was high; and so were ambitions. Those ambitions were backed by greater availability of public funding which was made possible by faster economy growth. NRHM repacked many Central programmes such as reproductive and child health, immunisation, contraception, training, etc. as well as supported many new activities such as training of new cadre of health workers, upgradation of public health facilities, constitution of patient welfare committees, etc. — all in a flexible, decentralised manner.

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7. [India can end HIV epidemic by 2030, says health minister Nadda](#) – Hindustan Times

India can put an end to its HIV/Aids epidemic by 2030, said Union health minister JP Nadda on the occasion of World Aids Day. New HIV infections have gone down, according to a new UNAIDS report, with India accounting for an estimated 89,000 of the world's 2.1 million people newly-infected in 2015 with the virus that causes Aids. "Around two decades ago, India was predicted to be the Aids capital of the world, but there has been a consistent decline in HIV prevalence over the years. We have arrested the epidemic successfully. There has been a 57% reduction in the incidences of new infection and 29% decline in the number of Aids-related deaths," the minister said. He added that the government has taken major policy decisions to strengthen the fight against the epidemic.

"It has been decided that the National Aids Control Programme will continue as a central sector scheme," Nadda said. Union health secretary CK Mishra also suggested that the Aids programme be aligned with the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) — the ministry's adolescent health programme — so that the young in the country are safe and covered.

8. [Pharma export records 1.96% negative growth in bulk drug and formulations, Ayush export rises 16%](#) - Pharmabiz.com

India's pharmaceutical export of bulk drugs and formulations has witnessed a loss of dollar 197 million, a 1.96 per cent negative growth during first half of the financial year from April-October 2016. During the last 6 months, pharma export has recorded a value of US dollar 9,848.2 million compared to US dollar 10,045.17 million during the same period last year. Export of Ayush products has grown by 16 per cent when compared to the corresponding period of 2015. The two major categories, bulk drugs and formulations constituting 95.66 per cent of pharma exports, are negatively growing by 9.47 per cent and 0.54 per cent respectively compared to last year. The exports of bulk drugs has negatively grown due to continuous fall in prices after the patent cliff and increased competition from China.

9. [Experts welcome India's denial of patent to prostate cancer drug, Xtandi](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Indian Patent Office's denial of patent for life-saving prostate cancer drug, Xtandi (enzalutamide) has been welcomed by patent experts in the country, who say it will open up avenues for generic drugs costing less than half the price. In India, prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in males as per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and various state cancer registries.

On November 10, India's patent office revoked the patent application filed by University of California in 2007. The University had discovered the drug. The patent on blockbuster cancer drug, Xtandi which is marketed by Japan's Astella Pharma, was opposed by Fresenius Kabi in 2012, and by Mumbai-based BDR Pharma in 2013. Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, an organisation of 20 research based Indian drug companies also opposed the grant of patent.

10. [AIOCD's proposal for refresher course cannot be welcomed and supported: TN IPA](#) – Pharmabiz.com

When a non-pharmacist is not at all eligible to dispense a single medicine to a patient for consumption, the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD)'s proposal to the government for the refresher course for medical store workers to be trained as working pharmacists cannot be welcomed and supported, commented J Jayaseelan, chairman of IPA Tamil Nadu (TN IPA).

Only in India, a pharmacist with D.Pharm as minimum qualification is allowed to work in pharmacies. It is high time the basic qualification of a pharmacist is changed to degree level, he added.