

1. [Government buys time to amend its petition on combo drugs ban](#) – **The Economic Times**

The Supreme Court has granted the government a month's time to amend its petition to club together all cases filed in various high courts against the ban on hundreds of combination drugs, in light of the Delhi High Court quashing the ban.

Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar on Friday told the Supreme Court that the government needs more time to amend its petition now that the Delhi High Court has delivered its verdict on the issue on Thursday. A Supreme Court bench of Justices RK Agrawal and R Banumathi said the transfer petition would be listed again after a month.

The health ministry had on March 10 decided to ban 344 popular fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs, affecting nearly 6,000 brands, including Vicks Action 500 Extra, Corex, Saridon and D'Cold Total, a move that was immediately challenged by several drugmakers. Over 500 petitions were filed at around 10 high courts soon after the ban was announced, with the Delhi HC alone receiving 454 petitions.

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12. [Top 15 global pharma cos post dismal performance in first 9 months of 2016](#) – Pharmabiz.com

2. ['344 fixed dose combination drugs limit therapy choices'](#) – **The Times of India**

Public health groups have expressed concerns over the Delhi high court order lifting the ban on 344 fixed dose combination (FDC) medicines, imposed by the government earlier this year. "This is a huge setback to efforts aimed at bringing a semblance of order into the absolute anarchy that exists in India's pharmaceutical market," said a statement from Jan Swasthya Abhiyan. The health ministry had banned 344 FDC drugs terming them as irrational and raising concerns over their misuse. These included some of the popular pharmaceutical brands such as Pfizer's Corex and Abbott's Phensedyl. However, recently the Delhi HC overturned the government's ban providing a major relief to the pharmaceutical companies. Public health and advocacy groups have asked the government to appeal against the HC order as it has the potential to impact healthcare cost as well as quality of medicines.

3. [Global experts share latest insights and co-relate robust health with Probiotics](#) – **Business Standard**

These are challenging times. Life is on a fast track with unbalanced diet, stress, lack of physical activity, irregular working hours and lack of proper nutrition. Each one of these factors has taken its toll and it is an undisputed fact that lifestyle disorders like obesity and diabetes and Non Communicable Diseases like cancer are on the rise. There is therefore an urgent need to find solutions that can counter the growing threat. The concept of "Functional foods" that are globally accepted and focus on "Prevention being better than Cure" is a welcome addition for the improvement of health and prevention of disease.

For a long time it has been believed that bacteria cause disease, so the idea of consuming a few billion bacteria a day for your health might seem -literally and figuratively - hard to swallow. But a growing body of scientific evidence suggests that you can prevent and even treat several diseases with foods and supplements containing selected live bacteria.

4. [Centre to approach pvt sector to better healthcare](#) – **Daily News and Analysis**

With an aim to bridge the gap between demand and supply of the healthcare system, the Union government is approaching the private sector. Speaking at the 44th convocation of All India Institute Of Medical Science on Saturday, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh focused on the ways to improve the quality of healthcare through primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare systems. The Union Home Minister stated that though the government has successfully overcome many health challenges, there are many health frontiers that still need to be conquered in the country such as malaria. Singh further drew attention towards hygiene, sanitation, and cleanliness which play a crucial part in preventing many diseases and urged citizens to contribute to the "swachhata abhiyaan" started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

5. [Barack Obama: Health care act is law, US can't go backward](#) – **The Indian Express**

President Barack Obama is urging the public to help save his health care law, which is in serious danger of being repealed under President-elect Donald Trump. In a Facebook Live appearance, Obama says the Affordable Care Act has improved millions of lives over the six years it's been the "law of the land." He says the country can't go "backward."

Obama is also encouraging viewers to tell Republicans in Congress "we want to build on the progress we've made, not abandon it." Congressional Republicans have tried for years to repeal the law. The chances of success increased with Trump's election. He's called the law a disaster. Obama is also urging people who want to have health insurance on Jan 1 to sign up at <http://www.healthcare.gov> by the Dec 15 deadline.

6. [Validation of India's drug patent policy](#) – **Millennium Post**

If ever India needed an explicit endorsement of its laws on intellectual property rights (IPRs) and their application in meeting public health priorities, it has come from the highest quarters. The report of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel (HLP) on Access to Medicines has, directly and indirectly, noted with approval the route taken by India since 2005, when it enacted a new patent law to comply with the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of IP Rights (TRIPS). The report, released end of September, is firm on making full use of the space available in the WTO rules to promote access to medicines.

This has been the cornerstone of India's patent law, which lays down the criteria for patentability and includes provisions for granting compulsory licences to override patents in special circumstances. These measures have been under constant attack from pharma multinationals and the US. Taking note of the seriousness of such pressures, the HLP says governments and the private

sector must refrain from explicit or implicit threats, tactics or strategies that undermine the right of WTO members to use flexibilities under TRIPS as reaffirmed by the Doha Declaration and public health.

7. [Adherence to medical ethics is of utmost importance: Health services DG](#) – The Times of India

Expressing concern over medicos resorting to over-enthusiastic laboratory investigations and unethical practice behaviour, Union government's director general of health services Jagdish Prasad has said that adherence to medical ethics is of utmost importance.

He was delivering his address at the 28th convocation of The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University here on Saturday. "Adherence to medical ethics is of utmost importance, particularly in contemporary practice. Your thoughts and actions should be evidence based and conform to best clinical practice guidelines. Resorting to over-enthusiastic laboratory investigations often smack of defensive and at times, unethical practice behaviour. A judicious use of available clinical resources, keeping in mind the socio-economic milieu of the patient and resource limitation of healthcare institutions, can be extremely handy and is desirable," he said.

8. [Shortage of common drugs hits patients in Kerala](#) – Deccan Chronicle

Government hospitals in the state are facing shortage of medicines meant for non-communicable diseases like blood pressure, hypertension, diabetes and cardiac problems. The shortage is being attributed to inadequate supply from Kerala Medical Services Corporation (KMSCL) and defects in the indent prepared by various hospitals. While preparing the indent which is an assessment of approximate quantity of medicines required, the hospital purchase authority has to categorise the requirement as huge, average, minimum and scarce.

Many hospitals do not give such specific details about their requirement and submit the annual indent demanding supply of medicines in four parts. This often leads to shortage of drugs. There is also lack of monitoring of the supplies, feedback from the market and market watch. There is need for fine-tuning the drug procurement system in 1000 odd government hospitals in the state. Sources said there is a shortage of medicines meant for non communicable diseases mainly life style diseases like cardiac issues, blood pressure, hypertension and diabetes.

9. [Unicef's nat'l health survey for children begins in state](#) – The Times of India

The Comprehensive National Nutritional Survey (CNNS), a biomarker survey to understand the nutrition deficiency levels among preschoolers, school-age children and adolescents. The survey is being done jointly by the ministry of health and family welfare (MHFW), government of India in partnership with Unicef. Unicef claims that this survey would be the most comprehensive ever done in the country as it's multidisciplinary and includes biochemical, nutritional samples and takes into account cognitive domain, anthropometric, household food security, water sanitation and socioeconomic features. A detailed questionnaire has been prepared for collecting data from households other than biological sampling. It also includes physical verification of toilets, drinking water source, dustbin and building structure. The UN agency is expecting that the survey results would make a major impact on the policy and programmes related to nutrition and educational outcomes.

10. [Medical tourism earnings to enter growth figures](#) – The Economic Times

The government will estimate for the first the income it earns from medical tourism and include it to calculate India's growth figure, a move aimed at making the country's services data and growth numbers comprehensive. The data will also be used for improving policy for the sector. The government is seeking details of the number of people who come from other countries for treatment, main countries from where they come and the kind of medical treatment they undergo.

As part of the survey, data is being collected on services being provided to foreigners or non-resident Indians (exports), services being availed from overseas hospitals (imports), temporary overseas movement of personnel, clinical consultations, telemedicine and, services of doctors, nurses and midwives in foreign countries.

11. [Centre seek suggestions and inputs from Ayurveda researchers](#) – Business Standard

The central government on Sunday sought suggestions and inputs from ayurveda researchers and practitioners world over which may be incorporated in the AYUSH Ministry's works related to streamlining the study and practice of this traditional health science in the country, a minister said. Addressing the valedictory function of the 7th World Ayurveda Congress here, AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik said his department was making concerted efforts for systematic development of Ayurveda and other traditional medicines. Earlier, the Minister administered an oath amongst ayurveda practitioners and researchers for working concertedly to develop and popularise the practice of ayurveda.

12. [Top 15 global pharma cos post dismal performance in first 9 months of 2016](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The performances of top 15 global pharmaceutical giants remained under pressure during nine months period ended September 2016 due to loss of market exclusivity, pricing impact, phasing of tenders, limitation of trading in Venezuela and generic competition. The net profit declined by over 22 per cent to US\$ 73 billion from \$94 billion in the corresponding period of previous year. Even operating profit before interest, tax and adjustments, declined sharply by 11.2 per cent to \$97 billion from \$109 billion. Similarly, revenue growth was restricted to only 3 per cent to \$383 billion as against \$372 billion.