

1. [Delhi HC stays govt order banning drugs made by Abbott, Macleods](#) – Mint

The Delhi high court on Tuesday stayed a government order that banned drugs made by Abbott India and Macleods Pharma.

The drugs were banned last week after an expert committee found that they posed health risks. Today's decision by the Delhi high court comes a day after Pfizer India got a relief on the ban of its cough syrup Corex.

The Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), a lobby of multinational pharmaceutical companies in India, said the sudden notification may deny patients access to some medicines that are approved as safe and efficacious in India and globally.

2. [After banning 300 drugs, Health Ministry examining 1,700 more products](#)

– The Economic Times
The health ministry is examining as many as 1,700 more drug

products to determine if those can be termed as safe and efficacious, and allowed to be marketed, a senior health ministry official said.

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3. [Drug ban: Pharma market to see immediate loss of Rs 1k cr](#) - The Times of India
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If the outcome isn't favourable, it will rattle an industry that is upset over the government's decision last week to ban more than 300 drugs. While some pharmaceutical companies have received temporary relief from courts over the ban, which is estimated to shave off Rs 3,000 crore from the local drug market, several others are planning to challenge the legality of the government decision and selective interpretation of the clauses that empower the health ministry to prohibit marketing drugs in "public interest". The health ministry official, however, stood firm on the legal grounds of the action taken against what he termed irrational drug combinations.

Also appeared in [Indian Express](#)

3. [Drug ban: Pharma market to see immediate loss of Rs 1k cr](#) - The Times of India
Even as more drug makers moved court against the government's move on irrational medicines, the ban could translate into an immediate loss of Rs 800-1,000 crore in the pharmaceutical market, impacting nearly 2,500 brands on retail shelves as well as those in transit over the next few weeks.

Stocks of impacted brands will need to be recalled and destroyed, and companies like Cipla, Emcure, Mankind and Zuentus on Tuesday started informing stockists and retailers about the banned drugs, asking them to stop selling them with immediate effect.

4. [Regulator will review order if companies prove drugs are safe](#) – Hindustan Times
The government is likely to review the list of 350-odd banned drugs.

"We are open to review and re-visit the banned list. Companies can come to us with scientific proofs to back their drugs," KL Sharma, joint secretary, ministry of health and family welfare, told HT.

"We had given a fair chance to companies to put forward their point by putting up public notices and showcause notices, but it's our duty to re-look decisions if they are backed by evidences," he added.

5. [Firms need to destroy Rs 400 cr of medicines to adhere to ban](#) – Hindustan Times
The ban on 350-odd fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs will lead to destruction of medicines worth Rs 400 crore. The stock of medicines, which are now found to be harmful for human consumption, had to be recalled from all the trade channels. "The stock for the next two months, which was ready with the wholesaler, distributor or within the company storage, will now be destroyed. The stock is worth Rs 400 crore," said DG Shah, secretarygeneral, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, an umbrella body of domestic drug makers. While the drug combinations, including wide-selling pain-killers, anti-diabetic medicines and respiratory therapies, will impact nearly 4%, or Rs 3,800 crore, of the organised pharma retail market, the annual loss to companies will stand at around Rs 2,000 crore.

6. [Not just Vicks 500 and Corex: India has banned 344 drugs](#) – Hindustan Times
One of India's most popular medicines for cough and cold, Vicks Action 500 Extra, will not be available in chemist shops any more after the government banned fixed dose combination drugs.

Apart from Vicks, India has banned the manufacture and sale of more than 300 combination medicines, including two widely used cough syrups, being sold without government approval.

The move is aimed at curbing the misuse of such medicines in India, where nearly half the drugs sold in 2014 were so called "fixed dose combinations."

7. [Overnight ban on 300 drug combos was hasty: Activists](#) – Hindustan Times
Activists have criticised the Union health ministry's ban on around 300 common drug combinations.

Comparing it to the Maggi controversy — in which the snack was termed unsafe and banned, before being declared safe again — they said the decision was hasty.

The Union government has banned medicines that contain more than two drugs that tackle the same symptoms. For instance, a common medicine used for fever and cold contains paracetamol, phenylephrine and caffeine — all three are used to treat these symptoms.

8. [Manufacturers of banned drugs get FDA circular](#) – Indian Express

The Food and Drug Administration Tuesday issued a circular to all manufacturers, asking them to stop production and sale of the 344 fixed-dose combination of drugs banned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on March 12.

In the circular, direction for an immediate callback of drugs with the banned dose combination was also given across Maharashtra. Last week, the Drug Controller General of India announced a ban on several cough syrups which had a combination of codeine, affecting the sale of pharma giants such as Pfizer and Abbott. While Pfizer got an interim stay on the ban on Monday.

9. [Delhi High Court grants temporary relief to Abbott, Glenmark in drug ban case](#) – Business Standard

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted interim injunction to US drugmaker Abbott's India unit, and domestic companies Glenmark Pharmaceuticals and Macleods Pharmaceuticals, on the prohibition on sale of several combination drugs.

India banned 344 drug combinations over the weekend, including Abbott's codeine-based cough syrup, after a government panel of experts found they had "no therapeutic justification."

Also appeared in [The Hindu Business Line](#), [Outlook India](#)

10. [Pharma firms breathe easy after court intervention](#) – The Hindu

A number of Indian and multi-national pharmaceutical companies on Tuesday got temporary relief from the Delhi High Court, which stayed a government order banning nearly 350 drugs on safety grounds. This was a day after Pfizer got a similar relief.

Abbott India, the local arm of American pharmaceutical multinational Abbott Healthcare, said that it had obtained an interim injunction suspending the operation of the government notification that prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of several fixed dose combinations already approved for use, till the next date of hearing.

11. [Is pharma companies still a good bet post drugs ban?](#) – The Financial Express

Shares of pharmaceutical companies are hogging limelight this week after the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare banned sale of over 300 fixed-dose combinations (FDC) in India with immediate effect. As a result, pharma majors such as Pfizer, Abbott and Procter & Gamble Hygiene & Health Care have already stopped selling their products like Corex cough syrup, Phensedyl syrup and Vicks Action 500 Extra, respectively.

ough syrups, triple-combination anti-diabetes drugs and combination pain-killers are some of the categories most affected due to this ban.

Company-wise, based on preliminary assessment by AIOCD AWACS, Abbott and Pfizer will be most affected given their strong cough syrup brands.

12. [Why has Health Ministry banned 344 fixed dose drugs?](#) – DNA

The Health Ministry has banned 344 'Fixed Dose Combination' (FDC) drugs, leading to an immediate suspension of the manufacturing and sale of some popular medicines in India.

Fixed-dose combination drugs are when a pharmaceutical combines two or more active drugs in a fixed ratio into a single dosage. The degree of safety and FDC drugs' effects on humans has been long under question -- a report by The Hindu says that there are millions of such unapproved formulae in the Indian markets that are unsafe, dangerous and even lethal

13. [Delhi High Court grants Pfizer temporary relief on cough syrup ban](#) – Asian Age

Delhi High Court granted US drug maker Pfizer an interim injunction on a ban on its popular cough syrup Corex, days after the government ordered it to be prohibited citing a potential risk to humans.

India's health ministry banned the combination of chlorpheniramine maleate and codeine syrup, which Pfizer sells as the cough syrup Corex, in a notice over the weekend.

OPPI, a lobby group for multinational drugmakers, criticised the move, saying codeine-based combinations under the ban have the approval of India's drug controller, and companies were never made aware that these were being reviewed. Pfizer's India unit also said its Corex had the central government's approval.

14. [Government to make pharma marketing code mandatory: Hansraj Gangaram Ahir](#) – The Economic Times

Government has decided to make Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practice (UCPMP) mandatory in order to control unethical practices in the industry, Parliament was informed today.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said the government had prepared a draft UCPMP which was adopted voluntarily with effect from January 1, 2015 for 6 months by the pharmaceutical industry including medical device industry.

Also appeared in [Business Standard](#)

15. [Govt private assurance on compulsory licensing worrying: MSF](#) – Business Standard

Expressing concern over Indian government giving 'private assurances' to USIBC to not invoke compulsory licensing for commercial purposes, global aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) today said such a move defeats legislative intent of public health safeguards.

The organisation, also known as Doctors Without Borders, accused US India Business Council (USIBC) and other pharma lobbies for working to discourage government and courts in India from using legal tools available under both domestic patent law and international trade rules.

16. [Doctors Without Borders challenges Pfizer's pneumonia vaccine patent in India](#) - Business Standard

The international medical humanitarian organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, on March 11, 2016 filed a 'patent opposition' in India to prevent US pharmaceutical company Pfizer from getting a patent on the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13), marketed as Prevenar, so more affordable versions can become available to developing countries and humanitarian organisations.

This is the first time a vaccine (biosimilar) patent has been challenged in India by a medical organisation.

17. [Action Against Spurious Drugs Rackets](#) – Business Standard

The Central Government is implementing the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) under National Health Mission (NHM) for interventions upto the district level. The programme components include awareness generation for Cancer prevention, screening, early detection and referral to an appropriate level institution for treatment. For Cancer, the focus is on three sites, namely

breast, cervical and oral Cancer. The Government of India has also approved a Tertiary Care for Cancer" Scheme in the year 2013-14. Under the said scheme, Government of India is assisting to establish/set up State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) in different parts of the country. The maximum assistance inclusive of State share for SCI is upto Rs.120 crore and for TCCC is upto Rs.45 crore subject to eligibility as per scheme guidelines and availability of funds.

18. [Govt to focus on technology to drive primary healthcare services](#) – Mint

In a review meeting on health held in NITI Aayog, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Aayog officials agreed that technology should become the driver for providing primary health services in India.

The Union health ministry would establish direct links with health workers in villages through mobile apps, bypassing time-consuming bureaucratic procedures.

If put in place, the move is expected to help during epidemics like dengue, when health workers are needed to respond quickly.

19. [Plastic bottles safe for packing drugs, NGT told](#) – The Times of India

An expert committee on Monday said plastic bottles made of PET (poly ethylene terephthalate) material were safe for packaging medicines.

"There is no conclusive evidence to suggest that use of PET or additive like antimony for pharmaceutical packaging may leach substances beyond limits that pose threat to human health," the panel told the National Green Tribunal (GRT) in a report.

The panel, set up by the health ministry in August 2015 under the chairmanship of former biotechnology secretary M.K. Bhan, asserted that PET could be used safely as a packaging material for drugs under a regulatory system and process.

20. ['Pharmacy to the world can't make diapers, hospital beds'](#) – The Hindu

India is lagging in manufacturing medical devices and the recent increase in import duties on such devices are a 'corrective step' to create an ecosystem for manufacturing them locally, according to a top government official.

While India is known as the pharmacy of the world, exporting to over 200 countries, it is falling behind in medical devices whose regulation was recently entrusted with the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Union Pharmaceuticals Secretary V. K. Subburaj said on Tuesday.