

1. ['Drug Cocktail' Ban Stayed Till March 28](#) – New Indian Express  
Pharmaceutical companies got a relief on Monday when the Delhi High Court stayed the ban on 344 fixed-dose drug combinations till March 28 and the hearing in the case as some parties were yet to file their replies.

Also appeared in [Indian Express](#), [Times of India](#), [Economic Times](#), [Financial Express](#), [IBN Live](#),

2. [Policy bumps may hit pharmaceutical market's dream run](#) – Economic Times  
India's Rs 98,000 crore pharmaceutical market may face some road bumps ahead as the government implements tough policies in a regulatory overhaul that includes banning some drugs, controlling prices and withdrawing tax benefits. Some industry officials said the moves may negatively affect consolidation moves and the government's 'Make in India' initiative.

3. [Firms can tweak combinations and sell medicines: Regulator](#) – Hindustan Times  
The ban on 350 fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs is not a witch-hunt against any brand or company, GN Singh, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), told HT on Monday.

FDC medicines combine two or more drugs in a single pill, which can sometimes lead to drug resistance, according to experts.

"We are not behind any brand. Companies can tweak the combinations even now and sell it under the same brand," Singh said. "But companies must accept the fact that I, as a regulator, have the right to revisit the combinations approved by me. If, they have turned obsolete or new scientific studies back their side-effects, my job is to re-evaluate them."

4. [Ban on fixed dose combination drugs in public interest: govt tells Delhi high court](#) – Mint  
The government on Monday urged the Delhi high court to lift its stay on a ban imposed on some fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs, saying the ban was in public interest.
5. [Government launches new medicine to treat drug resistant TB](#) – Economic Times  
Ahead of World Tuberculosis Day on March 24, government today launched Bedaquiline, a new class of anti-tuberculosis medicine discovered to specifically treat drug resistant TB in India.

Also appeared in [Indian Express](#), [Business Standard](#), [Hindustan Times](#)

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6. [Tie-ups with global bodies for innovations in health](#) – Hindu Business Line
7. [Confusion over banned drugs due to absence of complete, detailed list of brands which are banned](#) – Pharmabiz
8. [Doctors oppose move to cap price of medical devices](#) – Times of India
9. ['Not enough attention has been paid to quality by the Indian regulatory system'](#) – Express Pharma
10. [Panel suggests further research on pharma products using PET/plastics for packaging](#) – Pharmabiz
11. [Call to action for a TB-free India](#) – Express Healthcare

6. [Tie-ups with global bodies for innovations in health](#) – Hindu Business Line  
The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a not-for-profit undertaking under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), has announced a string of partnerships with domestic and international organisations to support, fund and scale up technologies with focus on health and agriculture.
7. [Confusion over banned drugs due to absence of complete, detailed list of brands which are banned](#) – Pharmabiz  
In the aftermath of the banning of 344 FDCs by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on March 10, utter confusion prevails among the lakhs of chemists, doctors and even hospitals in the country as there is no complete, detailed list of brands which have been banned, both company-wise as well as FDC-wise.  
  
Besides, various companies are getting stay orders on the ban, and this has created a lot of confusion in the market about how does one interpret the stay orders; can the chemists start dispensing the brands, and if yes, which specific ones; or the chemists cannot dispense the products at all; what is the authenticity of the news/orders being circulated by the companies; and can doctors start prescribing these brands, and is there an assurance that these brands will be available, and dispensed by chemists, so that the patients do not have to run around searching for the prescribed brand.
8. [Doctors oppose move to cap price of medical devices](#) – Times of India  
Development of newer devices and the constant advancements in their working has helped several branches of medicine. Diagnosis, treatment and management of several chronic and even some life threatening conditions have become easier due to these devices. Government has been planning to put a cap on the prices of these devices in a bid to bring down the cost of treatment. Doctors, however, don't support the move as they believe this will only lead to low quality products being floated in the market, which will do more harm than good.
9. ['Not enough attention has been paid to quality by the Indian regulatory system'](#) – Express Pharma  
India has a big presence in supplying generic active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and drug products, both to internal markets as well as to developed countries. As shown by IMS Health, the largest growth around the world has been in generic medicines where currently 92 per cent of prescription volume is filled with generic drugs. Indian companies have a significant opportunity to grow with this sector, providing that attention is paid to meet quality requirements and to minimise high visibility recalls and warning letters from regulatory agencies.
10. [Panel suggests further research on pharma products using PET/plastics for packaging](#) – Pharmabiz  
The Union health ministry's committee on 'assessing the health and environmental impact of the use of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or plastic containers for primary packaging of drug formulations', has recommended to the government to further research on Indian pharmaceutical products using PET/plastics for packaging. In the report, the panel has also recommended continued use of PET for pharma packaging as it did not find any conclusive, reproducible evidence to suggest that such use will have any ill effects on human health.
11. [Call to action for a TB-free India](#) – Express Healthcare  
Kavita Ayyagari, Project Director-Challenge TB at The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) and Jamhoih (Jamie) Tonsing, Regional Director – The Union South- East office highlight the growing menace of TB and calls for concerted efforts to halt its advance