

1. [Poke Me: Any move to ensure safety of medicines is good. But a blanket ban on numerous products?](#) – Economic Times

Earlier this month, without any warning, the Union ministry of health declared an instant ban on 344 medicines. This week, the Delhi High Court extended its interim order lifting the ban on fixed dose combination (FDC) medicines of some companies, which had got relief last week, till March 28.

2. [Compulsory license to make low cost drugs still in place: Govt](#) - Ibtimes.co.in

Terming various media reports as factually incorrect, the government issued a statement clarifying its intention to give out compulsory licenses (CLs) for local pharmaceutical companies to make cheaper versions of the patented drugs of foreign firms, reported [Reuters](#) March 23.

3. [Verdict corner: Courting a ban](#) – Financial Express

The government's ban on manufacture and sale of 344 fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs may head towards the Supreme Court due to divergent views taken by high courts on staying the March 10 notification.

4. [CDSCO plans surprise checks at drug manufacturing sites](#) - Economic Times

Drug makers had better watch out. Stung by US and European regulators finding fault with Indian plants, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) will soon start surprise checks at manufacturing sites. The move, along the lines of the inspection process of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is part of an exercise to ensure the local market isn't flooded with substandard medicines, a health ministry official said.

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5. [Major MCI rejig on the cards](#) – Times of India
6. [NPPA to settle disputes with drug makers for over-charging medicines](#) - Economic Times
7. [Drug firms facing big penalty may not go for settlement](#) – Business Standard
8. [Govt won't dilute stance to waive patent rights](#) – Times of India
9. [Centre defends right to issue drug 'compulsory licences'](#) – Financial Express
10. [MSF welcomes Ministry of Commerce clarification on Compulsory Licensing](#) – Express Pharma
11. [India's ailing pharmaceutical industry needs a cure](#) – The National
12. [Hospitals must provide copy of case record to patient: IMA](#) – The Hindu
13. [After FDC drugs ban, non-codeine cough syrups set to storm market](#) – Hindustan Times
14. [Patent dispute: Gilead ordered to pay Merck \\$200 m](#) – Hindu Business Line
15. [FDC drug ban impact muted in Gujarat](#) – Business Standard
16. [Health ministry amends D&C Rules to exempt clinical trials for academic research from DCGI nod](#) – Pharmabiz
17. [Polyethylene Terephthalate bottles safe for pharma products](#) – The Hans India
18. ['Strong patent regime the only way to boost drug innovation'](#) – Hindu Business Line

5. [Major MCI rejig on the cards](#) – Times of India
The Centre has set up a panel to undertake a major overhaul of Medical Council of India as it....
6. [NPPA to settle disputes with drug makers for over-charging medicines](#) - Economic Times
The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is thinking of taking a crack at settling disputes with drug makers such as Cipla over penalties for allegedly charging too much for medicines. According to data from India's drug pricing watchdog, outstanding dues on this count from scores of companies exceed Rs 4,551 crore and have piled up over the past two decades.
7. [Drug firms facing big penalty may not go for settlement](#) – Business Standard
Pharmaceutical companies which have faced penalties running into small amounts for overpricing are more likely to settle legal disputes with the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) than those facing steep fines. The pricing watchdog is learnt to have proposed a 'one-time settlement' to clear the disputes.
8. [Govt won't dilute stance to waive patent rights](#) – Times of India
The government has ruled out any dilution in its stance on granting compulsory licences, or waiving patent rights in case of a public health emergency, saying it is open to using flexibility provided under international laws.
9. [Centre defends right to issue drug 'compulsory licences'](#) – Financial Express
Centre has defended its right to grant licences allowing local firms to override patents and make cheaper copies of drugs discovered by big Western drugmakers, and said reports to the contrary were 'factually incorrect'.

Also appeared in [Business Standard](#), [Times of India](#)

10. [MSF welcomes Ministry of Commerce clarification on Compulsory Licensing](#) – Express Pharma
The Ministry of Commerce recently clarified that media reports claiming that the Government of India will not issue any more compulsory licenses (CL) is factually incorrect. It further clarified that it has the freedom to grant CL and to determine the grounds upon which such licences are granted.
11. [India's ailing pharmaceutical industry needs a cure](#) – The National
A ban on hundreds of medicines in India because of concerns over health risks has brought into focus the drastic need for tighter regulation of the country's multibillion dollar pharmaceutical industry. India's government this month put a ban on the manufacture and sale of more than 340 fixed dose combination drugs, resulting in major pharmaceutical firms including Pfizer's Indian division and Cipla taking the case to Delhi high court in an effort to overthrow the move.
12. [Hospitals must provide copy of case record to patient: IMA](#) – The Hindu
With an aim of raising awareness among doctors regarding public health information, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has said that doctors and hospitals need to know that it is obligatory for them to provide copy of the case record or medical record to the patient or his legal representative. The IMA said that as per law, medical records belong to the medical professionals/entities but patients generally have a right to review them, demand copies of them, and to demand their confidentiality as per the MCI ethics regulations.

13. [After FDC drugs ban, non-codeine cough syrups set to storm market](#) – Hindustan Times

The cough syrup market is gearing up for a shake-up.

With the ban imposed on 350 fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs set to phase out popular codeine-based cough syrup brands from pharmacies across India, a new line of non-codeine cough syrups, both herbal and allopathic, are likely to hit the market.

14. [Patent dispute: Gilead ordered to pay Merck \\$200 m](#) – Hindu Business Line

A US federal jury on Thursday ordered Gilead Sciences Inc to pay Merck & Co \$200 million in damages for infringing two Merck patents related to a lucrative cure for hepatitis C.

The damages award is far less than the \$2 billion Merck had demanded. On Tuesday, the same jury in San Jose, California, upheld the validity of the patents, which lie at the heart of the dispute over Gilead's blockbuster drugs Sovaldi and Harvoni. Together, the medicines had more than \$20 billion in US sales in 2014 and 2015.

15. [FDC drug ban impact muted in Gujarat](#) – Business Standard

Less than 1 per cent of the drugs manufactured in Gujarat, a state that accounts for 35-40 per cent of India's pharmaceutical production, have been affected by the latest ban on 344 fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs.

16. [Health ministry amends D&C Rules to exempt clinical trials for academic research from DCGI nod](#) – Pharmabiz

The Union health ministry has amended the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for providing exemption in the case of clinical trials undertaken in the medical institutions or hospitals for academic research. Once the amendment is done, these institutions and hospitals do not have to take the now mandatory prior permission from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

17. [Polyethylene Terephthalate bottles safe for pharma products](#) – The Hans India

An expert committee constituted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) recently submitted a report to National Green Tribunal (NGT), saying PET bottles were safe for packaging of pharmaceutical formulations. In the report, the committee said: "There is no conclusive, reproducible evidence to suggest that use of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) or additive used with it such as antimony for pharmaceutical packaging may leach substances beyond limits that pose threat to human health".

18. ['Strong patent regime the only way to boost drug innovation'](#) – Hindu Business Line

Janssen, the pharmaceutical arm of multinational Johnson & Johnson, has been in the news for many reasons – right and wrong. Its new 'miracle' tuberculosis (TB) drug Bedaquiline was introduced in India this week as part of the government's programme for treating multi and extensive drug resistant TB. While this has earned the company accolades, in the last few years there have been concerns over the safety as well as allegedly unethical marketing of some its drugs, such as (anti-psychotic) Risperdal. Sanjiv Navangul, Managing Director, Janssen India, discusses regulatory compliance, patents and the company's position as a 'global public health company' with BusinessLine.