

1. [RSS push for affordable healthcare, humane patents regime](#) –

Business Today

If the resolution adopted by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) - the ideological mentor of the ruling BJP-led government two weeks ago is an indication, healthcare providers, medical device makers and drug manufacturers may find India's policies to be turning more price-sensitive in the coming days.

In order to bring medicines within the reach of common people, RSS wanted the promotion of generic medicines, effective control of drug prices and more importantly, a patents regime that is humane in nature.

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3. [Delhi High Court refuses to vacate stay on drug ban](#) – Economic Times
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9. [World Health Day 2016 - India must take concerted action to prevent diabetes: WHO](#) - DNA
10. [Biosimilar drugs could save up to \\$110 billion by 2020, says IMS](#) – Reuters
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12. [Govt moots Rs 55 lakh cap on clinical death compensation](#) – Bangalore Mirror
13. [BRIEF-Oramed Pharmaceuticals says patent granted in India](#) – Reuters

2. [HC seeks list of pharma firms with different licences](#) – The Hindu

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought a list showing which of the pharmaceutical companies that have approached the court against the Centre's decision to ban some fixed drug combination (FDC) medicines have obtained licences from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) and which ones from the State bodies.

Hearing a batch of writ petitions challenging the Union government's March 10 notification banning over 300 FDC medicines, Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw asked whether the Centre could take action against the companies manufacturing drugs with licences from the State authorities. There was a lacuna in the system if the State bodies were not under the control of DCGI, observed the court.

3. [Delhi High Court refuses to vacate stay on drug ban](#) – Economic Times

The Delhi High Court has declined to vacate the stay earlier granted to certain drug brands banned by the health ministry, and said it would hear all final arguments before making a decision on revoking the order.

4. [Govt banned FDCs without considering clinical data: Pharma cos to Delhi HC](#) – Business Standard

Pharmaceutical companies on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that the government's decision to ban 344 fixed drug combinations (FDCs) was taken without considering any clinical data.

The submission was made in the court of Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw, before whom over 150 petitions have been filed by pharma and healthcare majors, including Pfizer, Glenmark, Procter and Gamble (P&G) and Cipla, challenging the government's March 10 decision.

The decision was stayed in each individual case by the court as an interim measure which still continues.

Also appeared in [Economic Times](#), [Hindustan Times](#)

5. [Healing fast, killing slowly](#) – Deccan Herald

Several firms approached the Delhi High Court seeking to cancel the order that would adversely impact their bottom line. The latest order comes nine years after a similar government attempt, which could not be executed as the order was challenged in the Madras High Court. The jury is still out.

Modern allopathic medicines are powerful but only when used rationally and judiciously. Pharmacology, the medical science subject that deals with the proper and scientific use of medicines, has evolved over decades and outlines how these powerful remedies should be used.

If used injudiciously or irrationally, the same medicine can prove harmful. In fact, medicine is a powerful double-edged sword. It is precisely this disregard for modern medical science that has opened the Pandora's box leading to the flooding of irrational drugs into the Indian market.

6. [Cocktail drugs are dangerous](#) – Deccan Chronicle

The expert committee report of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation, a copy of which is with DC, revealed that the ill-effects of the fixed combination drugs (FDCs) were devastating.

Safety concerns for kids, drug-to-drug reactions, hepatotoxic (liver toxic), antibiotic resistance and emergence of drug resistance from the fixed combination drugs were the major findings of the expert committee.

Therapeutically inconsistent and pharmaco-dynamically irrelevant combinations were also named.

7. [DIPP paper on patents leaves industry divided](#) – Hindu Business Line

A discussion paper, rolled out by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on Standard Essential Patents (SEP), has got the electronics sector in a twist.

While a large section has opposed any intervention in the patent regime, a bunch of Indian phone brands is pushing for the adoption of a policy on the lines of the US' Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) standards body.

8. [Govt. draws flak for decision to allow U.S.- trained patent examiners](#) – The Hindu

Humanitarian aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) has questioned the Indian government's decision to have patent officers trained by the United States Patent & Trademark Office after the recent controversy over compulsory licensing. The

government gave private, verbal assurance to U.S. industry lobby groups — the U.S. India Business Council (USIBC) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce — that it would not use 'compulsory licensing' for commercial purposes, indicating that the Indian patent office won't readily give out patents to domestic pharma companies for low cost generic versions of patented drugs.

9. [World Health Day 2016 - India must take concerted action to prevent diabetes: WHO](#) - DNA  
Ahead of World Health Day, WHO on Tuesday said South Asian countries including India must take "vigorous and concerted" action to prevent and treat diabetes, a potentially fatal disease which has reached epidemic proportions and could become "the world's seventh largest killer by 2030". The World Health Organization (WHO) also said governments "must" regulate the marketing of food to children as well as ensure accurate food labelling to help the consumers make decisions that can help them avoid diabetes. "Diabetes rarely makes headlines, and yet it will be the world's seventh largest killer by 2030 unless intense and focused efforts are made by governments, communities and individuals," said Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia ahead of World Health Day which falls on April 7.
10. [Biosimilar drugs could save up to \\$110 billion by 2020, says IMS](#) – Reuters  
Lower-cost copies of complex biotech drugs, known as biosimilars, could save the United States and Europe's five top markets as much as 98 billion euros (\$110 bln) by 2020, a new analysis showed on Tuesday.

Realising those savings, however, depends on effective doctor education and healthcare providers adopting smart market access strategies, the report by IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics said.

**Also appeared in [NDTV](#)**

11. [USFDA observations sell trigger for pharma investors](#) – Mint  
Mention a pharma company's name, USFDA and observations in the same breath and investors don't wait to ask questions. A continuing series of USFDA inspections that are uncovering irregularities in compliance has unnerved investors. Comforting noises from companies are not sufficient to calm these nerves, chiefly due to their past experience.  
  
In some companies, USFDA actions have led to a ban on exports to the US, implementing costly remediation plans that affect normal operations and the stopping of new drug approvals from the affected facilities. Even in these cases, companies had said that they were addressing problems and everything will be alright, eventually.
12. [Govt moots Rs 55 lakh cap on clinical death compensation](#) – Bangalore Mirror  
In a move that could redefine the working dynamics of the clinical trial sector in the country, an inter-ministerial committee set up by the Centre for the purpose has mooted a cap on the maximum compensation for death during clinical trial at Rs 55 lakh.

The committee - comprising joint secretaries of the ministries of health, law, home affairs and consumer affairs - has called for a meeting of the different stakeholders, including members of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), in Delhi on Wednesday to discuss capping of the compensation.

13. [BRIEF-Oramed Pharmaceuticals says patent granted in India](#) – Reuters  
Oramed Pharmaceuticals Inc., a developer of oral drug delivery systems, announced today that the Company's patent for its invention, titled "Methods and Compositions for Oral Administrations of Proteins" has been granted by the Indian Patent Office.