

1. [Ban on FDCs: HC asks if legitimacy of approval be considered](#) – PTI

Delhi High Court today asked the Centre whether the legitimacy of approvals held by the pharma companies, challenging government's decision to ban 344 fixed drug combinations (FDCs), needs to be considered as this was not given as a reason to ban these medicines.

1. [Ban on FDCs: HC asks if legitimacy of approval be considered](#) – PTI
2. [Norms for clinical trials eased](#) – The Hindu
3. [FDC Ban: HC Raises Cos Licence Validity Issue with Govt](#) – Economic Times
4. [Is your pain relief drug 'dangerous'?](#) – Times of India
5. [Drug firm Novartis paid \\$85-million bribe in Turkey, whistleblower alleges](#) – DNA

"You have not prohibited the drugs/FDCs on the ground of legitimacy of their approval. So do we need to go into it? Can we proceed under the premise that approval is not an issue," Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw asked the government.

Appeared in [Times of India](#), [Economic Times](#)

2. [Norms for clinical trials eased](#) – The Hindu

With the aim to speed up innovation and research in India, the Health Ministry has amended the Drug and Cosmetics Act, exempting clinical trials conducted at academic institutions from taking the hitherto mandatory permission from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

3. [FDC Ban: HC Raises Cos Licence Validity Issue with Govt](#) – Economic Times

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the government whether it needed to consider the validity of licences held by pharma companies producing the combination drugs that were recently banned, according to a lawyer present during the proceedings. Justice RS Endlaw asked the government whether the court could proceed on the premise that legitimacy of approval was not an issue. The government banned these drugs because they had no therapeutic justification, not on the ground of legitimacy of approvals, government's counsel and additional solicitor general Sanjay Jain reportedly responded. At the same time, most of these firms did not hold a valid licence to make the fixed dose combinations (FDCs) recently banned, he added, according to the lawyer.

4. [Is your pain relief drug 'dangerous'?](#) – Times of India

The next time you reach for your preferred painkiller or cough, cold and flu medicine, do check with the doctor whether it is safe. This is because, the health ministry, finally waking up to the risk of these "irrational" fixed dose combination drugs (FDCs), banned them with immediate effect with a notification on March 10, on grounds of safety, and lack of therapeutic justification.

In what the pharma industry has termed a 'sudden' move, the health ministry's notification prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of 334-odd FDCs, leaving a trail of confusion amongst patients and stockists, even as most companies scurried around to contest the decision in courts, even obtaining an interim stay.

5. [Drug firm Novartis paid \\$85-million bribe in Turkey, whistleblower alleges](#) – DNA

An anonymous whistleblower has accused Swiss drugmaker Novartis of paying bribes in Turkey through a consulting firm to secure business advantages worth an estimated \$85 million, according to a Feb. 17 email seen by Reuters.

The alleged benefits, which Novartis confirmed it was investigating, included getting medicines added to lists, or formularies, of drugs approved for prescription in government-run hospitals, and avoiding price cuts in other countries by securing government approval to change the names of two drugs.