



News Updates: June 27, 2014

OPPI

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Drug makers seek Modicin to get back into pink of health](#)

Synopsis: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers' of India (OPPI) has put forward a few recommendations, including rationalisation of excise duty rate for active pharmaceutical ingredients. Ranjana Smetacek, director general, OPPI, said, "Currently, the only tax benefit available for R&D activities is in the form of weighted deduction for in-house R&D. There are no specific tax benefits available to units engaged in the business of R&D or contract manufacturing." Similarly, the Association of Biotechnology led Enterprises (ABLE) has proposed elimination or substantial reduction in service tax, especially for overseas clients paying in foreign currency.

Website: QUARTZ India

Edition: Online

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Drug makers seek Modicin to get back into pink of health](#)

Synopsis: For long, the domestic pharmaceutical industry has thrived without a closer scrutiny of the manufacturing practices to assure quality of drugs produced in India. With rising instances of inspections and bans in recent years, scrutiny has increased for drugs being exported. Enough is still not being done to ensure quality of drugs made for domestic markets. India's pharma industry is now at a crossroads. On the one hand, it has achieved enviable growth, creating large multinational companies, high-value jobs and wealth for shareholders. On the other, a slew of warnings and import alerts by inspectors of the USFDA is beginning to cast a shadow over its reputation globally. For the industry to move to the next level of growth and competitiveness, it needs to improve standards. According to the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), 500 Indian pharmaceutical plants are registered with the FDA, among the largest outside the US. India is also working to improve capacity in safety inspections in plants making drugs for the domestic market.

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual property rights

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [US trade team on review visit](#)

Synopsis: A team of officials from the US International Trade Commission (USITC) is currently visiting India to understand the change in the business environment between the two countries with the coming in of a new government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party . The team is also assessing the stance of the new government on intellectual property laws. The officials will also be carrying out a survey on the thinking of the American conglomerates in terms of mending ties between both the countries that recently got entangled in a bitter fight over IPR and compulsory licensing issues, especially in the pharmaceuticals sector.

Website: IBN Live

Edition: Online

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Consequences if India fails to act on IPR, warns US lawmaker](#)

Synopsis: A top US lawmaker warned India of "consequences" on its continued violation of intellectual property rights (IPRs) hoping the new government will address America's concerns regarding its policies that undermine IPRs. In his June 25 letter to United States Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman, Senator Orrin Hatch said, "I am hopeful that your efforts to engage India's new government will bear fruit and that the new government will address the concerns regarding India's policies that undermine intellectual property rights protection. However, I believe there must be consequences if the new government fails to act."

Clinical trials

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: June 26, 2014

Headline: [Drug firms concerned over lower rate of clinical trial approvals in India: IPA](#)

Synopsis: Pharmaceutical companies in India are expressing concern over the lower rate of clinical trial approvals in the country for some years now. The slow rate of trial approvals is not only hindering the new drug discovery initiatives in the country but also losing out huge business opportunities to other countries like Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines in the clinical trial segment. According to the Indian pharmaceutical alliance (IPA), during the past one year till June 2014 there have been only about 25 clinical trials approved in the country. Having learned this, majority of drug manufacturing firms in India are concerned over the lower rate of clinical trial approvals, as free and fair testing of drugs is essential to come up with new medicines in the country.

Union Health Ministry

Publication: Firstpost

Edition: Online

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Health minister outlines plan to end child, maternal deaths by 2035](#)

Synopsis: Asserting that the goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths by 2035 is well within reach, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has outlined six key actions to accelerate achieving this goal. This includes the power of belief, partnership, evidence, communication and gender equality, and untapped power in health financing and organization. Calling upon the global leaders on the urgent need to invest in 'Girl Child Education' to realize the goal of Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths, Vardhan said in his key note address to the international meet. Speaking at the meeting on "Acting on the Call: Ending preventable child and maternal deaths," he asserted that it is collective responsibility to ensure that the investments and the benefits of development reach every mother and child, for creating a better future for the generations to come.

Barack Obama's 'Affordable Care Act'

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 26, 2014

Headline: [Indian, US generic companies launch 'Coalition for Affordable Care'](#)

Synopsis: Indian and US Companies making high quality, low cost generic pharmaceuticals announced the launch of "Coalition for Affordable Care" here on Wednesday. This is to take head on big American pharmaceutical giants, which in the recent past had launched a strong anti-India campaign against efforts of such companies to provide affordable health care not only to people in India, but also in the third world countries. Coalition for Affordable Care, being run by recently formed India First Group, has constituents like the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance that comprise of such prominent companies as Sun, Lupin, Dr. Reddy's Labs, Cadila, and Ranbaxy who are busy developing new drug discoveries and health treatments for their product pipelines.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Indian, US generic drug firms launch 'Coalition for Affordable Care'](#)

The Hindu- Indian, U.S. generic companies launch 'Coalition for Affordable Care' (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Financial Express- [Indian, US generic firms form body for affordable care](#)

The Financial Chronicle- Indian, U.S. generic companies launch coalition for affordable care (link unavailable, scan attached)

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: June 26, 2014

Headline: [U.S. healthcare profit outlook brightens on Obamacare, drug prices](#)

Synopsis: U.S. healthcare companies are winning higher profit forecasts, bucking a wider trend on Wall Street, as pricey new biotech drugs hit the market and insurance enrollment rises under the Affordable Care Act. Analysts' profit expectations for the group have risen sharply since the start of the year, while estimates for most of the other nine Standard & Poor's 500 macro sectors have fallen. The jump in forecasts has come in the past two months, thanks largely to rising estimates for biotechnology companies such as Gilead, and for insurers, including Aetna. It provides some early evidence that President Barack Obama's signature healthcare overhaul could be a long-term source of profit growth for managed care providers.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [Then and now](#)

Drug pricing

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Jayalalithaa launches 'Amma' medical shops](#)

Synopsis: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa today launched " Amma Pharmacy", which will sell quality medicines at 'fair price.' Jayalalithaa launched ten 'Amma' pharmacies at Chennai, Erode, Salem, Cuddalore, Erode, Madurai, Sivaganga and Virudhunagar through video-conferencing from the secretariat here. The pharmacies, set up a cost of Rs one crore, will "sell quality medicines at fair prices," in line with directives from Jayalalithaa in this regard, a state government release said.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Express- [Jayalalithaa launches Amma Pharmacy for quality medicines at 'fair price'](#)

The Hindu- [Amma pharmacy gets going](#)

The Indian Express- [After 'Amma' canteen, Jayalalithaa launches medical shops](#)

The New Indian Express- [Pocket-friendly Amma Medical Shops](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [Jayalalithaa launches Amma pharmacies](#)

Public Health

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Budget and health: plans plenty, short on funds and execution](#)

Synopsis: The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) election manifesto gives ample clues on what the budget may hold in store for the health sector. But what is unclear is if these announcements will be backed by new funding, or existing allocations will be funnelled into new schemes. Public health expenditure

is a neglected area and amounts to only 1.2% of gross domestic product (GDP), according to the 2012-13 Economic Survey, which is much lower than countries such as China, Brazil, Mexico and Russia. Poor quality of public health services forces people to spend out of their pocket, with no safety net in the form of insurance. Private expenditure on health accounted for 2.9% of GDP, according to the survey.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Strong medicine](#)

Synopsis: A district medical officer from Australia who volunteered to work at a small charitable hospital in India has published an indictment of the Indian health system. David Berger's paper in the British Medical Journal, titled "Corruption ruins the doctor-patient relationship in India", is rekindling a debate which is years old in India. It is a question of life and death but has had unbelievably little impact on public health. Berger has suggested sanctions of a sort — derecognition by medical licencing authorities in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand of alumni of Indian private medical colleges practising in their jurisdiction. While a blanket ban would be clearly unfair and untenable, the suggestion does clarify that in a world without borders, Indian corruption is not just India's business.

Indo- US ties

Publication: India Today

Edition: Online

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Obama keen to expand ties with Modi government](#)

Synopsis: Recognising that India is one of its most important strategic partnerships, the Obama administration is keen to push boldly on expanding the envelope of cooperation with the new Narendra Modi government, analysts suggest. "I think Prime Minister Modi has gotten off to a splendid start on both the domestic and foreign policy fronts," Ashley J. Tellis, senior associate at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington think tank told IANS. "There is much hard work which lies ahead-and involves difficult policy choices particularly in regards to economic management," Tellis, who as senior adviser to the Bush administration was intimately involved in negotiating the civil nuclear agreement with India, said. The Obama administration is looking forward to working closely with Modi and a successful visit to Washington by the prime minister in September, he said.

Universal Health Coverage

Publication: Firstpost

Edition: Online

Date: June 26, 2014

Headline: [Universal healthcare: How Narendra Modi can score a big win over UPA](#)

Synopsis: If media reports are to be believed, the Modi government is likely to deliver on the long pending promise of universal healthcare that his predecessor Manmohan Singh shamelessly defaulted on. The Business Standard on Wednesday reported that the NDA government's budget will focus on a national health assurance mission, which will provide universal healthcare and comprehensive health insurance for the poor. The report further said that the national health assurance mission is "close to Prime Minister Modi's heart".

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Narendra Modi government to club three social security schemes](#)

Synopsis: The new Narendra Modi government is proposing a major revamp of social security framework by converging three key schemes spread across three different ministries. The Ministry of Labour and Employment plans to launch a pilot in 20 districts from January 1, 2015 to enable unorganised workers to avail benefits of the Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana (RSBY), Aam Aadmi Bima Yojan (AABY) and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) via one single smart card.

General industry

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: June 27, 2014

Interview: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, CMD, Biocon

Headline: [Exempt biotech, pharma from service tax, MAT: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw](#)

Synopsis: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, CMD, Biocon, has backed for a conducive policy regime to attract higher investments in India's pharmaceutical and biotech sectors. India's pharma and biotech industry has the potential to generate combined revenues of \$100 billion by 2025.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: June 27, 2014

Headline: [Add 'healthy' to life expectancy, says Pfizer executive](#)

Synopsis: Is it time the Government paid more attention on the health of its increasingly ageing population? It would be short-sighted if they did not, says Jack Watters, Pfizer Vice-President, External Medical Affairs, putting the spotlight on "healthy life expectancy, rather than just life expectancy". But in a country where planners are obsessed with the large number of young people, concerns of an ageing population barely show up on the radar. "One of the striking things I heard ... is that the Indians over 60 currently represents 7 percent of the population – and by 2050 (in 36 years), it will be 20 percent," says Watters.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: June 26, 2014

Headline: [India plans to set up IT, pharma industrial parks in China](#)

Synopsis: India has proposed to set up industrial parks in China, mainly in pharmaceutical and information technology (IT) sectors. The Union Government, which gave an in-principle approval to the signing of an MoU at its meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday, with regard to the setting up of Chinese industrial parks in India, has made this proposal to Beijing, Jagat Shah, Interim Secretary-General, China India Trade and Investment Centre (CITIC), told Business Line here on Thursday. Earlier, the two sides had identified five states where Chinese industrial parks would be set up in India namely Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka. "The idea is that the Chinese could set up their industrial parks in India in areas of their strengths. Similarly, India could set up industrial parks in China in areas like IT and pharmaceuticals," he said.