



News Updates: July 25, 2014

NPPA issue

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [Pharma SMEs may cut contract manufacturing of DPCO drugs](#)

Synopsis: The report says that the NPPA order has hurt the SMEs severely who are likely to discontinue contract manufacturing of these medicines for big pharma. Currently, they are focusing on developing portfolio in nutraceuticals, herbals and cosmoceutical space. An Ahmedabad based manufacturer hinting that such a move cannot benefit the common man in the long run said, "Several big pharma get drugs contract manufactured from SMEs, many of which are based in Gujarat. However, as the margins keep getting thinner, SMEs are slowly losing interest in manufacturing these drugs."

Publication: Mail Today

Edition: Delhi

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: Govt looks for cheap drugs (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The report highlights the centre's efforts to make cheaper drugs available to patients. The performance of the bulk drug sector is one of the critical factors that affects the overall efficiency and cost competitiveness of the pharmaceutical sector and the government urgently wants to address these concerns. It has approved the setting up of a national centre for research and development in Bulk Drug, to fill the crucial existing gap. This project, once set up will help reduce costs significantly through reduced processes and improved technology.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [NPPA's recent price control order on 108 non-scheduled formulations to cover all companies](#)

Synopsis: The report highlights that NPPA has issued a notification to all pharma companies stating that the price cut order has to be implemented by all left out manufacturers whose names have not been mentioned in the paragraph 2 of the NPPA order dated July 10.

FDI- Insurance

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [Cabinet clears 49% FDI in insurance through FIPB route](#)

Synopsis: The Cabinet on Thursday approved 49% foreign investment in insurance companies through the FIPB route ensuring management control in the hands of Indian promoters. "The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved raising of FDI cap in insurance sector to 49% from 26%," sources said after a meeting of the CCEA, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With the Cabinet approving the amendments to the long pending Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, it will now be taken up by Parliament.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [Cabinet clears insurance FDI to 49%; to fetch Rs 25k cr funds](#)

Mint- [Cabinet approves 49% FDI in insurance](#)

Business Standard- [Higher FDI limit: Insurers might attract inflows up to \\$3.5 bn](#)

Business Today- [Banking, insurance stocks surge on hike in FDI limit](#)

The Hindu- [Govt. raises FDI cap in insurance to 49%](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Cabinet okays 49% FDI in insurance](#)

The Financial Express- [After FDI boost, top insurance firms looking to list on bourses](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Cabinet approves 49% FDI in insurance sector, to introduce new Bill in current session of Parliament](#)

The Financial Chronicle- [Decks set for 49% FDI in insurance](#)

The Indian Express- [Cabinet clears 49% insurance FDI](#)

The Asian Age- [Insurance FDI raised to 49%](#)

NDTV- [How Higher Insurance FDI Limit Could Benefit You](#)

Government- Health

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [Lundbeck to seek legal recourse after health ministry bans Deanxit again](#)

Synopsis: The health ministry has reimposed a ban on antidepressant Deanxit marketed by Danish drugmaker Lundbeck along with other domestic drugmakers under different brands, after a technical expert panel endorsed its earlier decision. The government had first banned the drug in June last year after noting that it was not approved for marketing in several developed markets including the United States, UK, Canada, Japan and Australia. Moreover, it took into account that the drug had not been approved for sale even in its country of origin, Denmark. Lundbeck has said it disagrees with the decision and will challenge it in the courts. "We are surprised with the decision since the former decision to suspend the fixed dose combination of flupentixol and melitracen was revoked by the court saying that the authorities had not presented sufficient data to justify the decision. No new data has since been presented. We will now ask the court to stay its order since the circumstances are unchanged and no scientific basis for a suspension has been presented," Mads Kronborg, Lundbeck's director, media relations told ET.

Similar report in-

The Asian Age- [Government bans sale of anti-depressant](#)

Website: First Post

Edition: Online

Date: July 24, 2014

Headline: [Does Vardhan have the political will to take on corrupt hospitals and doctors?](#)

Synopsis: It took a sting operation by a TV channel on doctors accepting commissions of up to 50 percent on scans and routine pathological tests from private laboratories and diagnostic centres for Health Minister Harsh Vardhan to "accept that the patient/consumer of the medical economy needs protection from such nefarious practices".

Speaking in Parliament on Tuesday on the doctor-laboratory nexus exposed by the sting operation, Vardhan, a doctor himself, said it had prompted him to write to the Medical Council of India (MCI) "pointing out that the practice of accepting commissions is in clear violation of MCI's Code of Ethics".

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [Central medical team visits north Bengal](#)

Synopsis: A team of Central government doctors visited North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMC) on Thursday and took stock of the situation in view of the rise in cases of encephalitis. The team comprising two doctors discussed the nature of treatment given to the patients and the difficulties the hospital authorities are facing. The visit comes in the wake of a letter by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee stating that he would send teams to the State. Meanwhile, doctors said that there is a drop in the cases of patients suffering from acute encephalitis syndrome and Japanese encephalitis.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 24, 2014

Headline: [NHRC asks for report on AES](#)

Synopsis: Acting on a complaint regarding lack of medical infrastructure and facilities to tackle Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) deaths in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ensure action taken reports from the states on the issue within eight weeks. In a letter dated July 16, the NHRC directed the Union Health Ministry to transmit the complaint to "concerned authority" for such action as deemed appropriate.

Indo- US ties

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [Obama administration making a strategic bet on India: Nisha Desai Biswal](#)

Synopsis: Ahead of an important India visit of US Secretary of State John Kerry, a top Obama Administration official today said that the Asian nation has an increasingly vital role to play at the global stage. As the US moves towards implementing its "rebalance to Asia" strategy, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Nisha Desai Biswal told lawmakers that "India has vital role to play in South Asia, in the Asia Pacific, and, increasingly at the global stage."

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [American lawmakers hopeful of better Indo-US ties under Modi](#)

The Asian Age- [John Kerry to visit July 30 for strategic dialogue](#)

NDTV- [US Secretary of State John Kerry to Arrive in New Delhi on July 30](#)

IBN Live- [American lawmakers hopeful of better Indo-US ties under PM Modi](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 25, 2014

Opinion piece: Seema Sirohi, a Washington based analyst

Headline: [Important to have talks on simmering trade disputes with America](#)

Synopsis: As India and the US begin their reengagement after a period of disquiet with a new round of their strategic dialogue, it is important to have a real conversation about the simmering trade disputes. For nearly three years, the various disputes have soured the pitch, injecting an unnecessary harshness into the dialogue, which, in turn, has tended to colour other aspects of the relationship. The US industry's campaign has been so negative that even some Americans have distanced themselves from it.

WTO

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [What WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement has in store for India?](#)

Synopsis: The WTO will meet on July 31 to adopt the protocol on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The protocol will be open for acceptance by individual countries for a year, up to July 31, 2015. The TFA will come into force once two-thirds of members have completed their domestic ratification process. India has taken a tough stand on the agreement

Similar reports in-

Mint- [WTO keeps fate of trade pact in suspense](#)

Business Standard- [India may agree on pact after 'assurance' on food security](#)

The Times of India- [WTO stares at fresh deadlock](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [India set on not supporting a pact on trade facilitation at the WTO](#)

The Financial Express- [Editorial: This is not about guts](#)

Reuters- [India blocks WTO deal on customs rules as deadline nears](#)

The India Express- [Trade facilitation pact not on WTO council](#)

Business World- [What India Blocking WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Means](#)

Public Health

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Online

Date: July 25, 2014

Opinion piece: Kenneth E. Thorpe, professor and Chair at the Rollins School of Public Health at the Emory University and chairman of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease

Headline: [Pills for a healthy nation](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government faces significant challenges in trying to reinvigorate India's economy back to the robust growth it enjoyed a few years ago. As he and his advisers seek ways to lift India back to its enviable position as one of the world's most dynamic countries, I would like to suggest that there is one factor that should not be overlooked. Health. Or, more specifically, a population that has the elevated productivity that comes from a state of good health.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [1.42 lakh children targeted in diarrhoea prevention campaign](#)

Synopsis: More than 1.42 lakh children under the age of five year are being targeted in a diarrhoea prevention campaign that is going to be taken up by the Public Health Department and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), a Central Government-sponsored social welfare scheme. The 'Intensified Diarrhoea Control' Programme would be undertaken from July 28 to August 8 across Tamil Nadu, S. Somasundaram, Deputy Director of Health Services, told The Hindu here on Thursday. The campaign would focus on teaching simple but effective prevention methods such as proper handwashing techniques, which alone could prevent a host of other diseases as well. Maintaining of personal hygiene would also be emphasised.

Millennium Development Goals

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Opinion piece: Lise Grande, resident coordinator, the United Nations, and resident representative in India, the UNDP

Headline: [Develop resilience to withstand shocks](#)

Synopsis: This year's Human Development Report, released in Tokyo on July 24, focuses on the unwelcome prospect that the gains that have been achieved in global human development will be reversed unless countries take steps to spread the benefits of growth and build their resilience to withstand shocks and disasters. The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) flagship report draws attention to sobering facts. Nearly 30% of the world's population is multi-dimensionally poor, which means that they are poor not just in terms of their income, but also in education and health terms. Many people are at risk of slipping back into poverty because of something as simple as a single family illness or change in the market prices of the goods they are trying to sell. Half of all workers are in insecure employment, mostly in the informal sector, and a staggering 80% of people do not have social protection. Billions of people in the world, even those who are benefitting from the growth occurring today, are vulnerable, in many cases, highly so.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu Business Line- [India fares poorly in UN human development index](#)

The Indian Express- [Social indicators: India moves forward but crawls compared to neighbours](#)

The Asian Age- [UN human index: India a poor 135th](#)

CSR

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Opinion piece: Chris Doig, senior associate, planning and development, at the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship & Democracy, Bangalore

Headline: [Claiming the city](#)

Synopsis: It is widely acknowledged that rapid urbanisation will be one of India's largest transitions in the years to come, with the urban population estimated to increase from 300 million to 600 million by 2030. Policymaking in India, however, has failed to keep up with this changing reality. This is illustrated in the ministry of corporate affairs's approach to corporate social responsibility (CSR) under the Companies Act, 2013. The clause mandating CSR has raised public debates ever since it was introduced earlier this year. The ministry took a welcome step by offering some clarity on what is considered CSR under the act, issuing a circular on June 18. Schedule VII of the new law requires companies in a certain bracket to spend 2 per cent of net profits on CSR and outlines areas in which this money can be spent. The Centre for Ethical Life and Leadership estimates that the new mandate will inject close to Rs 12,000 crore into the domestic development landscape. The move would imply that the corporate sector will be poised to play a greater role in the nation's socio-economic development, through a targeted infusion of funds into the development sector. As first steps go, it is in the right direction, but the legislation and its interpretation suffer from a crucial blind spot.

FDA/ Drug quality

Publication: Business World

Edition: Online

Date: July 24, 2014

Headline: [Ipca Labs Halts Shipments To US After FDA Concerns](#)

Synopsis: Mumbai-based Ipca Laboratories has joined the list of major Indian drug companies facing trouble with the US drug regulator, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), for quality issues related to manufacturing. IPCA Labs said it was voluntarily stopping shipments of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for the US from its Ratlam manufacturing facility in Madhya Pradesh, till the issues were addressed.

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [MPP–Gilead agreement: Opportunity for Indian drugmakers](#)

Synopsis: Drugmakers in India and China will be able to develop generic or chemically similar versions of tenofovir alafenamide, a HIV drug in its last leg of human trials. The development follows a new licensing agreement reached between the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) and Gilead Sciences on tenofovir alafenamide (TAF), currently in Phase III studies. The announcement was made today at the AIDS 2014 conference in Melbourne on Thursday.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [Pharma cos to post double-digit growth, say analysts](#)

Synopsis: The pharma companies are expected to report a double digit growth, both in terms of revenue and profit, in the quarter ended June 2014, with domestic business also likely to show a decent uptick over the previous quarter, according to analysts. Analysts are expecting strong US growth to boost earnings of Dr Reddy's, Cadila, Lupin and Aurobindo Pharma, while higher base effect is likely to impact Sun Pharma's ex-Taro growth in the US.

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: July 24, 2014

Headline: [GSK seeks approval for world's first malaria vaccine](#)

Synopsis: GlaxoSmithKline said on Thursday it is applying for regulatory approval for the world's first vaccine against malaria, designed for children in Africa. The British drugmaker said the shot, called RTS,S, is intended exclusively for use outside the European Union but will be evaluated by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO). Malaria, a mosquito-borne parasitic disease, kills more than 600,000 people a year, mainly babies in the poorest parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [Tripura faces procurement difficulty of anti-malarial drugs](#)

Synopsis: Procurement of effectual medicines has become another bizarre chapter for the Tripura government to combat malaria outbreak due to central government imposed restrictions on the suppliers. A senior health official has approached authority of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) to ensure uninterrupted supply of anti-malarial medicines to save 'precarious lives of the people'. Meanwhile health minister Badal Choudhury chaired a high level meeting on Thursday to review malaria menace that according to official record claimed 76 lives and contacted 39,000 people across the state in past two months. 19 year old tribal girl Lilabati Reang died in Dhalai district which is centre of the current endemic.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: July 25, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy CEO sweetener a bitter pill for proxy firm](#)

Synopsis: Even as beleaguered Indian drug maker Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd struggles to avoid being categorised as a sick company under prevailing Indian laws, it has sought shareholder approval to raise the limit for chief executive Arun Sawhney's remunerations to be paid in the 2015 and 2016 fiscals. The proposal has come under criticism from the likes of proxy advisory firm Institutional Investor Advisory Services (IIAS). Sawhney got a 40% pay hike in fiscal 2014 and his salary for the 15-month period ended

March 31 stood at Rs 13.14 crore.