



News Updates: August 1, 2014

OPPI- NPPA issue

Publication: Deccan Herald
Edition: National
Date: August 1, 2014
Headline: [Saving patients](#) (first edit)

Synopsis: The first edit appreciates the NPPA's decision to fix an upper ceiling for the prices of some drugs used in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Headlined, 'Saving patients', it states that these are common ailments and the medicines used in their treatment can be considered essential drugs which should be affordable to most patients. Brand names or quality differences cannot justify the wide difference in prices. The edit also highlights the industry challenging the decision in court and adds that the arguments that there is no extraordinary circumstance now and that the diseases and the price differences have always existed are not strong enough to make the price regulation wrong and unwarranted. The industry should get reasonable profits but patients should get a fair deal.

Publication: The Financial Express
Edition: Chennai, Bangalore
Date: August 1, 2014
Headline: [Domestic pharma sector faces pricing issues: Satish Reddy](#)

Synopsis: The domestic pharmaceutical industry is affected by pricing and regulatory issues, which raises serious doubts on policy implementation. Price controls definitely bring a short-term solution to affordability of certain medicines, but, in the long term, they are not sustainable, said Satish Reddy, chairman, Dr Reddy's Laboratories.

"The recent decision to bring 108 additional products under price control raises serious doubts on policy implementation for the industry. A policy notification that adopted essentiality as the primary criteria for inclusion of medicines under price control and left room for extraordinary circumstances for bringing additional controls has clearly been overstepped in this case. Such decisions are detrimental to the health of the industry that seeks a balance between affordability and availability," he said while addressing the shareholders during the company's 30th AGM. The move has wide-reaching consequences for an industry that ranks third in terms of production volumes (10% of global share) and is growing at a compounded rate of 13% (2009-13).

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: Online
Date: August 1, 2014
Opinion piece: Prathiba M Singh, Senior Advocate
Headline: [Rising number of Intellectual Property Rights cases busts the myth that India is an anti IP-country](#)

Synopsis: 'Lies, damned lies and statistics' makes for a fine phrase. But there are occasions when it's just plain wrong. Take an analysis of reported judgements and orders in the field of intellectual property (IP) from 1995 to May 2014. There were 2,157 reported cases in 20 years and 1,433 decisions went in favour of IP owners. That's 66.43% of total cases. The number of reported cases involving a foreign entity on either side was around 600 out of which 387 cases were decided in favour of the foreign entity, roughly 65% of the cases.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [Protest over pressure on India to strengthen IPR](#)

Synopsis: Hundreds of activists Thursday staged a protest here over pressure by Western nations on India to strengthen intellectual property rights, which has the potential to limit the production of life-saving generic medication. Gathered under the banner of AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the activists demanded at a rally at Jantar Mantar that India should not sign the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights-plus (TRIPS-plus), which can cut off the potential supply of cheaper generic medicines that can save lives, especially when the original branded products are priced so high that very few can afford them.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Mark Elliot, Executive VP, US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center

Headline: [Want the world to invest in India? Focus on intellectual property](#)

Synopsis: The country whose political leadership delivers the strategy for sustained investment, job creation, and innovation has the world at its feet. India may have found its champion. In recent years, entrenched special interests, whose political strength influenced government policy to close markets to global competition, held back India's tremendous economic potential. A hostile environment for intellectual property and limited investment stymied innovation. The resulting uncertainty hampered growth and job creation, especially in the cutting-edge industries where India, with its abundance of skilled and educated workers, should thrive.

Clinical trials

Publication: The Economist

Edition: Online

Date: July 26, 2014

Headline: [Testing, testing](#)

Synopsis: The British have long been experimenting on each other: in 1747 a Scottish doctor first fed oranges to a group of scurvy-ridden sailors. But clinical trials have been moving overseas for years. The number of trials approved in Britain dropped by 14% between 2005 and 2013; at the same time, the country's share of the global market fell. This is a big problem—but one with a solution. The process of testing new treatments is unusually slow in Britain. It is held up at every stage—from getting formal approval to finding the right hospital. But the biggest challenge is the time it takes to round up subjects. At present trial designers often recruit by phoning doctors they know, who will try and remember to mention the trial to their patients. It is "all quite ad hoc," says Shaun Treweek, a researcher at Dundee University. Indeed, recruitment has not moved on much since the tuberculosis trials of the 1940s, where ten to 20 subjects were thought sufficient, and could be gathered locally and at random.

WTO/ Indo – US ties

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: Think Self-Interest, Not US Interests (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: US secretary of state John Kerry began his trip to India on Thursday his first after Narendra Modi came to power in May. The US will, of course, push its own agenda; it is up to India to accept what benefits us and reject anything that could be detrimental to our long-term interests. America wants

greater access to India's markets, simpler rules of engagement and a stronger intellectual protection regime. That last is jargon, disguising the reality of US opposition to our pharmaceutical industry producing cheap versions of costly life-saving drugs. Yet, multiple courts have pointed out that India is strictly within WTO rules in every instance that the US has sought to act against it. We must not be forced into relaxing this stand. To gain more access to India's markets, the US talks about India adopting a clear, "rules-based" approach to international trade.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [Tense moments at WTO: India gives new proposal to break the trade facilitation agreement deadlock](#)

Synopsis: Hectic parleys went on late Thursday night in Geneva as India presented a proposal to try and break the deadlock over the trade facilitation agreement (TFA) at the WTO hours before a deadline to sign the protocol ended. Government officials played down the consequences of a failure to reach a deal as pressure mounted on New Delhi to relent. "We have made a new proposal to WTO," Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher said late on Thursday, adding that this was within the "broader contours of what we had proposed earlier".

Similar reports in-

Mint- [WTO talks collapse over India's stance on protection of food subsidies](#)

Business Standard- [India firm on WTO stand; US tries to break impasse](#)

The Times of India- [WTO shadow hangs over Kerry-Swaraj dialogue](#)

The Hindustan Times- [WTO faction discussing customs deal without India](#)

The Financial Express- [India demands block \\$1 trillion WTO trade deal on customs rules](#)

Reuters- [India's demands block \\$1 trillion WTO deal on customs rules](#)

The Wall Street Journal- [WTO Fails to Ratify Trade Agreement](#)

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [India, US make the right noises but fissures show](#)

Synopsis: United States on Thursday offered to help India with its "saffron revolution", by which he meant providing electricity to 400 million people in the country, particularly through clean solar energy. On his first visit since India's April-May elections, secretary of state John Kerry said he was 'excited' about the new prime minister Narendra Modi and believed his 'historic mandate' offered a chance for new US-India cooperation. "The moment has never been more ripe to deliver on the incredible possibilities of the relationship between our nations," Kerry told reporters after talks with key ministers.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [John Kerry visit: India, US stress strategic ties but tensions remain](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [United States' five point programme to woo Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The Times of India- [US snooping on BJP unacceptable, Sushma tells Kerry](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Kerry offers to partner in Modi's vision, Sushma says US spying on India 'unacceptable'](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Snooping unacceptable, India tells US](#)

The New Indian Express- [Snooping Unacceptable, Sushma Swaraj Tells Kerry](#)

The Asian Age- [Modi denied visa by previous government: John Kerry](#)

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [Tough chance](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Despite the feel good factor in Indo-US ties, not the least surprising given BJP's long term support for free market and laissez-faire economy, the US secretary of state John Kerry's visit to New Delhi is unlikely to be as joyous as it may seem on the surface. The US media showed a rather grim Kerry leaving for India on Wednesday, a bit different from the top US diplomat's toothy visage, which has come to be accepted around the world, from peace keeping missions in Afghanistan to getting disparate elements together in Iraq. Perhaps, Kerry knows his challenges better than most. He has a task cut out in trying to persuade India's political leadership to open the economy a bit more than what even a reformist-minded Narendra Modi has been able to demonstrate so far. The visit, which comes literally on the eve of an important WTO meeting where India has blocked a reform of customs rules saying it should be accompanied by a parallel agreement allowing developing countries to stockpile food grain, could not have come at a pricklier juncture.

Health ministry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 31, 2014

Headline: [World Bank warns against excessive healthcare in India](#)

Synopsis: Excessive healthcare is emerging as a serious issue in India, the World Bank warned today, saying people with private health insurance are two to three times more likely to be hospitalised than the national average. Many of these medical interventions deliver only marginal benefits and can actually harm the patients, leading to unnecessary suffering, especially among the frail and elderly, it said.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [India needs to curtail excessive medical care: World Bank](#)

Reuters- [India's battle against unneeded medical care finds World Bank support](#)

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: Online

Date: July 31, 2014

Headline: [MCI slams 9 diagnostic centres](#)

Synopsis: Medical Council of India has recommended that the nine diagnostic centres 'exposed' by a TV sting operation recently should be taken off the panel of healthcare facilities where patients are referred to through government or corporate tie-ups, till an inquiry is completed. The sting had pointed at an alleged nexus between the diagnostic centres' doctors who prescribed unnecessary tests. The diagnostic centres are currently on the panel on medical facilities to which Central Government Health Services (CGHS), government organisations like the Railways and corporate houses refer patients.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [UPA's Rs 20,000-crore medical colleges plan a 'big mistake': Narendra Singh Tomar](#)

Synopsis: Labour minister Narendra Singh Tomar has termed as "big mistake" the previous government's Rs 20,000-crore plan to set up medical colleges under the aegis of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, and said the proposal will be reviewed. Thirteen of the 31 medical colleges envisaged in the UPA's plan are in various stages of construction. Besides, more than half of the outlay has already been used up on the project.

Similar report in-

Mint- [ESIC board move to open, run medical colleges a big mistake: Narendra Singh Tomar](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [ESIC panel on medical conditions](#)

Synopsis: The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), under the Union labour ministry, announced setting up of state executive committee to improve medical infrastructure. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by the Union minister for labour and employment Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi on Thursday. The committee will be setup in every state and can sanction upto Rs 50 lakhs for executing special repair works.

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [How GM crops can eliminate hunger](#)

Synopsis: The government has erred in putting field trials of genetically-modified (GM) food crops on hold. The country requires genetically-engineered crops to meet the rising demand for food and non-food crops as incomes rise. Let's not forget, farm output surged after India adopted the best biotechnology in terms of high-yielding varieties in the 1960s. Apparently, opposition from two Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) outfits about the possible harm from the new technology has forced the NDA government to backtrack on field trials for 13 GM crops. The trials have been cleared by the apex body for approval of GM crops, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). To quell such fears, India must develop the competence to carry out independent testing for all GM crops to assess the likely negative effects. The testing facilities should be housed in universities and dedicated laboratories.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [Against science](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: On the very day Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked farm scientists to take technology to fields to boost agricultural output, a couple of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-affiliated organisations said they had prevailed upon his Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to put on hold decisions on field trials of genetically modified (GM) crops. If so, Mr Javadekar will have committed the same mistake that the United Progressive Alliance government had committed by placing an indefinite moratorium on Bt brinjal after assessing the opinion gathered through public hearings. Fresh freeze on GM trials will jeopardise the fate of nearly two dozen GM crops, including cereals, vegetables and fruit, which have already been approved for field testing by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its last two meetings. About 100 more such GM crops, several of which are non-hybrid varieties that do not require freshly brought seeds every year, are in various stages of development. Huge investment, besides scientific effort, that has gone into their development will go waste.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [Unfounded fears](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar's statement that no "government decision" has been taken on allowing field trials of 15 genetically modified (GM) crops as recommended by the Genetic

Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is not a good augury. The GEAC is a statutory body constituted under the Environment Protection Act to approve commercial cultivation and field trials of crops incorporating genes from other species using recombinant DNA technology. Javadekar's counterpart in the previous UPA regime, Jairam Ramesh, had set a bad precedent by overruling the official biotech regulator and unilaterally ordering a 'moratorium' on commercialisation of Bt brinjal. The damage was partly undone by the UPA's outgoing environment minister Veerappa Moily. In February, he cleared field trials in GM cotton, maize, rice and castor lines — for which the GEAC had given the go-ahead nearly a year ago — ahead of the current kharif planting season. By putting on hold GEAC's nod for field trials in mustard, chickpea, and other transgenics during the ensuing rabi season, Javadekar appears to have turned the clock back.

FDI- Insurance

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [Rajya Sabha may take up Insurance amendment bill on Monday](#)

Synopsis: The insurance amendment bill could not be taken up for discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday as members sought time to study the proposed changes that include increase in foreign investment limit for the sector to 49% from the current 26%. The bill was listed for discussion and passage in the upper house on Thursday. It is now expected to be taken up on Monday, finance ministry officials told ET.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [Rajya Sabha to discuss Insurance Bill on Monday](#)

The Hindu- [Bill to raise FDI cap in insurance to be moved in RS](#)

The Indian Express- [Insurance Bill draws mixed set of responses](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [Insurance Bill in Rajya Sabha on Monday](#)

Public Health

Publication: The Pioneer

Edition: National

Date: August 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Kenneth E Thorpe, Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University

Headline: [The well-being of a nation](#)

Synopsis: India has a serious and growing problem with non-communicable diseases, from diabetes and cancer to heart and lung diseases. That's the bad news. The good, or at least encouraging, news is that India is not alone in facing a public health challenge that is affecting the United States and other nations around the world in significant numbers. We can learn from each other's progress and successes in confronting the escalation of chronic diseases. Even better news is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government has shown a genuine determination to rebuild and revitalise the India's public health system. The country now has a genuine opportunity to slow the growth of illnesses that are claiming far too many lives. In the US, it took time for Governments and society as a whole to come to grips with the non-communicable disease problem and realise that positive, focussed actions could make a difference in affecting the growth of illnesses. The escalation of these illnesses does not have to be regarded as inevitable, but can be curtailed through a pro-active healthcare system and a focussed effort to help people understand the linkage between lifestyle and health.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: August 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Sudarshan Ballal, Medical Director of Manipal Health Enterprises

Headline: [The paradox that is Indian healthcare](#)

Synopsis: India is an ancient land, where the concept of Ayurveda evolved centuries ago, well before the allopathic branch of medicine was even discovered. Susruta and Charaka were pioneers in medicine in times when the concept of modern medicine was nowhere on the horizon. However, in a remarkable irony, we have squandered our legacy of being innovators and are now considered as a developing country in healthcare. As a developing nation, the demand for quality healthcare is growing fast. Therefore, it is imperative that the policymakers channelise the growth of healthcare services so that it caters to every section of our society.

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Bhupesh Bhandari

Headline: [The perils of pay-for-delay](#)

Synopsis: In July, the European Commission imposed fines of euro 427.7 million on Servier of France and five producers of generic medicine - Niche/Unichem, Matrix (it is now a part of Mylan) and Lupin of India, Teva of Israel, and Krka of Slovenia - for "concluding a series of deals aimed at protecting Servier's bestselling blood pressure medicine, perindopril, from price competition by generics in the European Union". The commission said that Servier, through an acquisition and a series of patent settlements, was able to delay the entry of generic perindopril "to the detriment of public budgets and patients" in breach of European Union competition rules. "Competitors cannot agree to share markets or market rents instead of competing, even when these agreements are in the form of patent settlements," commission Vice-President Joaquín Almunia said in a press release. "Such practices directly harm patients, national health systems and taxpayers. Pharmaceutical companies should focus their efforts on innovating and competing rather than attempting to extract extra rents from patients."

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [IPA seeks health minister's attention towards plight of registered pharmacists](#)

Synopsis: The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA), an association working for the upliftment of the pharmacy profession in the country, has sought the attention of union health minister Dr Harshvadhan towards the pathetic plight of the registered pharmacists working at various levels in India. In a recent representation, IPA general secretary Bhupendra Kumar apprised the minister that the pharmacists are the lowest paid health professionals though they are well qualified having qualifications upto Doctorate in Pharmacy. Other health professionals and workers with same or less qualifications are getting more pay than the pharmacists. A Group-D employee can reach upto Group-A post by promotions, but in case of pharmacist no promotional avenues are provided. They join as pharmacist and retire on the same post. Due to this stagnation, the pharmacy profession is losing academic interest and seats in pharmacy colleges are lying vacant, the IPA in its letter said.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [Court's prescription for doctors!](#)

Synopsis: Why every medical practitioner across the nation writes illegible way on prescriptions?. No government organisation had an answer for this and how it came in to practice, but finally the stage is set to curb the practice due to a sustained campaign of a Nalgonda based pharmacist as Medical Council of India General Body had resolved to issue guidelines asking the practitioners to use only capital letters on prescription. The pharmacist, Chilukuri Paramathma, has said that he approached the High Court,

Hyderabad, for banning the usage of present style of writing as it is leading to confusion in pharmacists. Unable to understand the prescriptions, he said that there are so many instances of pharmacists giving wrong medicine to patients that even led to disasters. He explained such an instance saying that a pharmacist working with a pharmacy chain store in Vidyanagar in Hyderabad had given 'Tegrital' Tablet instead of 'Trental' tablet to a pregnant woman as he misunderstood the prescription.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: Online

Date: July 31, 2014

Headline: [DFIF, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announces \\$1.5 mn grants](#)

Synopsis: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) have partnered to work on projects to encourage accessible, affordable sanitation service delivery across developing countries like India and Bangladesh. As part of the project, they will offer more than USD 1.5 million in grants to 11 projects funded across different countries, including India, Bangladesh, Liberia and Malawi among others. Of the 11 projects, three have been selected from India.

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: August 1, 2014

Headline: [Dr Reddy's plans to develop new products, unmet medical needs](#)

Synopsis: Indian generics company Dr Reddy's would this year too look at identifying unmet medical needs and developing products that are not yet available in the market. This would mean finding new combinations or new dosage forms to existing molecules that will improve patient convenience and efficacy, their chief executive officer and co-chairman GV Prasad said at the AGM. "We currently have a healthy pipeline of products under development, and expect to begin filing by the end of this year," he said adding that Dr Reddy's is among the few companies who have the deep capability to bring difficult-to-make products to the market with R&D centers in US, UK, the Netherlands, Hyderabad and Bangalore.