



**News Updates: August 12, 2014**

#### OPPI

**Website: NDTV**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 11, 2014**

**Headline: [Watch: Medical Corruption - Finding a Cure](#)**

**Synopsis:** The first part of an NDTV hidden camera expose shows up, once and for all, the seamy underbelly of the medical profession. How bribes are offered by pharmaceutical companies to doctors to prescribe drugs of their company's brand and how doctors demand everything from hard cash to iPads to expensive cameras. NDTV reporters went undercover for three weeks to uncover multiple instances of medical corruption. Three separate Delhi doctors were chosen at random with shocking results. On Left, Right And Centre, NDTV speaks to all the stakeholders to react to this expose. Some of the most distinguished doctors in the country, representatives from the Medical Council of India - the country's medical watchdog - which many argue has been co-opted and chooses to look the other way and representatives of pharma companies.

#### NPPA/ Drug pricing

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Bejon Misra, Founder, Consumer Online Foundation**

**Headline: [Column: Price control not in the interest of patients](#)**

**Synopsis:** The recent announcement by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to cap the prices of anti-diabetes and cardiovascular drugs may not be beneficial for patients in India. Price control has yet to deliver the desired impact on patient welfare and, in this case, can potentially lower quality standards and perhaps even take medicines off the shelves, which will deny access to quality healthcare. Price controls have always led to market manipulation and sale through unregulated distribution channels with the least accountability towards the patients and their urgent needs. I know of Indian pharmaceutical companies moving away from India and investing in other countries because of poor policies on R&D spend which reduced pharmaceutical innovation and even denied access to choice and competition for the Indian consumer. Arbitrary price control kills the spirit of innovation that brings for patients competitively-priced drugs for better outcomes.

#### Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 11, 2014**

**Headline: [Teva may move court against Dr Reddy's for patent infringement](#)**

**Synopsis:** Global generic drug maker Teva Pharmaceutical Industries intends to file a law suit against Dr Reddy's Laboratories for allegedly infringing the patents of Copaxone (glatiramer acetate) injection 40mg/mL. According to Teva, it has received a Para-IV notice from the Indian drug maker over the blockbuster drug, and the law suit may trigger a "30-month stay" of FDA approval of Dr Reddy's Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA).

**Similar reports in-**

The Financial Express- [Patent war: Teva Pharma may sue Dr Reddy's Laboratories](#)  
Business Today- [Teva may take Dr Reddy's Laboratories to court for patent infringement](#)  
The Financial Chronicle- [Teva may move court against DRL](#)

**WTO/ Modi government/ Indo- US ties**

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Modi, Nirmala on different pages, PM must clarify on WTO: Congress](#)**

**Synopsis:** The government on Monday said the WTO deal reached in Bali was not in the interests of the country even as the Congress sought to put pressure over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement over the weekend. Congress on Monday forced Rajya Sabha to adjourn twice over World Trade Organization (WTO) issues, claiming that Modi's statement during a BJP function was contrary to what commerce minister Nirmala Sitharaman had told both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Congress members led by former commerce minister Anand Sharma raised the issue and demanded a clarification from the prime minister.

**Similar reports in-**

Mint- [Uproar in Rajya Sabha over WTO issue](#)

Business Standard- [RS disrupted over WTO issue](#)

The Times of India- [Congress dares govt to reject WTO Bali pact](#)

The Hindu- [Congress, BJP spar over WTO stand](#)

**Publication: The Asian Age**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Sreeram Chaulia, professor and dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs**

**Headline: [Indo-US reunion](#)**

**Synopsis:** The beeline of top American officials in New Delhi ahead of a summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Barack Obama in September suggests that the India-US relationship is headed for a reset. Frayed nerves over American cyber surveillance on India and the tabloid-style ruckus about the ill-treatment of Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade had soured bilateral ties and produced laments of a fundamental drift. Realising that India is getting alienated, the Obama administration has decided to pull out all the stops to make up and start afresh. Just after secretary of state John Kerry and commerce secretary Penny Pritzker did the rounds, defence secretary Chuck Hagel made his appearance in the national capital last weekend. The dapper former Senator and decorated Vietnam War soldier went out of the way to convince Indian leaders and strategic elites that America supports "India's rise as a global power" and wants to partner with it to shape a "new world order".

**Health ministry/ Ebola**

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Traveller from Nigeria tests negative for Ebola](#)**

**Synopsis:** A traveller from Nigeria, who showed symptoms of upper respiratory tract infection at the IGI airport and was taken to Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, has tested negative for Ebola. The health ministry said the two passengers—a 27-year-old man who travelled from Guinea and a 40-year-old man who travelled from Liberia — who reached Chennai on August 9 are also in good health and under observation.

**Similar reports in-**

The Hindu- [Passenger from Nigeria tests negative for Ebola](#)

The New Indian Express- [No Ebola Virus Disease in India: Harsh Vardhan](#)

First Post- [There is no Ebola Virus Disease in India, says Harsh Vardhan](#)

**Publication: Daily News & Analysis**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Make amends now](#) (Editorial)**

**Synopsis:** With the World Health Organization declaring the Ebola outbreak in West Africa as an “international public health emergency”, world nations have their task cut out. For nearly four months since March 31, when Doctors Without Borders termed the outbreak “unprecedented” and warned that the “geographical spread is worrisome”, the international response was rather tepid to say the least. Official figures have pegged the number of reported cases at 1,825 and fatalities at 961 in four African nations since the first reported incident in December 2013 in a Guinea village bordering Sierra Leone and Liberia. However, doubts abound that institutional care has reached only a small number of infected persons. Now that the virus has infected the residents of three capital cities, Conakry (Guinea), Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Monrovia (Liberia), the challenges of isolating patients, curbing the free movement of citizens, and mobilising a massive corps of properly-trained health workers is staring the world in the face.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Delhi**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: [For select few? Ebola drug's availability stirs ethics debate](#)**

**Synopsis:** In a development that raises a host of ethical issues, Spain announced it had obtained a scarce US-made experimental Ebola drug to treat a Spanish missionary priest infected with the killer virus. The health ministry statement came less than a week after the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there were no doses available of the drug that was used to treat two Americans with the disease. The drug's maker, Mapp Pharmaceutical Inc of San Diego, said “very little of the drug is currently available” and that is cooperating with government agencies to increase production as quickly as possible. Nigerian officials say they had asked US health authorities about getting the Ebola drug but were apparently not helped.

**Similar report in-**

The Hindustan Times- [Ethical questions emerge over who gets Ebola drug](#) (link unavailable, scan attached)

**Clinical trials/ Vaccines**

**Website: Reuters**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Factbox - Developers of potential Ebola vaccines and treatments](#)**

**Synopsis:** Several companies with potential Ebola vaccines and treatments have captured the spotlight, as developers face mounting pressure to expedite research on new medical interventions. The Ebola epidemic in West Africa has killed nearly 1,000 people and prompted the World Health Organization to declare an international health emergency. No Ebola drugs or vaccines have entered mid-stage human trials, let alone been approved. The most advanced have been tested only in monkeys and a handful of humans.

**Publication:** The Financial Express

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 12, 2014

**Headline:** [GSK's Ebola vaccine trial soon](#)

**Synopsis:** A clinical trial of an experimental vaccine against the deadly Ebola virus is set to start shortly, according to British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline, which is co-developing the product with US scientists. The world's worst outbreak of Ebola has killed nearly 1,000 people in West Africa, increasing pressure on researchers to accelerate their work on new medical interventions.

**Similar report in-**

Reuters- [Clinical trial to start soon on GSK Ebola vaccine](#)

#### FDI- Pharma

**Website:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 12, 2014

**Headline:** [Industry fears stringent regulation on FDCs may impact FDI in pharma sector](#)

**Synopsis:** Pharmaceutical industry feels that the government should relax its stand on fixed dose combinations (FDCs) to ensure that its enforcement does not impact the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) into the pharma sector. Experts say that as FDCs contribute substantially to the companies' turnover, having a rigid stand on this issue may diminish chances to attract FDI which is primarily done by MNCs eyeing the huge generic market. This demand comes in the wake of tough position taken by the Drug Controller General of India's (DCGI's) office last year requiring manufacturers to prove the safety and efficacy of the FDCs approved before October 1, 2012. Apart from demanding the safety and efficacy report, the Centre also simultaneously banned the FDCs approved after October 2012 by the State licencing authorities (SLAs) that were given without that the permission of the DCGI.

#### Insurance

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** National

**Date:** August 12, 2014

**Headline:** [Plan to supplement group health cover](#)

**Synopsis:** A common dilemma among employees covered under their employer's group mediclaim policy is whether to buy an additional individual health cover. Concerns over inability to build a health insurance track record and the lure of tax breaks have made many consider a separate cover. But the high cost and the fact that they are buying a duplicate cover puts them off. The good news is that many products now address this segment.

**Publication:** The Asian Age

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, educator and commentator**

**Headline: [Insured to fail?](#)**

**Synopsis:** The more things change, the more they remain the same. The hypocrisy of the two largest political parties in the country, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Indian National Congress, stand thoroughly exposed because of the manner in which their representatives have been wrangling over the issue of increasing the cap on foreign investment in Indian insurance companies from 26 per cent at present to 49 per cent.

### General Industry

**Publication: The Hindu Business Line**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: ['Venture capital in healthcare is growing'](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Indian healthcare services sector is booming with corporate hospitals expanding their network to tier II-III cities and the sector also is increasingly attracting Venture Capital investments, according to a senior executive of Siemens, which has a significant exposure to this sector. Responding to questions from BusinessLine, Richard Guest, Country Lead, Siemens Healthcare, India, said the size of the Indian healthcare imaging market was around ₹20 billion and it was growing in double digits.

**Publication: The Indian Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: [The fifth Metro letter from Bangalore: Science of giving \(Editorial\)](#)**

**Synopsis:** A development some months ago electrified the science community in India. It was reported that billionaire Infosys co-founder and executive vice chairman Senapathy Gopalakrishnan, better known as Kris Gopalakrishnan, was giving a sum of Rs 225 crore to fund brain research at the Indian Institute of Science. Around the same time came unrelated reports that thousands of Indian researchers in over 100 top institutions, including the IISc, were agitating for better and timely stipends. Providing further context, last week, Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani stated in Parliament that India invests 0.81 per cent of GDP in research and development compared to China's 1.84 per cent (2011 data). These disparate incidents capture the extremities of science and technology research in India.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Statoistics: All Things Amma](#)**

**Synopsis:** In Tamil Nadu, there's little that the chief minister's hand has not touched. J Jayalalithaa rode to victory in the state on promises of free laptops, grinders and fans and then kept the goodies flowing. Whether it is groceries or medication, food or entertainment, she's set up a scheme to sell a subsidised alternative or re-branded an existing one and lent her honorific, Amma (Tamil for mother), to it. Amma Pharmacies-Drug stores selling medicines to treat common ailments such as hypertension, diabetes and viral infections at rates lower than MRP, the beneficiaries being poor as well as middle class, especially elderly pensioners.

**Publication: The Indian Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Organ, tissue transplant facility set to get a fillip](#)**

**Synopsis:** With the formation of the National Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO) at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, the government has set the ball rolling for a coordinated organ and tissue transplant facility across the country. While the national centre in Delhi is “still being set up”, Dr Anil Kumar, Chief Medical Officer of NOTTO, said the second phase of setting up five Regional Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisations (ROTTOs) in Mumbai (Western zone), Chandigarh (Northern zone), Guwahati (North-eastern zone), Kolkata (Eastern zone) and Chennai (Southern zone) had begun.

**Similar report in-**

**India Today- [India's first nodal organ transplant centre to be located in Delhi](#)**