



**News Updates: August 21, 2014**

**Drug pricing/ NPPA/ DPCO**

**Publication: The Indian Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: Pharma firms face heat for overcharging (link unavailable, scan attached)**

**Synopsis:** The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has detected 1,040 cases of companies selling medicines at a price higher than the notified price. There are nearly 10,563 registered pharmaceutical companies in the country. Maharashtra has the highest number at 3,139 followed by Gujarat (1,526 units), West Bengal (756 units) and Andhra Pradesh (727).

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [NPPA's move on diabetic drugs hailed](#)**

**Synopsis:** Civil society groups have supported drug pricing regulator National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) in bringing diabetes and cardiovascular medicines under price control. In separate letters to ministers, the All India Drug Action Network, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, Low Cost Standard Therapeutics, Medico Friends Circle, Third World NetworkIndia, All India Peoples Science Network and National Working Group on Patent Laws, have said “the NPPA has acted in public interest”.

**Website: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [NGOs ask govt to bring more essential and life saving drugs under price control](#)**

**Synopsis:** The civil society groups working in the health sector have called upon the government to expand the scope of price control by bringing other essential and life saving medicines under price regulation in order to protect patients from overcharging and to promote public health. Supporting the NPPA's July 10 notification bringing 108 formulations under price control under Paragraph 19 of the DPCO 2013, the civil society groups said that this is a first step towards the institution of a robust, pro-public health policy of drug price control.

**Publication: Daily News & Analysis**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Pharma companies shrug off price control, grow domestic business](#)**

**Synopsis:** After a dismal performance last year, most Indian pharma companies have reported an impressive growth in domestic business in the April-June quarter on the back of price hikes. Against an average industry growth of 8% for the quarter ended June 30, pharma leaders such as Sun Pharma, Cipla, Dr Reddy's Labs, Glenmark and Lupin even recorded a strong double-digit growth in the local market. Drug makers had been posting dismal quarterly performance since last year when the government's drug price control order capped prices of drugs, impacting their margins. The companies were allowed to take price hikes after April, which helped them shore up their domestic business in the June quarter.

#### Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual Property Rights

**Website: Nishith Desai Associates**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 20, 2014**

**Headline: [BOMBAY HC UPHOLDS INDIA'S FIRST COMPULSORY LICENSE](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Bombay HC in this case has upheld the order of the IPAB, which affirmed the order of the Controller of Patents to grant Compulsory License to NATCO for Bayer's Indian patent on Sorafenib Tosyalte (Nexavar). NATCO's application for Compulsory License of Patent was the first in India. This case is significant as it gives certain new interpretation to the conditions that needs to be met under the Indian Patents Act, 1970 for grant of Compulsory License.

#### Vaccine/ Clinical trials

**Website: Reuters**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Experimental Ebola drugs needed for 'up to 30,000 people'](#)**

**Synopsis:** Up to 30,000 people could have used experimental treatments or vaccines so far in the world's worst outbreak of Ebola currently plaguing West Africa, British scientists said on Wednesday. The calculation highlights the dilemma facing officials considering how to distribute the tiny quantities of unproven drugs that are likely to be available in the near term to fight the deadly disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) is hoping for improved supplies of experimental treatments and progress with a vaccine by the end of the year, after last week backing the use of untested drugs and vaccines.

**Similar report in-**

**Daily News & Analysis- [Experimental Ebola drugs needed for up to 30,000 people](#)**

**Publication: The Telegraph**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [US doctors spark homeopathy row](#)**

**Synopsis:** A medical paper by two American doctors that denounces clinical trials in homeopathy has evoked an equally sharp response from an Indian government agency that has supported dozens of trials putting homeopathy medicines to test. In a paper published today in the journal Trends in Molecular Medicine, cancer surgeon David Gorski and neurologist Steven Novella have dubbed clinical trials in homeopathy and reiki as the equivalent of trying to determine whether magic can heal. The doctors said the two core principles of homeopathy — that symptoms should be treated with compounds that cause the same symptoms in people who are not ill, and the more a remedy is diluted, the stronger its action — have no basis in science.

#### Health ministry

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Medical devices in Drugs and Cosmetics Act an anomaly: Amitabh Kant](#)**

**Synopsis:** Medical devices in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act is an anomaly and needs to be removed from the law for medical technologies sector to get a boost, a government official said. Amitabh Kant, secretary in the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) was speaking on Wednesday at an event to release the Medical Technology: Vision 2025 report prepared by the Confederation of Indian Industry, a

lobby group, and the Boston Consulting Group. The report said the Indian medical technology sector has the potential to touch \$50 billion by 2025 if it continues to grow at 10-12% annually. The report estimated that globally, the medical technology market is expected to be \$600 billion by 2025, and if provided with adequate support and guidance, India can capture 10% of that share by then.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 20, 2014**

**Headline: [Govt's National Health Assurance Plan to include diagnostic services](#)**

**Synopsis:** The health ministry's ambitious proposal for National Health Assurance Plan, which aims to provide insurance cover for all similar to Obamacare, will also include diagnostic services. The ministry is planning to partner with the private sector to outsource some of these services and also make them affordable. The National Health Assurance Plan, which has been on the government's priority list from the very beginning, is likely to be launched by the end of this year, Lov Verma, secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Scam-buster loses AIIMS post](#)**

**Synopsis:** The chief vigilance officer (CVO) of AIIMS, Sanjiv Chaturvedi, who unearthed several corruption cases at the premier medical institute, has been removed from the post. No reasons have been cited by the health ministry for the sudden ouster of the officer who is handling several corruption cases against senior AIIMS officials and some faculty members. Vishwas Mehta, joint secretary and CVO, ministry of health and family welfare has been assigned the portfolio for three months "with immediate effect". The order, a copy of which is with TOI, states the decision has the approval of health minister Harsh Vardhan. Sources said J P Nadda, BJP general secretary, had written to the Department of Personnel and Training last year objecting to Chaturvedi's appointment as both deputy secretary and CVO. The contention was struck down then.

**Similar reports in-**

**Business Standard- [Ignoring Modi mantra, Health Minister gives crusading AIIMS vigilance chief the boot](#)**

**The Hindustan Times- [Govt forces AIIMS whistleblower officer out](#)**

**The Hindu- [Whistleblower IFS officer gets marching orders in Delhi](#)**

**The Indian Express- [AIIMS CVO removed from post](#)**

**The Asian Age- [AIIMS head of vigilance is removed](#)**

**Publication: Deccan Herald**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Health Ministry justifies merging Aids control body with NRHM](#)**

**Synopsis:** Amid public concern that winding up the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) would compromise on controlling the spread of HIV, Health Ministry officials have given their assurance that the programme will not be curtailed and will continue with the same efficacy. "There will be no change in the programme and its budget. The Aids control programme will run under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) like the tuberculosis or malaria control programme. It is only an administrative step," Union Health Secretary Lov Verma told Deccan Herald. The department's budget has been increased to Rs 1,785 crore from last fiscal's revised estimate of Rs 1,500 crore.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Coimbatore**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [AIDS department's merger with health min worries social workers](#)**

**Synopsis:** Recently, Union health minister Harsh Vardhan announced that the Department of AIDS Control (DAC) has merged with the health ministry. This is part of the initiative to 'minimize government and maximize governance'. However, this move has created some concern among HIV positive patients who feel that the medical care they receive may be compromised. "I am deeply concerned about the insufficient stock of antiretroviral drugs (ARV) across the country for the past two years. I am also told that they have run out of condoms at targeted interventions, compromising efforts to curb the spread of the virus," said P Kousalya, president, Positive Women Network, a Chennai based NGO.

**Publication: The Asian Age**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Goverment to raise smoking age to 25?](#)**

**Synopsis:** Soon it may be illegal to smoke under 25 years of age. To encourage smokers to stub the habit, the Union health ministry is also considering increasing the size of pictorial warnings on the cigarette packs along with raising fine for smoking in public and banning surrogate advertisements. An expert committee set up by the Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan is all set to approach the Cabinet with the proposed amendments in the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003 (COTPA).

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Pune**

**Date: August 20, 2014**

**Headline: [Health immunization music video launched](#)**

**Synopsis:** The government in collaboration with an organization has launched a music video, "Phool khil jayenge" ("The flower will bloom"), on the subject of immunization. A statement issued by the press information bureau says that the Union health minister Harsh Vardhan who launched video recently said that it was a "national shame" that 14 lakh children do not live beyond the age of five. To change this reality the government needs the collective energy of the people, and should not rely only on the government machinery.

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

**Publication: Deccan Chronicle**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [BJP experts plan and create health policies for Centre](#)**

**Synopsis:** he BJP think-tank on the social media that intends to help Prime Minister Narendra Modi create the policies of his Government in consultation with its over one lakh members, has come out with interesting findings on the status of the healthcare sector in the country. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, who authored BJP's election manifesto and leads the campaign on the social network site 'Local Circles', with the theme 'Transform India with Narendra Modi', has also asked the members to identify the root causes of these ills affecting the health sector. The most interesting findings are that "patients are kept in the ICU for getting higher room rents" by hospitals and "If patients have mediclaim, they are charged extra compared to patients without insurance cover". The BJP Communication Cell which controls the campaign plans a white paper on the issue which will be submitted to the Health Minister and the PMO.

**Website: India TV**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 20, 2014**

**Headline: [Obama's phone call ended frosty ties with Modi: US envoy](#)**

**Synopsis:** The phone call from President Barack Obama to Narendra Modi to congratulate him on his electoral victory "set the tone" for ending the chill in the US' relations with the Indian leader caused by a decade-long visa ban, America's interim Ambassador Kathleen Stephens

said today. "I arrived here in June shortly after the new government was formed. You know that President (Barack) Obama called up Prime Minister elect even before he was sworn in to congratulate him and extend an invitation and I think that set the tone," Stephens, US Ambassador Charge d'Affaires ad interim to India told reporters here. She was responding to a query as to what brought about a thaw in the frosty ties between the US and Modi, who was a persona non grata for that country since the 2002 Gujarat riots.

**Similar report in-**

NDTV- [US Envoy Kathleen Stephens Meets Gujarat Chief Minister](#)

**General Industry**

**Website: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Govt should bring in medical device regulation to prevent sale of substandard devices: Sanjay Arudi](#)**

**Synopsis:** India would need to bring in a dedicated medical devices regulation to thwart sale of substandard equipment, primarily the radiation-emitting products which increases the risk of patient lives. In the absence of a separate regulation for medical devices, many overseas manufacturers introduce products in India before they are approved for sale in the country of manufacture. Frequent reports of 'infant warmers' catching fire happens only because of inadequate quality and safety considerations during product design and manufacturing, Sanjay Arudi, director, quality & regulatory affairs, GE Healthcare told Pharmabiz in an email.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Bangalore**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Dengue rises, but government yet to wake up](#)**

**Synopsis:** PHI has its hands full, testing 60 blood samples a day with 50% of them turning positive for dengue in a week. But the state government refuses to acknowledge that there is a problem. Health minister U T Khader is firm in ruling out any dengue outbreak. "It's impossible to bring down dengue cases to zero. As long as solid waste management and cleanliness in drains are %not taken care of, diseases like dengue will keep affecting people. Local municipal bodies and gram panchayats have to take up cleanliness drives," he says.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Glenmark Pharmaceuticals discovers new molecule; enters oncology segment](#)**

**Synopsis:** Glenmark Pharmaceuticals today said it has entered the oncology segment with the discovery of a new molecule, which the company intends to develop to treat various types of cancers. Glenmark Pharmaceuticals SA, a wholly-owned unit of Glenmark, announces the discovery and initiation of studies of a novel clinical development candidate, GBR 1302, the company said in a statement.

**Similar reports in-**

**Mint- [Glenmark develops new anti-cancer drug](#)**

**Business Standard- [Glenmark launches new cancer drug molecule](#)**

**The Hindu Business Line- [Glenmark Pharma moves higher on new molecule for cancer](#)**

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Novartis licenses experimental tuberculosis drugs to TB Alliance](#)**

**Synopsis:** Novartis said on Wednesday it had signed an deal to exclusively license its experimental drugs for tuberculosis (TB) to the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development. Under the terms of the agreement, TB Alliance will take over financial and operational responsibility for developing, seeking approval and distributing the compounds, which were discovered at the Novartis Institutes for Tropical Disease.

**Website: Reuters**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 20, 2014**

**Headline: [AstraZeneca and Mitsubishi Tanabe link on diabetes research](#)**

**Synopsis:** AstraZeneca and Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma said on Wednesday they said signed a three-year research collaboration into diabetic nephropathy, or kidney failure due to diabetes. The deal will focus on early-stage research and the hope is that by working together the companies will be able to identify promising drug candidates much faster than working alone. There is no financial commitment for the research involved and each firm will contribute equal resources at their own cost.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Vadodara**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Gujarat high court stays National Family Health Survey for 2014-15](#)**

**Synopsis:** National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the largest household survey conducted in the country to provide health and family data, has hit a roadblock. The Gujarat high court has stayed NFHS-4 following a petition by Vadodara-based FactInDepth Research and Development India Pvt Ltd, an organization which was earlier involved in the national survey. The organization had moved the court after it was disqualified by Mumbai-based International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), the nodal agency for the survey.

**Publication: Deccan Chronicle**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Malaria a major threat, but research still limited](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which believes that controlling mosquitoes is the key to controlling malaria, has committed \$258.3 million for malaria research and development. Insecticides are usually used to reduce mosquitoes, but the pests have developed a resistance to those. This requires new varieties of chemicals to be invented, and it is a challenging task as the safety of humans and the environment is a major concern. The research on malaria drugs has been limited. The foundation is working along with scientists on 20 new compounds. New methods and alert health officers are required to spot breeding grounds of the pests.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 20, 2014**

**Headline: [India based Venus Remedies gets market authorisation for oncology drugs from Swiss authority](#)**

**Synopsis:** Pharma major Venus Remedies has secured its first marketing authorisation in Switzerland from Swiss drug authority 'Swissmedic' for its oncology drug 'Gemcitabine'. The marketing approval for Gemcitabine will help the company further strengthen its oncology portfolio and improve its presence in this space, Venus Remedies said in a statement here today. The Panchkula-based company plans to launch the drug early next quarter and the product will be launched in Switzerland by Swiss Pharma GmbH, with which Venus has a marketing tie-up, it said.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Shares of Sun Pharma, Cipla, Lupin hit life-time highs](#)**

**Synopsis:** Shares of pharmaceutical companies are on a roll with most of the frontline stocks are trading multi-year highs on the bourses. The rally is driven by a strong operational performance during the recently concluded quarter and weaker rupee against the dollar, analysts say. "The Indian pharmaceutical industry continued to exhibit strong operating performance during 2013-14 as pharma companies continued to take advantage of patent expiration wave in the US, steady demand from emerging markets and favourable foreign exchange scenario," suggests an ICRA report.

**Similar reports in-**

**Business Standard- [Pharma shares on a roll; BSE Healthcare index up 3%](#)**

**The Hindu Business Line- [Pharma stocks extend their gains on BSE](#)**

**Moneycontrol- [Pharma stocks outperform equity benchmarks, rally 2-14%](#)**