

Drug pricing/ NPPA**Publication: Down to Earth****Edition: Online****Date: August 21, 2014****Headline: [Health activists ask Centre to stand firm on price control order for 50 life-saving drugs](#)**

Synopsis: Contrary to pharma industry claims, price control notifications for 50 cardiovascular and anti-diabetic drugs will impact retail market only marginally, say NGOs. The recent decision of the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) to bring more medicines under price control has been welcomed by civil society groups. They have requested the government to stand by its decision even as the pharma lobby has approached courts to get the order reversed. On July 10, NPPA, acting in public interest, had released a new set of price notifications for 50 cardiovascular and diabetes medicines under paragraph 19 of the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 2013. The notifications were issued in light of evidence showing these life-saving drugs were overpriced and to curb profiteering.

Unethical medical practices**Publication: Mint****Edition: National****Date: August 22, 2014****Headline: [Govt may bring pharma marketing under statutory ethics law](#)**

Synopsis: The department of pharmaceuticals may soon consider formulating a statutory framework to enforce a uniform code of pharmaceuticals marketing practices, said two people familiar with the plan. The department believes existing voluntary guidelines have had little impact in controlling unfair practices. The regulatory framework would include provisions for strict action against unfair practices. The department is talking to the Medical Council of India (MCI) and the industry to ensure their cooperation before going ahead with statutory provisions that will include strict penal action against pharma companies violating the provisions.

Publication: The Times of India**Edition: Chennai****Date: August 22, 2014****Headline: [Talk show hits a raw nerve among doctors in Tamil Nadu](#)**

Synopsis: A Tamil TV channel has invited the wrath of doctors across the state through a talk show that focused on unethical medical practices. Several associations of doctors have held demonstrations this week and raised slogans criticising the show for what they construe as misinformation on health issues and public health programmes offered by the government of Tamil Nadu. On Sunday, Vijay TV telecast the show 'Neeya Naana' on the subject, 'doctors vs public' in which members of the public narrated their experiences and criticised doctors for prescribing unnecessary treatment and tests. Since the telecast, doctor associations have been organising a series of protests accusing the anchor and the channel of distorting facts about diagnosis and procedures such as ultrasound scans for pregnant women. They have accused the channel of editing out parts to make the programme one-sided. One of the participants on the show is shown saying a child known to her has no hair because of the repeated scans the mother had to go through during pregnancy.

Health ministry**Publication: The Economic Times****Edition: Online**

Date: August 22, 2014

Headline: [Health Minister Harsh Vardhan defends AIIMS Chief Vigilance Officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi's removal](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today defended the removal of AIIMS Chief Vigilance Officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi saying he was "not eligible" for the post. "He was not at all eligible for the post that he was holding at AIIMS. We were informed that without the approval of the Central Vigilance Commission, nobody can be assigned the post of CVO anywhere. "This was brought to our notice, we took cognizance of the same and removed him from the post," Vardhan told reporters when asked about the sudden removal of Chaturvedi, who has the reputation of being a whistleblower.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [‘Chaturvedi not eligible for CVO post’: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Business Standard- [Removed AIIMS official to demand CBI inquiry](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [AIIMS whistleblower’s ouster: AAP demands Vardhan’s resignation](#)

The Hindu- [AIIMS faculty cries foul as Health Minister defends move to remove Chaturvedi](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [AIIMS vigilance officer 'not eligible' for post, says health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan](#)

The Indian Express- [Harsh Vardhan defends AIIMS CVO sacking: ‘Was not eligible’](#)

Outlook- [Vardhan Defends Removal of AIIMS Vigilance Officer](#)

Publication: Business Insider

Edition: Online

Date: August 21, 2014

Headline: [Politics Will Not Come In Way Of Health Policy: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today said that politics would not affect the health programme and policies of the country. "For the health of the nation, the health of government departments needs to be improved. I will not let politics to interfere in the health of the country," said Vardhan while launching a music video on child health and immunisation. The health minister said that he had fostered close friendships with the state governments and state health ministers.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 21, 2014

Headline: [Patients have right to get medical records from hospitals,says Law Ministry](#)

Synopsis: Patients have a right to get their medical records from hospitals and the Health Ministry should issue instructions to ensure that such documents are not denied, the Law Ministry said today. Against the backdrop of a Central Information Commission judgement ordering disclosure of information to a former RAW official, the Law Ministry has pointed out that "most of the time the hospital authorities do not provide details of the medical record or the treatment given to a patient."

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 21, 2014

Headline: [Health ministry unveils ‘Phool Khil Jayenge’ song to reiterate its commitment to immunize all Indian children](#)

Synopsis: Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reiterated its commitment to immunise all Indian children on the occasion of the India’s 68 Independence Day. The government launched a public service message in the form of a music video ‘Phool Khil Jayenge’ which was unveiled by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan. The song highlights the importance of immunization in saving lives of Indian children, given that 14 lakh children under 5 years of age succumb annually in India due to preventable diseases, like pneumonia and diarrhea. Just last month, the Prime Minister’s

Office announced the introduction of four new vaccines: rotavirus, rubella, polio (injectable), and an adult vaccine for Japanese Encephalitis in districts with high burden.

Website: International Business Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 21, 2014

Headline: [Ebola in India? Karnataka Health Ministry Rubbishes WhatsApp Rumours, Threatens to Take Legal Action](#)

Synopsis: There has been a message doing the rounds on social media platform WhatsApp that a student from Mangalore, Karnataka, died after he contracted the deadly Ebola virus. Karnataka Health Minister UT Khader rubbished these rumours and said that legal action would be taken against those who originated it. The message seems to have gone viral on the mobile application platform WhatsApp, with people forwarding it without getting proper verification. Khader expressed his concern over how unsubstantiated reports like these could cause mass panic in the country and disrupt day-to-day life.

Modi government/ WTO

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 22, 2014

Headline: [Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India vision to boost education, healthcare sectors](#)

Synopsis: One can't make available thousands of medical specialists or school teachers to the remotest corners of the country, but one can make their services available through broadband at multi-service centres in every village. That, in essence, is the vision of Digital India initiative that the Cabinet cleared on Wednesday. Digital India, which promises to transform India into a connected knowledge economy offering world class services at the click of a mouse, will be implemented in a phased manner by 2019 at an estimated cost of about Rs 1,13,000 crore, including ongoing enabling projects run by telecom and electronics and IT departments, officials said. At the end of the day, it promises to change the life in rural India, according to some bureaucrats who helped ET piece together Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Digital India: Govt to spend up to Rs1.13 trillion in three-five years](#)

Business Today- [Cabinet okays Rs 1 lakh crore Digital India plan](#)

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: August 22, 2014

Headline: [India won't give up right to reform PDS: Sitharaman](#)

Synopsis: The government on Thursday said it is committed to engaging with the World Trade Organization (WTO) but will not give up its sovereign right on reforming the public distribution system (PDS) or deciding on food subsidies. This was articulated by Minister of State for Commerce (independent charge) and Finance Nirmala Sitharama at The Indian Express's Idea Exchange programme. "PDS, efficient use of subsidy or how many people will benefit from PDS are all issues we, in India have to decide for ourselves. That is no way going to be driven by WTO," she said but stressed that India will honour the commitment to the WTO on trade facilitation, public stock holding and least developed countries. "I will honour that sovereign commitment but let me do the course correction first," she said.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 22, 2014

Headline: [State cuts kids' malnutrition, is lauded globally](#)

Synopsis: Maharashtra's 'Nutrition Mission', a programme aiming to curb malnutrition in young children particularly under the age of two, has garnered lavish applause on the international stage for the major gains it has made. The scheme has reduced chronic malnutrition (stunting) across income groups in children aged under two from 39% in 2005-06 to 23% in 2012. Because of it, severe chronic malnutrition has declined from 15% in 2005-06 to 8% in 2012. "Unicef has acknowledged the programme as by far the best model across countries and the best in India," chief minister Prithviraj Chavan told TOI in an exclusive interview. Aside from the Unicef report, which was vetted by the England-based Institute of Development Studies, the programme came in for praise from the world's leading medical journal Lancet. The publication mentioned it as a case study on how leadership, governance and coordination can contribute to reducing malnutrition.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Mumbai

Date: August 22, 2014

Headline: [Generic drugs prove a lifeline for poor patients](#)

Synopsis: Rajendra Brid, a taxi driver from Vikhroli, has been able to save more than Rs.3,500 by buying generic medicines available in the nearby Janadhar Medical Store, Ghatkopar, which sells only the cheaper substitutes of branded medicines. The medical store opened by the Janadhar Prathisthan Trust is one of the five medical stores, which is benefiting some 700 to 800 patients each across the city every month. A generic drug is a drug that is not branded, but is similar to a branded or reference-listed drug in terms of dosage, administration and performance. A large number of people who cannot afford the branded expensive medicines can use the generic version, which is equally effective said the doctors. "We get buyers from across the state. Since, their financial conditions are usually weak they end up saving a lot," said Manoj Chaudhry, pharmacist at the store. "I come here every month to buy medicines for my diabetic father. My earnings are low. But in the last three months I was able to save more than Rs.3,500," said Mr Brid.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 21, 2014

Headline: [FDI jumps 34 per cent to \\$1.92 billion in June](#)

Synopsis: Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to India surged by about 34 per cent to \$1.92 billion in June, according to the official data. In June 2013, the country had received FDI worth \$1.44 billion. During April-June in this fiscal, the foreign inflows recorded a growth of 34 per cent. FDI was at \$7.23 billion in April-June, 2014-15 compared to \$5.39 billion in April-June 2013-14, the data by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion showed.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 22, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy Laboratories may face another hefty fine in the US of Rs 240 crore](#)

Synopsis: Ranbaxy Laboratories may have to pay another hefty fine in the United States of close to Rs 240 crore, this time imposed by the State of Texas, people familiar with the matter told ET. The company has been in negotiation with the US state over settlement of this issue for quite some time now, they added. While final details are awaited, one of the persons quoted above said the fine could be broadly split into two components. One of this, about 38 per cent, could relate to some additional dues that the state may have claimed on account of Ranbaxy's previous slippages from the US-prescribed manufacturing practices, which led to its coughing up \$500 million as fine in the US in May last year.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Another big blow for Ranbaxy](#)
NDTV- [Ranbaxy Falls 2% on Reports of Rs. 240 Crore US Fine](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Chennai

Date: August 22, 2014

Headline: [Step up AIDS control measures: U.N. official](#)

Synopsis: Emphasising the need for stepping up the HIV/AIDS control programme in certain areas in India, U.N. Secretary General's Special Envoy for AIDS for Asia and the Pacific J.V.R. Prasada Rao said, "Although there has been a reduction of 56 per cent in new infections, its rate has increased in some populations, like injecting drug users and men having sex with men."

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: August 21, 2014

Headline: [WHO holding talks next month on Ebola treatments](#)

Synopsis: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Thursday it would convene talks early next month on potential treatments and vaccines to contain the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The infectious disease has killed 1,350 people among 2,473 cases in four countries - Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone - according to the United Nations health agency. The WHO this month backed the use of untested drugs on people infected with Ebola, but the scarcity of supplies has raised questions about who gets priority access to treatment.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Bangalore

Date: August 22, 2014

Headline: [Proper management of waste prevents dengue: UT Khader](#)

Synopsis: The dengue scare is spreading, but the BBMP and health department are seeking to play down the issue. Health and family welfare minister UT Khader is defending them, saying every case of low platelet count doesn't imply dengue. Until solid waste is properly managed, dengue and chikungunya are bound to be a scourge.