

Drug pricing/ NPPA**Publication: Business Standard****Edition: National****Date: August 26, 2014****Headline: [Torrent Pharma gets price exemption for new drug](#)**

Synopsis: Ahmedabad-based Torrent Pharma has secured an exemption from price control for one of its newly developed fixed dose combination (FDC) products. This is apparently the first product to get exemption under the new drug pricing policy, which came into effect last year. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) granted an exemption to Torrent Pharma's FDC containing prasugrel hydrochloride 10 mg plus aspirin 75 mg for five years. The order is based on a provision of the Drugs Price Control Order, 2013, that allows the exception to products approved as a 'new drug' by the drug quality regulator. The idea is to promote domestic investment in research and development of new drugs. This means Torrent is free to price the medicine for five years, after which it will have to seek NPPA approval. However, the regulator has also asked the company to keep it informed about the maximum retail price.

Clinical trials**Publication: The Economic Times****Edition: Online****Date: August 25, 2014****Headline: [Keep clinical trial services out of service tax ambit: Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises](#)**

Synopsis: The Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) has requested the government to consider keeping clinical trial services out of the ambit of service tax. As per the Union budget, these services, which were previously exempt, would now attract service tax of 12.36 per cent. The move, industry players say, would increase the cost of drug development in the country and lead to a corresponding increase in the price of the tested drugs. "Drug development in India is already facing challenges on several fronts following which the number of global and local clinical trials has come down substantially.

Health ministry**Publication: The Economic Times****Edition: Online****Date: August 25, 2014****Headline: [Government to come out with comprehensive new health policy](#)**

Synopsis: Government is formulating new programmes to deal with major diseases affecting the people in the country, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said today. Vardhan today chaired an over three-hour long meeting of health officials where they "brainstormed" about health sector issues and developing new programmes. "We are looking at programmes for control and diagnosis of various diseases. We are brainstorming about various health sector issues and how we can develop new programmes so that we can convert health into a big social movement," he told PTI. The government, he said, will make sure that there is a huge health awareness generated around those diseases through programmes.

Publication: The Economic Times**Edition: Online****Date: August 25, 2014**

Headline: [AAP protests AIIMS CVO Sanjeev Chaturvedi's removal at Harsh Vardhan's residence](#)

Synopsis: The Aam Aadmi Party today protested outside the residence of Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan over the removal of AIIMS Chief Vigilance Officer Sanjeev Chaturvedi. The protest was held at the Minister's Krishna Nagar residence in East Delhi, from where he was elected an MLA and vacated after he was elected MP from Chandni Chowk. The protesters displayed placards and posters demanding the Health Minister's resignation for "victimising an honest officer at the behest of BJP leaders".

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [Protesters demand Harsh Vardhan's resignation](#)

The Hindu- ["AIIMS CVO appointment legal"](#)

Modi government/ WTO

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Differences on 'post-Bali plan' may have led to India's WTO decision](#)

Synopsis: The difference of opinion between India and developed nations as to what constitutes a "post-Bali work programme" may have contributed to the government's decision to block the World Trade Organization's (WTO) trade facilitation agreement (TFA). India is seeking a permanent solution to the issue of subsidies provided to its farmers while developed countries are blaming India for reneging on a promise made at a meeting in Bali, the Indonesian island where all WTO members, including India, had agreed to adopt the trade facilitation accord into the WTO rulebook by 31 July.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [India-US natural partners: US diplomat](#)

Synopsis: India and the US are natural partners and the world demands that the two nations cooperate, US diplomat Kathleen Stephens said Monday. "Our ability to work together remains a foundation for strong partnership," Stephens, the charge d'affaires at the US embassy in India, said at the launch of the International Innovations Corps Leadership Speaker series of the University of Chicago centre here. Stephens said: "I arrived in India at a very consequential moment. Not only for India-US relations but for India itself with the new government taking over."

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [UK wants to work with India in economic and social transformation](#)

Synopsis: Britain today expressed desire to work with India in realising the new government's goal of economic and social transformation as Prime Minister Narendra Modi favoured greater collaboration in areas like clean energy, infrastructure development and cleaning of rivers. The UK's intent was expressed by its Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg when he met Modi here and discussed a wide range of issues, including energy and WTO talks. During the meeting, Clegg conveyed UK's strong desire to further strengthen and deepen relations with India.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [British deputy PM meets Modi, Jaitley](#)

The Times of India- [Modi invites Britain for energy efficiency co-operation](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [DCGI renames new drug advisory committees as subject expert committees](#)

Synopsis: As per the recommendations of the Prof Ranjit Roy Choudhury committee, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has renamed new drug advisory committees (NDACs) as subject expert committees (SECs). Prof Ranjit Roy Choudhury committee was constituted by the Union health ministry last year to formulate policy, guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for approval of new drugs including biologicals, clinical trials, banning of drugs and to formulate guidelines and SOPs on the functioning of new drug advisory committees (NDACs). The committee submitted its recommendations to the ministry late last year.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Commerce ministry sets up ICC within CDSCO to address issues of exporters](#)

Synopsis: The commerce ministry established an International Co-operation Cell (ICC) within the office of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to address export related queries more efficiently. Through this initiative, the commerce ministry hopes to boost the confidence of the exporters further with a single window for better delivery of services through a systematic and organised network specifically for exports. ICC, an initiative of the commerce ministry is designed to aid exporters address issues on a fast track basis so that the long delays in addressing regulatory issues do not affect the exports. The cell is headed by Dr A Chandra Sekhara Rao, deputy drugs controller (India) comprising of ten members which includes drug inspectors and ADC's who have been selected to exclusively deal with all the exports related issues, while also attending to the queries of the commerce ministry.

Universal Immunisation Programme

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Centre to go full throttle against Rubella](#)

Synopsis: Having won the battle against polio, India is now gearing to weed out Rubella, which has been identified as one of the major causes of congenital defects in babies. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the introduction of four new vaccines in July as part of the country's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) — Rotavirus, Rubella and Polio (injectable) and Japanese Encephalitis — for adults, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decide to launch a campaign against the disease that is known to cause blindness, deafness and heart defects in babies.

Universal Health Care

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [Put healthcare top on agenda, activists tell political parties](#)

Synopsis: Pointing out that Maharashtra spends much less than Goa does on healthcare, activists on Monday urged political parties to put the issue high on their agenda and work towards introducing universal healthcare (UHC) to all. "A common person spends an average of over Rs 2,245 annually on healthcare, which is nearly four times the amount that the state government spends," said Dr Ravi Duggal of the Maharashtra UHC Group. The UHC group, comprising 12 healthcare activists and doctors, has worked out a detailed plan of UHC for Maharashtra. The central idea of the scheme is to provide cashless healthcare facility to every person, irrespective of the economic status and capacity to pay.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Universal health care system to benefit farmers](#)

Synopsis: Jan Swastha Abhiyan- a network of NGOs working on health-related issues - has come up with a model for universal healthcare for Maharashtra to ensure access to cashless healthcare for all. It is based on strengthened public system and in-sourced, regulated private providers. The blueprint will be submitted to the new state government. At a press meet in the Press Club on Monday, Dr P Sainath, an eminent journalist who was the chief guest, said: "Health care expenditure is one of the major reasons behind the indebtedness of farmers in Maharashtra. Many farmers mortgage their lands to pay hospital bills. It has a crushing effect on families."

Public Health

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Stock-out hits HIV treatment across India](#)

Synopsis: Treatment for HIV patients across India has taken a hit, especially in Delhi and Mumbai, due to severe stock-outs of life-saving medicines reported at government-owned centres. Shortage of first-line (initial), second-line (advanced) and paediatric HIV drugs, besides crucial diagnostic kits, has prompted patient groups to send a legal notice to the government, pointing to the scarcity, gaps in procurement and supply of these drugs. The treatment and control of HIV, including dispensing drugs and testing, is handled by the government-run public health programme through its 355-odd centres.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [India has Historic Opportunity to End Tropical Diseases](#)

Synopsis: Given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stress on "toilets not temples", India has a historic opportunity to end Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) that affect the world's poorest people, according to an Indian-origin health specialist. "India has an excellent history of controlling and eliminating smallpox, guinea worm and polio. Now we have this huge opportunity to end NTDs," says Dr. Neeraj Mistry, Managing Director of Global Network for NTDs here. "We are very positive because of India's proven track record and the current scale of India's treatment programme," Mistry, a third generation South African of Gujarati origin, told IANS. Mistry joined the group in July 2010 as he was passionate about the issue.

Similar report in-

IANS- ['India has historic opportunity to end tropical diseases'](#)

Website: News Laundry

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Opinion piece: Dr. P. K. Sasidharan, head of department of Internal Medicine at Calicut Medical College

Headline: [ARE DOCTORS ENGAGED IN GENUINE HEALTH CARE?](#)

Synopsis: The permanent solution to our problems lies in providing genuine health care by making available all the basic health needs to all sections of society. These include providing balanced diet and safe drinking water for all, proper and prompt waste management, good sanitation facilities, and encouraging and educating people to follow good lifestyle practices while providing facilities for that like

playgrounds and parks. Providing basic health needs will reduce the disease burden in the community. This is possible only if we aim at human development and providing social security to all individuals in the society. Therefore the situation calls for strong economic and social reforms. After that we need to streamline disease care by focusing more on basic disease care. Health care should be unambiguously understood as prevention of diseases and promotion of health alone. Disease care is not genuinely a health care activity in its true sense, but can be transformed into health care if doctors recognise what went wrong in each patient and teach the patient and the attending relatives, in the hospital setting itself, about the prevention of that disease. If we want to have people-oriented health care, then what is needed is a stable pyramid of health care. But we have ended up producing an inverted pyramid, which is collapsing, and has resulted in increased number of diseases. The sad part of the story is that neither the general public nor the doctors and the administration recognize this danger. The earlier we recognise this, the better it is for us and the rest of the world.

Innovation

Website: Business Standard (B2B Connect)

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [Indian educational institutions need serious introspection: Pranab Mukherjee](#)

Synopsis: In spite of having no dearth of qualified teachers and brilliant students, Indian educational institutions are not among the front ranking institutions in the world. Raising this concern, President Pranab Mukharjee said that there is a need for serious introspection to find the reasons for this. Addressing the students of the Krishnath College at Baharampur, Murshidabad, West Bengal, on August 23, 2014, he called for restoring the atmosphere conducive for research and perfect teacher-student relation in educational institutions of the country. The President said mere expansion of physical infrastructure in educational sector alone cannot bring about proper improvement or lead to comprehensive development. The concept of a knowledge society means only by acquiring superior technology can a country become a super power.

General Industry

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [No biotech copycat drug lift off before 2017: Novartis CEO](#)

Synopsis: Swiss drugmaker Novartis AG does not expect copycat versions of biotech drugs to play an important role in the healthcare system for another three to five years, its chief executive said on Monday. Novartis' generics unit Sandoz is the No. 1 player in the field of copycat medicines, known as biosimilars because they are copies of biotech medicines made from living cells that cannot be replicated exactly. Chief Executive Joe Jimenez said biosimilars generated about \$500 million in sales for Novartis and were growing at a rate of about 20 percent per year.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [Pharma market to grow better than global peers: Moody's](#)

Synopsis: The country's pharmaceutical market will see continued strong growth at a more favourable rate than its global peers and even if the country's GDP growth were to slow down, it would still represent a better growth opportunity, according to Moody's Investors Service. Drug companies in the country could, however, face higher debt levels as the pharmaceutical sector in India grows, resulting in mergers and acquisitions, it said. "India's pharmaceutical market will continue to grow in the double digits, a rate which is more favourable than most other markets for the industry," Moody's Investors Service (MIS) said in a statement.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu Business Line- [Pharma sector to continue growth in double digits: Moody's](#)
Moneycontrol- [Can Indian pharma sector lead the bull run from hereon?](#)
NDTV- [Indian Pharma Market to Grow Better Than Global Peers: Moody's](#)
India TV- [Pharma sector to continue growth in double digits: Moody's](#)

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Delhi

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Delhi govt notifies rules for transfers, postings of doctors](#)

Synopsis: Three months after circulating draft guidelines to regulate transfers and postings of doctors, the Delhi government has notified the first formal rules in its health services on August 22 to regulate the process of appointments and transfers during service for doctors. Newline had reported that a committee had been set up to look into the matter under the health secretary after some senior doctors and medical superintendents had alleged that the transfers during the AAP government's tenure in Delhi were arbitrary earlier this year.

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [Roche to buy U.S. biotech firm InterMune for \\$8.3 billion](#)

Synopsis: Roche Holding AG has agreed to buy U.S. biotech company InterMune Inc for \$8.3 billion in cash, helping the world's leading maker of cancer drugs expand into the treatment of rare or incurable diseases. Roche's efforts to produce successful non-cancer drugs from its own labs have been mixed, with setbacks in recent years for experimental drugs against heart disease, diabetes and schizophrenia.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Indian-American doctors spread health message at India Day parade](#)

Synopsis: In their efforts to spread the message of healthy living for all, leaders of the American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPI) joined the India Day Parade here last week. As the colourfully decorated float of AAPI, one of the largest ethnic organisations representing over 100,000 Indian origin physicians, led by its president Ravi Jahagirdar rolled down New York's Madison Avenue crowds greeted it with an applause.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [100 Indians to return today from Ebola-scarred Liberia](#)

Synopsis: Even as over 100 Indians fleeing from the Ebola-hit Liberia are expected to land in Mumbai airport on Tuesday, the BMC admitted to have been unable to trace 80% of those who have already landed over the fortnight. On a brighter side, though, the 32-year-old man, who had been quarantined at the Bal Thackeray Trauma Care Centre on suspicion, has tested negative for the deadly virus. Sources said the travellers, employees of a private company, will land at Delhi and Mumbai. Around 27 of the 114 passengers will land in Delhi first and then board domestic flights to Mumbai. The city airport has readied measures to screen them. "A remote bay will be allocated for the said flights. All passengers will be screened at the step ladder exit," said an airport source. Of 1,427 deaths due to the virus, the highest 624 have taken place in Liberia.

Publication: The Economist (appeared in The Financial Express today)

Edition: National

Date: August 25, 2014

Headline: [Paternalism 2.0](#)

Synopsis: American exceptionalism takes many forms. In the corporate world, one example is particularly odd: companies choose health insurance for their workers. Almost all firms with over 200 employees offer health coverage. Company-sponsored insurance is common for working-age Americans. In no other big and rich country is it the norm. But this form of paternalism is diminishing fast, accelerated by Barack Obama's health reform. The changes have broad implications for workers and the health industry. Poll after poll shows that employers are revising their health plans. On August 18th the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported that more than half of employers were changing insurance in response to Obamacare. The particular reforms may vary but the ailment they are all trying to treat is widespread.

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Canada's Immunovaccine Inc says test of Ebola vaccine promising](#)

Synopsis: Four monkeys survived the Ebola virus after being injected with a vaccine that included Immunovaccine Inc's technology, the tiny Canadian company said on Monday, and the announcement sent its stock soaring. The Halifax, Nova Scotia-based company said four monkeys received the vaccine and later survived a dose of Ebola virus that normally would have been lethal. Two other animals that did not receive the vaccine died within a week. Immunovaccine, which had a market capitalization of about C\$77 million as of Friday, is one of a handful of companies involved in testing potential vaccines for the Ebola virus, which has killed nearly 1,500 people in West Africa.

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Liberian doctor who received rare Ebola drug ZMapp dies](#)

Synopsis: A Liberian doctor who treated victims of an Ebola epidemic and then contracted the disease himself has died even though he was given the experimental drug ZMapp, Liberia's information minister said on Monday. Abraham Borbor's death could curb optimism about the drug that mounted last week when two U.S. aid workers who caught Ebola in Liberia were declared free of the virus after receiving the same treatment at a hospital in the United States.