



News Updates: August 27, 2014

OPPI

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Drug industry divided over govt move on statutory marketing code](#)

Synopsis: Further to setting up an interaction with Unnikrishnan from Mint, the publication has done an industry story highlighting how the drug makers are divided over the government's plan to introduce a statutory marketing ethics code. It highlights that while the lobby group representing local pharma firms prefers self-regulation over mandatory legislation, foreign drug firms suggest it should make the marketing ethics code statutory. The report quotes Ranjana Smetacek saying, " We have asked the government to make its Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) statutory. This will help bring much-needed discipline into the market place and increase trust among patients. OPPI members adhere to our stringent ethics code, which includes guidelines on marketing".

Publication: Express Healthcare

Edition: National

Date: August 16 -31, 2014 edition

Headline: [OPPI hosts 3rd Healthcare Access Summit \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) recently organized its third Healthcare Access Summit in Mumbai. At this summit, leaders from the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare policy experts, consumer activists and other distinguished professionals focused on the importance of partnerships in achieving affordable healthcare access for all.

Drug pricing/ NPPA

Website: Business Standard (B2B Connect)

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [NPPA grants price exemption for Torrent Pharma's FDC drug](#)

Synopsis: Torrent Pharma has apparently become the first company to receive price exemption for a new drug from National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the new drug pricing policy, which came into effect last year, according to a Business Standard. The Ahmedabad-based drug maker has secured an exemption from price control for one of its newly developed fixed dose combination (FDC) products. The company's FDC containing prasugrel hydrochloride 10 mg plus aspirin 75 mg has been granted an exemption by NPPA for five years. This means Torrent Pharma 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.

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [MSF cautions India on IP inclusion in RCEP talks](#)

Synopsis: Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), or Doctors Without Borders, an international not-for-profit organisation working in the field of access to affordable medicines, has cautioned India on the inclusion of intellectual property (IP) in the ongoing negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive

Economic Partnership (RCEP), a proposed free trade agreement of which India is now a negotiating member. MSF's alert comes ahead of the next RCEP ministerial conference to be held in Myanmar on 27-28 August 2014. In a letter addressed to Nirmala Sitharaman, India's minister of state for commerce and industry, the group said on Tuesday that India should reject all draft IP proposals that harm access to medicines and ensure that the final text of negotiations is aligned with relevant global public health commitments.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [REVISED NORMS FOR ISSUE OF PATENTS](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: The Section 3(d) of the amended Indian Patent Act of 2005 is a key safeguard against ever greening of a drug patent by the inventor companies by making some incremental changes to the original molecule. This section is specifically included in the Patent Act considering the practice of making minor modifications to the patented molecule by the MNCs to perpetuate the exclusive marketing rights of products after the expiry of patent. By obtaining patent rights the pharma companies can have a monopoly for that product and sell at very high prices. In spite of having this section, the Patent Offices in the country continue to receive hundreds of patent applications for products with no new therapeutic properties. As the global pharmaceutical industry is turning less and less innovative and is struggling to get new molecules, multinational corporations tend to re-jigger the same old drugs with the hope of getting new product patents. Novartis' attempt to obtain patent for its cancer drug, Glivec, in India is well known. The company wanted a patent for Glivec, which is regarded just an incremental innovation of a known molecule. The patent office rejected the company's application for the product in January 2006 but it moved the Madras High Court, IPAB and later the Supreme Court. Finally, the Supreme Court last year upheld the decision of Indian patent office of not granting the patent. In 2009, the Patent Office rejected patent application of Pfizer for its drug, Caduet, a therapeutic combination of amlodipine and atorvastatin. The decision against Caduet, a combination of Pfizer's Norvasc (amlodipine besylate) and Lipitor (atorvastatin calcium), is in favour of a pre-grant opposition filed by Torrent.

Ethics

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 27, 2014

Editorial: Jug Suraiya

Headline: [Bitter medicine](#)

Synopsis: The doctor you go to, and whom you trust literally with your life, is probably totally ethical. However, the medicines your physician prescribes for you, in all good faith, could end up harming you much more than helping you. How come? Because almost all doctors, in India and abroad, rely on the recommendations of various medical associations and professional bodies as to what medicines are best suited to treat various conditions. And these professional associations, consisting of experts, are hugely funded by big pharmaceutical firms who use them to promote the sales of their products, often by a deliberate distortion of facts.

Clinical trials

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [DRDO to seek approval for clinical trials for bionic ear](#)

Synopsis: Bionic ears, or artificial hearing devices that are partly implanted under the scalp, could be made in India in the near future, bringing down their prices by nearly a sixth and benefiting thousands of people suffering from significant hearing loss. India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which developed these devices, has completed two-year-long tests to ensure the human body

does not reject these implants. It will seek approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) this month to carry out clinical trials, before starting commercial production. The bionic ear, or cochlear implant, picks up sound, converts it into electrical energy and feeds it to the auditory nerve which goes to the brain, which perceives it as sound. The cochlea is the auditory part of the internal ear.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Apex committee on clinical trials gives clearance to only 9 new trial proposals](#)

Synopsis: The apex committee on clinical trials, constituted by the Union health ministry on the directive of the Supreme Court to monitor the clinical trial sector in the country, has cleared only 9 new clinical trial proposals, 5 proposals of global clinical trials (GCTs) and 4 in other areas. These trials were earlier approved by new drug advisory committees (NDACs) and thereafter the technical committee, another high-level panel formed by the ministry on this purpose. Senior officials in the health ministry said that the apex committee, in its 16th meeting held on August 8 under the chairmanship of health secretary Lov Verma, deliberated in detail on the new proposals and ratified the recommendations made by the technical committee. Earlier, the technical committee in its meeting had evaluated and recommended for 9 proposals of various categories of clinical trials. Out of the total 9 cases, 5 cases were GCTs and the rest 4 cases were related to clinical trials for approval of new drugs including fixed dose combinations, subsequent new drugs and biologicals.

Health ministry

Website: NDTV

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [No Ebola Case in India, Says Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has said there is no suspected case of Ebola in India, one of the deadliest diseases known to man. "We are carefully screening all passengers coming from Ebola infected countries at the airport itself. As of today there is no suspected case of Ebola in India," the health minister said in Indore.

Similar reports in-

The New Indian Express- [79 Indians Back from Liberia Declared Ebola-free](#)

Business Today- [Indians back from Ebola virus-hit Liberia get all clear](#)

Publication: Business Standard (B2B Connect)

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Six AIIMS-like hospitals to be set up in UP](#)

Synopsis: Uttar Pradesh to get six super-speciality hospitals along the lines of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) by modernising existing six government medical college hospitals. Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, said, "The high disease burden of UP, which also has the largest population among India's states, has influenced the decision to add two more colleges to the already cleared list of government medical colleges for upgradation under Phase 3 of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)." Kanpur's Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial (GSVM) Medical College, is the Health Minister's alma mater. He was a MBBS and MS student here between 1974 and 1983. This medical college's upgrade is to be put on the fast track as it is servicing a huge population with no comparable facility anywhere in and around Kanpur, stated the Minister.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: Indore

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Three new cancer centres for Madhya Pradesh](#)

Synopsis: The government will set up 20 new advanced cancer treatment facilities across India over the next few years to meet the rising burden of the disease, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said here Tuesday. He said that for Madhya Pradesh, the central government has planned a new State Cancer Institute (SCI), along with two Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC). "Annually 11 lakh new cases of cancer are detected in India. Of them, about 6.06 percent are in Madhya Pradesh," Harsh Vardhan told the media here.

Similar report in-

Zee News- [20 new cancer treatment centres across India: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Publication: Jagran Post

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Centre to bring package of medicines, testing facilities](#)

Synopsis: "As desired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Health Ministry is working on National Health Assurance Mission under which a package will be offered to the poor," he told reporters. The package will comprise 50 medicines covering 95 percent of common diseases and facilities for necessary medical examinations and tests. The Union Health Minister was here to dedicate indigenously made linear accelerator 'Sidharth-3' at the Indore Cancer Foundation Charitable Trust's hospital.

Website: International Business Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [AAP Calls for Former AIIMS CVO Sanjiv Chaturvedi to be Reinstated](#)

Synopsis: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Janta Dal (United) have been protesting the dismissal of Sanjiv Chaturvedi, the former Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. Some AAP members went to the doorstep of Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan's Delhi residence on Monday, protesting the dismissal of Chaturvedi, who is considered to be one of the most upright anti-corruption officials in the country. The AAP members, outside Vardhan's residence demanded the latter to reinstate Chaturvedi as the CVO of AIIMS and even asked him to resign as the Health Minister of India.

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [India to seek China's support on food security at WTO](#)

Synopsis: India plans to seek China's support at the World Trade Organisation to press for a permanent solution to address concerns over food security among developing countries. Commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to discuss the matter with her Chinese counterpart during the bilateral meeting in the first week of September in Beijing. "We are working with China and other Asian economies that are a part of G-33 to get a deal on food security," a government official told ET. "It is an issue that concerns developing countries which need to procure food grains for their population and subsidise poor farmers. Even China and Indonesia have these programmes," added the official, who did not wish to be identified.

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Food security should not be sole reason for stopping WTO deal: Nick Clegg](#)

Synopsis: Concerns raised by India at the World Trade Organization (WTO) talks should be discussed and worked upon but should not become the sole reason to stall the WTO trade facilitation agreement, said British deputy prime minister Nick Clegg in a conversation on Tuesday during his visit to Mumbai. Clegg added that he is keen that India's legitimate concerns on food security be accommodated, but added that the delivery of the trade facilitation agreement must be safeguarded. Speaking on economic cooperation between India and the UK, Clegg said that aerospace, infrastructure and infrastructure financing are some sectors where expertise from the UK can help India.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [100 days of Modi Govt: No landmark decisions yet, but on right track](#)

Synopsis: As prime minister, Narendra Modi's biggest achievement so far is his connect with the masses, as was evident in his maiden Independence Day speech a few days ago, when he addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort without the security of a glass cage around him. Modi's speeches and statements continue to thrill and convince a large majority, as was the case when he was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s prime ministerial candidate. The results of the recent by-polls to 18 Assembly seats across four states, however, have come as an early wake-up call for the party.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 27, 2014

Editorial: Rajiv Kumar, senior fellow, Centre for Policy Research, Delhi

Headline: [Time for bold reforms, Mr Modi](#)

Synopsis: The Planning Commission is being revamped. This should have happened at least 16 years ago when the first NDA government came into office in 1998. By that time the 1991 reforms were beginning to transform the nature of the Indian economy from being closed and centrally planned to an open and private sector-led economy. But better late than never. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this bold reform in his maiden Independence Day speech. He is now actively following up on this announcement and met selected experts yesterday. I hope the new institution will be a high-powered and knowledge-driven body that will win the respect of its peers by the value addition it brings to addressing India's myriad challenges.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Planning Commission replacement shouldn't allocate funds, say experts](#)

Synopsis: A high-level meeting to frame a new body to replace the Planning Commission is learnt to have arrived at a broad consensus that allocation of Plan funds should not be the domain of the new entity but of the finance ministry. The new institution, it was agreed, could play the role of a "think tank". Officials in the know, however, said some had disagreed with the proposal. They felt if allocation was handled by the ministry, it could become extremely powerful, as there wouldn't be adequate checks and balances in place.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Foreign policy reflects pragmatism](#)

Synopsis: During the first three months of the Narendra Modi government, the foreign policy front seems

to have seen the highest momentum. At the outset, Modi had clarified his government wouldn't focus only on strengthening ties with western countries, but also with India's neighbours in South and Southeast Asia. In a move that left everyone surprised, Modi invited all leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) grouping for his swearing-in ceremony. Just a day after taking oath, he held formal bilateral talks with officials of all Saarc countries. Such out-of-the-box initiatives ignited hopes of a new beginning, especially in the case of India's ties with Pakistan and Nepal.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: Hits and Misses (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Modi urged global investors to help make India a manufacturing hub of the future in his independence Day speech. " I would like to tell the world 'come and make in India', come and manufacture in India, go in any part of the world but manufacture in India, " the prime minister said.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Patna

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Sushil Kumar Modi seeks CBI probe into drug buy 'scam'](#)

Synopsis: Former deputy chief minister and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi on Tuesday demanded a CBI inquiry into the purchase of drugs worth Rs 100 crore by the Bihar State Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BSMSICL), alleging involvement of top JD (U) leaders in the "scam". Modi also demanded that the reports of two committees- one headed by additional director (health services) Dr K K Singh and the other headed by director-in-chief (health services) be made public. The committees were formed in January to probe the purchase of substandard drugs and death of a patient following alleged administration of spurious drugs at the medical college hospital at Bhagalpur.

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [NREGA, building toilets to be delinked](#)

Synopsis: Construction of toilets in rural areas will be de-linked from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA or NREGA), Nitin Gadkari, minister for drinking water and sanitation, said on Tuesday. The previous government's decision to create a convergence between MGNREGA and toilet construction did not work well, Gadkari told a workshop and exhibition on innovation technology for sanitation and water quality in rural areas.

FDI

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Govt plans separate FDI policy for medical devices](#)

Synopsis: The government is actively considering a proposal to have a separate policy for allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the manufacture of medical devices, through the automatic route. Consultations between ministries, led by the ministry of commerce, are on. A policy and rules could be framed soon, a senior official said. The aim is to encourage greater investment from abroad in the sector. The health care and diagnostic segment is growing rapidly, creating a major potential market for manufacturing of medical equipment and medical devices in India.

FDA

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [MMC to soon release new physician friendly model prescription format for Maharashtra](#)

Synopsis: A new revised model prescription format will soon be released by Maharashtra Medical Council (MMC) in a couple of months time. Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) made the first attempt to launch a model prescription format February this year to have a uniform prescription practice in the state. MMC has consulted the Medical Council of India (MCI) on the nuances of the new format which would be less tedious and time consuming for the physician. A decision to release the format and the plan for its effective implementation is scheduled to be discussed in the Council's meeting next month.

Public Health

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Why Ice Bucket Challenge, pick causes closer home, doctors tell Indian celebrities](#)

Synopsis: In India, the Ice Bucket Challenge went viral amongst Bollywood celebrities. But medical experts feel this is simply a fad in India. Efforts to create awareness about a disease are welcome, but doctors say ALS is so rare in India that there is not even an estimate of the number of cases. Celebrity campaigners here should make efforts to raise awareness and collect funds to address India's public health challenges such as tuberculosis, HIV, cholera, hepatitis, malaria and dengue, they point out. Dr K Srinath Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation and chairman of several government committees like Universal Health Coverage, says, "Celebrity support for health campaigns is welcome. However, public support for any cause should spring from genuine understanding and empathy, not as a fleeting fancy to momentarily mount a passing bandwagon. It should be sustained support, born from abiding commitment." Generally campaigns in India featuring children, such as immunization and polio, and those which evoke fear, pain and tragedy like cancer, have attracted support from celebrities. Serious initiatives around heart disease, tobacco control or lifestyle ailments like diabetes have been largely missing.

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Thiruvananthapuram

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Raids unearth unhealthy practices in Kerala labs, scan centres](#)

Synopsis: Special squads of the Health Department, which inspected laboratories, X-ray units, and scan centres across the State on Tuesday, have found that those running the tests in a good number of these labs and scan centres do not even have the basic qualification. A chunk of the institutions did not have the mandatory licences and many labs were found to be using reagents past the expiry date. A good number of labs did not follow universal precautions and some 300 labs/dental clinics were found using unsterilised equipment.. The inspections were conducted in private laboratories, dental hospitals and clinics, and scan/X-ray units as part of the Safe Kerala drive, a public health initiative of the Health Department to prevent and check the spread of infectious diseases.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Hyderabad

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Global Biosimilars Mart Pegged at \\$20 billion](#)

Synopsis: The global biosimilars market is pegged at \$20 billion by 2015. Of this, India and China together are expected to contribute a lion's share of 70 per cent, according to OMICS International Inc, a US-based scientific journals publisher. Biosimilars or biologics are nothing but biological medical products made or derived from the active drug substance of a living organism by recombination of DNA or controlled gene expression methods.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [We need to augment focus on Asian partners: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Biocon](#)

Synopsis: In an interview with ET Now, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, CMD, Biocon, shares her views on PM's Japan visit as well as the need to improve India's focus on Asian partners.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [WHO alarmed as Ebola affects medics; 13 Indians from Liberia test negative](#)

Synopsis: The World Health Organization on Tuesday said that the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa has been unprecedented in many ways. A high proportion of healthcare workers are among those infected with the virus. So far, over 250 healthcare workers, including doctors and nurses, have contracted the disease in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone and over 120 have died, IANS quoting Chinese news agency Xinhua, reported. According to the WHO, the virus has taken the lives of doctors in Sierra Leone and Liberia, depriving these hard-hit countries not only of experienced medical care but also of inspiring national heroes.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Sanofi India: Relief a few quarters away](#)

Synopsis: Sanofi India's recent tie-up with Emcure Pharmaceuticals to jointly market their portfolio of anti-cancer drugs is positive. Although the stock has gained four per cent since, it will be a couple of quarters before the overhang of recent drug pricing policy subsides. Sanofi's stock might remain an underperformer in the near-term. Unlike its Indian peers such as Sun Pharma and Lupin, up 60-65 per cent, Sanofi's returns have been 19 per cent in the past year. In fact, from mid-July 2014, Sanofi's stock is down about 5.6 per cent due to the new pricing policy. Motilal Oswal Securities analysts say Sanofi is the worst-hit with a 32 per cent impact on its estimated earnings per share for CY2014 due to the latest policy. Indian companies' earnings impact is pegged at just 1-4 per cent due to high contribution of overseas market.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Pharma shares on a roll on strong growth prospects](#)

Synopsis: Shares of pharmaceutical companies continued their upward march with most of the frontline stocks are trading at their lifetime highs after reporting healthy results for the June quarter. Analysts believe that the the Indian pharma market is likely to report a double-digit growth going ahead. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Ranbaxy Laboratories, Cipla, Lupin, Aurobindo Pharma, Divi's Laboratories, Abbott India, Torrent Pharmaceuticals and Shasun Pharmaceuticals have hits their respective new highs on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) during intra-day deals on Tuesday.

Publication: India Today

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Narendra Modi visit a catalyst for AIIMS to build toilet](#)

Synopsis: The Department of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has got a new toilet, thanks to a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday. Prior to the PM's visit, the toilet was especially built in a day in the room of Dr N.R. Jagannathan, Head of the Department of NMR and MRI Facility. According to sources, though the department had toilets for men, they were dilapidated and unfit for use. AIIMS's engineering department was engaged in the task of renovating toilets for the past couple of months. According to sources, as soon as news spread on Friday about the PM's planned visit to the premier institute for a check-up, the premier medical institute's administration got into action and built the toilet on an "urgent" basis.

Website: Vox

Edition: Online

Date: August 26, 2014

Headline: [Obamacare doesn't poll well. So why is an Arkansas senator running on it?](#)

Synopsis: Obamacare doesn't poll favorably. But do you know what does? The different policies that make up Obamacare, when they're separated from the law's brand. People who follow health policy closely know this — and so do politicians, as ads airing in advance of the 2014 midterms are showing. Arkansas's Democratic senator Mark Pryor attracted attention last week for airing a political ad where he obliquely claimed responsibility for some legislation that did some things people might think were good. "No one should be fighting an insurance company while you're fighting for your life," Pryor declares in the ad. "That's why I helped pass a law that prevents insurance companies from canceling your policy if you get sick, or deny coverage for pre-existing conditions."