



News Updates: August 29- September 1, 2014

OPPI

Website: Zee News

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [Delhi HC notice to NPPA on plea against price cap on non-scheduled drugs](#)

Synopsis: The Delhi High Court today sought response of the National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA) on a plea by an organisation of drug manufacturers challenging the drug regulator's July 10 notification that brought over 100 medicines under price control. A bench of Justice Vibhu Bakhru, however, refused to allow **Organisation of Pharma Producers of India's (OPPI)** interim plea seeking a stay or status quo order preventing the government from taking any further steps in pursuance of its notification. "I am not inclined to stay it or pass any ad-interim order. Issue notice. Respondent (NPPA) to file counter (reply) in three weeks and rejoinder thereto in two weeks. List on September 29," Justice Bakhru said.

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Sushil Sharma, chairman Arthritis Foundation of India

Headline: [Antibiotic overuse: disaster in the making](#)

Synopsis: There is urgent need for a water tight and comprehensive national antibiotic policy. The government must not just lay down guidelines but also oversee their implementation. Some proposals could include: (1) Prevention of infection rather than cure should be top priority; (2) A comprehensive education and awareness programme for masses needs to be launched using the print and visual media; (3) Doctors' bodies need to develop a consensus around the MCI guidelines. A committee comprising of director general of health services and their state counterparts can frame fresh guidelines after discussions with stakeholders; (4) No sale should be allowed without prescription from chemist shops; (5) Third and fourth generation antibiotics should only be used in hospitals after advise rendered by consultants and not junior doctors; (6) Pharma associations, Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) and **Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)**, must be taken into confidence to check high-pressure sales. Set up guidelines for pharma companies with deterrents like penalties and the threat of cancelled licences; (7) Stringent quality control for generic antibiotics should be done to instil confidence among its users and thereby reduce financial load on patients.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 31, 2014

Headline: [A Shot in the Dark?](#)

Synopsis: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation insists it is committed to improving coverage and quality of immunization services but critics accuse it of funding organizations that are promoting the interests of vaccine makers In 2009, several schools for tribal children in Khammam district in Telangana -then a part of undivided Andhra Pradesh -became sites for observation studies for a cervical cancer vaccine that was administered to thousands of girls aged between nine and 15. The girls were administered the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine in three rounds that year under the supervision of state health department officials. The vaccine used was Gardasil, manufactured by Merck. It was administered to around 16,000 girls in the district, many of whom stayed in state government-run hostels meant for tribal students. Months later, many girls started falling ill and by

2010 five of them died. In 2012, McKinsey published a report titled "Transforming India's vaccine market" in association with the **Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India**. The report suggests that India's vaccine market is much smaller and underpenetrated than its global peers and discusses impediments that have hampered growth of the vaccine market. The report also features a scenario as per which the optimistic case would be that the market would have hit a value of around \$3.2 billion in 2020, growing at 3035% year-on-year from 2012 onwards.

Drug pricing/ NPPA/ Drug regulation

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [Correct 'market distortion' in essential, life-saving drugs, urges CITU](#)

Synopsis: Seeking complete overhaul of the Drug Prices Control Order 2013 (DPCO), trade union leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Tapan Sen, has written to Fertiliser and Chemicals Minister Ananth Kumar, urging him to take urgent steps to control "the gross perversion created in the market of the essential and life savings drugs." He said the order was severely affecting the right to access to those essential and life saving drugs at affordable price for the common people, suffering from diseases such tuberculosis, cancer, HIV etc.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Fresh drug price control rule may hit Indian pharmaceutical companies](#)

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed prices of ten combination drugs under Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO), 2013. This is a part of a recent move taken by the NPPA to fix or revise prices in respect of 56 formulation packs, both ceiling and retail price packs, under DPCO, 2013. These combinations are referred to as "new drug" under paragraph 2(u) of the DPCO, 2013. Of the ten combinations included by NPPA under DPCO, 2013, combination of paracetamol and mefenamic acid suspension was a part of earlier DPCO, 1995. The nine remaining combinations such as Dicyclomine HCl with combination, Atorvastatin with combination, Cyclosporine with combination, Pyrimethamine with Sulphamethoxy pyridazine (MALARCE), Metformin Hydrochloride with Gliclazide and Pioglitazone, Tramadol and Diclofenac combination, Cetirizine HCl with Paracetamol and Phenylepherin HCl, Bisoprolol Fumarate with Amlodipine, and Glimepiride with Metformin Hydrochloride are included for the first time. All these mentioned formulations are based on bulk drugs.

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [No biosimilars rollout for the next five years](#)

Synopsis: Regulatory hurdles, huge fund requirements hold up plans. Even as Indian drugmakers are looking at biosimilars as the next big thing, it may take a few years before it kicks off as a mainstream revenue segment, given challenges like huge investments and regulatory hurdles in developed economies. Existing players are, however, hopeful that things will look better in five years. Biosimilars are bio-equivalent versions of drugs and are made out of extracts from living organisms. These drugs are touted to have much better capabilities of disease management, including conditions that remain partially unaddressed by conventional medicines. "Biosimilars is the answer to affordability as well as access. While developing economies are embracing it aggressively, the lobbying by Big Pharma is holding back regulators from advanced economies to easily give clearances, and so they set high bars of entry," said Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairman and managing director of Biocon.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [Hepatitis C drugs face multiple hurdles](#)

Synopsis: Life-saving medicines, especially for complex chronic diseases like hepatitis C (Hep C), are facing multiple hurdles here in the form of Big Pharma's pricing strategy, government apathy to accelerate approvals and intellectual property challenges. This is particularly true for newer "miracle cures" for life-threatening diseases that have been launched globally but, sadly, are not available in India. Breakthrough drugs like sofosbuvir (Gilead's Sovaldi) could be revolutionizing treatments overseas, but their unavailability here is potentially threatening millions suffering from the disease.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Pharma-funded patients' groups pushing industry agenda on biosimilars](#)

Synopsis: Civil society groups working to improve access to medicines have protested against the participation of NGOs, especially patients' groups receiving substantial funding from pharmaceutical companies, in the meeting on quality and safety of biosimilars which was held before the International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) in Rio, Brazil. Biosimilars is a biological medicine that is similar to another biological medicine that has already been authorized for use. The regulation of biotherapeutic products particularly biocompetitors and its impact on access to affordable safe and efficacious biotherapeutics has been a subject of controversy as pharma multinationals holding patents on an original biological medicine have been arguing that biosimilars by definition are not likely to be identical to the originator biologic.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [MSF urges BMS to make daclatasvir accessible in low-and middle-income countries](#)

Synopsis: Even as the European Commission (EC) and European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the new direct-acting antiviral (DAA) daclatasvir to treat hepatitis C, the international medical humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has asked the Bristol-Myers Squibb (inventor of daclatasvir) to ensure that people living with hepatitis C in low- and middle-income countries can actually access this important drug, so that it can have the greatest impact on hepatitis C globally in helping to cure people. Welcoming the EMA's approval of daclatasvir on August 27, 2014, the MSF said that the BMS must rapidly register daclatasvir in those countries with a high burden of hepatitis C, especially in those countries with a high prevalence of genotype 3. It also urged BMS to ensure daclatasvir is affordable in those countries with a high burden of hepatitis C.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Patna

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Drug buy: Now, health department panel indicts firm](#)

Synopsis: After the auditor general's stricture of Bihar Medical Services Infrastructure and Corporation Limited (BMSICL), now a five-member panel of the health department has also found irregularities in drug purchases by the corporation. Headed by additional director of health department Dr K K Singh, the panel was formed on January 13, 2014 and was asked to submit the report in a week's time. The report has been finally submitted now, which points out that BMSICL purchased at least 64 drugs at rates higher as compared to what was fixed by the State Health Society of Bihar (SHSB)). The report says, "As many as 17 drugs were purchased at rates 0%-5% high, another 17 at 5%-20% high, 15 drugs at 20%-25% high, 12 at 50%-100% high, one at 100%-300% high and yet another at more than 300% high rate."

Publication: India Education Diary

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Drug Price Control Order vitiates National Pharma Pricing Policy, needs extensive changes: ASSOCHAM](#)

Synopsis: The expected improvement in availability and affordability of essential medicines as envisaged under the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP 2012) has been badly vitiated “to a large extent” by the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO 2013), a study of the pharma industry by the leading business chamber ASSOCHAM revealed here today.

Charging the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) of “erroneous interpretation” of the pricing control order and “arbitrary and ultra vires exercise of power by it” beyond the scope of both the national pharma pricing policy and the drug price control order, an ASSOCHAM study on the Pharmaceutical industry said this was causing “chaos and unpredictability” for the industry “in terms of implementation and adherence to the NPPP”.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [Intl civil society groups call upon ICDRA participants to ensure access to affordable biotherapeutic products](#)

Synopsis: A group of international civil society organizations including All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN) from India have called upon drug regulatory authorities, WHO, Member States and other participants of the ongoing Pre and International Conference on Drug Regulatory Authorities (Pre-ICDRA and ICDRA) to act to ensure access to affordable biotherapeutic products. They also called for a regulatory regime in the world which facilitates competition and price reduction. While the Pre ICDRA was held from 24-25 of August, the ICDRA was organised from 26 to 29, August. Stating that it is time to act to ensure access to affordable bio-therapeutic products, the civil society organisations said that the access to bio-therapeutics can play an important role in the fulfillment of the human right to health and peoples’ right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [Pharma players gear up to cash in on overseas opportunities](#)

Synopsis: Top 20 pharmaceutical companies will crank up capital expenditure by around 40 per cent to over Rs. 50,000 crore by 2017-18. The Indian pharmaceutical industry can benefit significantly from the huge emerging export opportunity. For long acknowledged as the generic drug manufacturing capital of the world, India with its several low cost generic manufacturers, can exploit the fact that over the next few years, a large number of drugs will be going off-patent. Ratings agency Crisil said drugs worth \$130-150 billion will be going off patent between 2012 and 2017. To capitalise on this, it expects that India’s top 20 pharmaceutical companies will crank up capital expenditure by around 40 per cent to over Rs. 50,000 crore by 2017-18.

Blog: SpicyIP

Edition: Online

Date: August 31, 2014

Headline: [IPO issues revised draft guidelines for examination of pharmaceutical patents: A perspective](#)

Synopsis: After finalizing guidelines for examining computer related, biotechnological and traditional knowledge patent applications, the Indian patent office released guidelines for examination of

pharmaceutical patent applications. The pharmaceutical sector has always enjoyed an unusual prominence in debates about IP policy, and has always been the subject of national and international controversies. The original pharma patent examination guidelines (which can be accessed here) was open for public comments. Stakeholders met and discussed the guidelines extensively. Here stakeholders refer to a person interested or concerned in the business and includes a wide variety of groups, like policy makers, law firms, pharma lobby groups, patent agents, pharmaceutical companies, NGO's and so forth.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Japan's attempt to get in stricter patent protection into free trade agreement raises concern](#)

Synopsis: Even as the Prime Minister's visit to Japan generates much excitement, there is concern among those working for improving access to medicines regarding Japan's attempt to get in stricter patent protection laws at the just-concluded round of negotiation of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which includes India. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of South East Nations (ASEAN) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs - Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [DuPont upbeat about crop protection biz in India, Company sees no issue with country's IPR regime](#)

Synopsis: DuPont says that it will introduce in India one new pesticide product every year over the next decade. These would cover a range of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and nematicides, based on the \$36-billion US major's proprietary chemistry. "We may be only the sixth largest global agrochemical company behind Syngenta, Bayer, BASF, Monsanto and Dow AgroSciences. But we have the most robust product pipeline that we also want to bring to India," Rik L Miller, President, DuPont Crop Protection, told HBL.

India's intellectual property rights regime has registered "marked improvement" in recent times.

"Although the prosecution and enforcement mechanism here may not be as strong as in the US and Western Europe, it is encouraging enough for an MNC such as DuPont to operate and introduce new products based on our proprietary chemistry," he said.

Clinical trials/ Vaccines

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [Bill to regulate research on humans](#)

Synopsis: A new law to regulate all bio-medical and health research activities involving human participants is in the making. The proposed law-Bio-medical and Health Research Regulation Bill, 2013, which is likely to go to the Cabinet in September seeks to have penal provisions for unauthorised research work and unethical practices and will have research related injury relief fund for paying compensation.

Portal: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Ebola vaccine from GSK fast-tracked into clinical trials](#)

Synopsis: An experimental Ebola vaccine from GlaxoSmithKline is being fast-tracked into human studies and the company plans to build a stockpile of up to 10,000 doses for emergency deployment, if results are good. The research work is being accelerated with funding from an international consortium, reflecting mounting concern over the worst outbreak of the disease that has killed more than 1,500 people in West Africa. GSK's candidate vaccine, being co-developed with the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), is expected to be given to healthy volunteers in Britain and the United States from about mid-September, with the program then being extended to Gambia and Mali.

Similar reports in-

India Today – [Human trials of Ebola vaccine to start next week](#)

Wall Street Journal – [Testing on Experimental Ebola Vaccine to begin in the US](#)

Time – [Experimental Ebola vaccine heads to human trials](#)

NDTV – [US to begin safety testing Ebola vaccine on humans next week](#)

Health ministry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Kolkata

Date: August 31, 2014

Headline: [FDI policy for medical devices on the cards](#)

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.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [India mulls total ban on e-cigarettes, as government panel says safety not established](#)

Synopsis: The government is considering a ban on the sale of electronic cigarettes, a vapour device that delivers a nicotine hit minus the smoke. An expert panel on e-cigarettes constituted by the health ministry has recommended a blanket ban on the product, saying its safety has not been established. Three members of the panel, who did not want to be identified, told ET that it could lead to addiction, particularly among the youth.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Woman's body is a temple: Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, who has been at the centre of many controversies recently, kicked up yet another storm on social media on Thursday with his reference to a women's body as a temple. Vardhan was speaking at the golden jubilee celebrations of a women's college in the Capital when he made this reference in the context of the rising incidence of illnesses in young urban women. "A woman's body is a temple, extremely important from the perspective of a nation's future. Building a new generation of healthy women has a salutary effect on family, society and nation because each woman multitasks as professional in her chosen field, mother and teacher of her children, and, above all, custodian of collective values," he said.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Government's health plan proposes insurance cover for poor](#)
The Hindu- [Govt. to offer health cover for poor](#)

Portal: IANS

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [New health policy to address reproductive illness](#)

Synopsis: The new national health policy being brought out by the government will address the rising incidents of reproductive illnesses in young urban women, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Thursday. The central government is alarmed by reports of Polycystic Ovarian Disease, Endometriosis and Fibroids -- condition associated with infertility, which is increasingly affecting women even in their teens, the health minister said. "As a medical man, I am depressed by this new trend as reported to me by obstetricians and gynaecologists. I feel we should react fast but with caution," he said at the golden jubilee celebrations of Laxmibai College here. Harsh Vardhan said he would soon form a committee to suggest measures for improving the health of Indian women. "Its outcome would be part of the new national health policy." "A woman's body is a temple, extremely important from the perspective of a nation's future. Building a new generation of healthy women has a salutary effect on family, society and nation because each woman multitasks as professional in her field, mother and teacher of her children, and, above all, custodian of collective values," he said.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu – [New National Health Policy will address reproductive illness: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: August 31, 2014

Headline: [Doctors Should Find Ways to Cut Death Rate: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Sunday said though the county faces shortfall of medical experts, they can still serve patients in a better way. He urged doctors to find ways to decrease the death rate. He said India is constantly keeping pace with the medical advancement but it faces a deficit of medical experts.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 31, 2014

Headline: [Dr Harsh Vardhan stresses importance of simulation as medical learning tool](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Sunday appealed to the faculty of medical colleges to include simulation as a training method. The Minister added that simulation could as a bridge between 'didactic' medical teaching through lectures, tutorials, laboratory work and problem-based learning which is being increasingly acknowledged the world over. "We don't want an outdated medical curriculum framework. Our doctors have been world beaters throughout the 20th century. To keep our place there, our medical education planners should change with the times," the Minister said while inaugurating the 5th Annual Conference of the Society of Cardiac-Anaesthesiology, here today.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [Spare some time for services in hill towns during vacation, doctors told](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Sunday appealed to all specialised doctors to spend

at least a short duration of time in rendering services to patients in villages and hilly areas of the country and “think out of the box” to address the nation’s health issues. At the launch of the ‘World Simulation Society’ here, Dr. Vardhan urged the doctors to “use and revive the ancient wisdom of India” in solving medical problems.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [Now, all senior citizens can visit CGHS wellness centres for free consultation](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday announced this plan that would have a major impact on public health. In order to improve the lot of senior citizens in Delhi, the doors of 20 Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) wellness centres will be thrown open to them for free consultation from September 1. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday announced this plan that would have a major impact on public health.

Modi government

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Editorial: R. Sukumar

Headline: [Narendra Modi’s 100 days in office—Hits, misses and promises to be kept](#)

Synopsis: Three months and a bit later, neither scenario has panned out entirely, although bits of both have; it is entirely possible that with time, one or the other may indeed come true. Tuesday marks the 100th day since Narendra Damodardas Modi was sworn in as India’s 14th Prime Minister. There have been a rash of analyses to commemorate the event. Sure, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ruled India for 13 days, and then 13 months, both starting in 1998, and then again, for five years between 1999 and 2004, but the Modi government is India’s first, true BJP government. The performance of a government and a man, both just getting started—many say, perhaps rightly, that Modi is the NDA and the NDA is Modi—can’t really be assessed in 100 days. Still, 100 days is enough time to try and understand both man and machine.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [100 days of NDA: A report card](#)

Synopsis: After a strong electoral performance that propelled the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) to a majority on its own, expectations of big-bang reforms had gained ground. However, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) did not pander to expectations and instead focused on administrative reforms that seek to eliminate operational inefficiencies in the system. Mint reviews the NDA’s policy manoeuvres in the last 100 days.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Arun Maira is a former member of the Planning Commission

Headline: [India at a turning point](#)

Synopsis: Any system of people that wants to reach its goal must have a plan. A team aiming to reach a mountain-top must have a plan; a corporation aiming to grow its profits must have one; and a nation aiming for faster, more sustainable, and more inclusive growth must have one too. The Planning Commission may be disbanded; but the government and the people need a plan to reach the country’s goals. Plans are made in different ways and take different forms. The form of India’s Five-Year Plans no

longer fits the country's requirements. Such plans are oriented towards budget-making rather than steering. They are too rigid to respond to changes as they occur. Therefore, such plans do not help leaders of governments to steer through a dynamic world.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 31, 2014

Headline: [Steps on insurance, land Act, GST to spur growth, says FM](#)

Synopsis: A day after official data showed economic growth in the first quarter of the current financial year was better than expected, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday assured investors that the government was committed to taking business-friendly measures. He suggested these steps, such as increasing the cap on foreign investment in insurance and amending the land acquisition Act, besides meeting the disinvestment and fiscal deficit targets would push economic expansion in the remaining part of the year at much higher rates than the two-year-high rate of 5.7 per cent in the April-June quarter. Listing the decisions taken by his ministry in the past 90 days, Jaitley asserted the new government had replaced the mood of pessimism with business-friendly decisions.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [NDA eyes cleanliness for all but lacks grand vision](#)

Synopsis: During his election campaign, Narendra Modi promised toilets first and temples later, which he has followed up after becoming prime minister, with a project aimed at eliminating the practice of open defecation by 2019. In his first Independence Day speech, Modi announced that within one year, every school in the country will have a toilet and there will be separate toilets for girl students. He also asked parliamentarians to use members of parliament local area development scheme (MPLADS) funds to build toilets. He also reiterated his commitment to building a Swachh Bharat (clean India) by the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [PM Narendra Modi's Jan Dhan Yojana: Fake accounts may cloud the plan](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's financial inclusion drive is off to a flying start, but some who enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana may have accounts elsewhere and could have been persuaded to open new ones because of the attached insurance cover. This could account for about a fifth of the newly opened accounts, top bankers said, although there's absolutely no way of knowing for sure yet. On the launch day, August 28, banks opened 1.5 crore accounts through 77,852 special camps held across the country, finance minister Arun Jaitley said. That exceeded the 1 crore target. The programme is aimed at making financial services available to every household instead of taking a village based approach followed by the previous Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance government.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [Banks open 2.14 crore accounts under Jan Dhan mission](#)

Synopsis: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said banks have opened about 2.14 crore saving accounts since the launch of Jan Dhan Yojana on August 28. "As of yesterday afternoon 1.84 crore accounts were added. Enrollment have continued...as of today afternoon about 2,14,34,000 accounts have been opened," he said. The Finance Minister said that the target of opening up of 7.5 crore would

be achieved before January 26, 2015.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 31, 2014

Opinion piece: Debashis Basu, editor of www.moneylife.in

Headline: [Narendra Modi's Jan Dhan - what's new?](#)

Synopsis: Narendra Modi's biggest project so far is Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), an aggressively promoted idea to open bank accounts. The English media ran full-page ads and TV commercials to announce the scheme that is supposed to reach largely rural households. It seemed bold, new - almost pathbreaking. Mr Modi claimed that the scheme has performed a miracle or sorts - a massive mobilisation effort over just two weeks to achieve a feat never attempted and achieved. The mobilisation drive is unprecedented, but is the scheme pathbreaking? The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), ministry of finance and public-sector banks have been trying to do forcible financial inclusion for years now, on which many bright minds and hundreds of crores have been spent. Meanwhile, the government allowed a whole new business segment to come up - microfinance. Microfinance companies have tried to replace the moneylender with an only slightly less usurious business model, funded by venture capital and even the stock market.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Sumita Kale, Indicus Centre for Financial Inclusion

Headline: [Making PM Jan Dhan Yojana a game-changer](#)

Synopsis: A new financial inclusion plan has been launched; with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), every Indian household is to have a bank account within a year. Can the government pull off such an ambitious plan? Let's begin with coverage targets. India has around 6 lakh villages—banking presence has expanded from 67,694 villages in March 2010 to 3,83,304 villages as of March 2014. Under the previous financial inclusion plan, it took a massive effort from banks in the past three years to reach the larger, unbanked villages, and the smaller, 4,90,000 unbanked villages (with population less than 2,000) were to be covered by 2016. Now, the target is set at the household-level, not villages—this changes the ball game completely for banks and business correspondents. Census 2011 estimates 10 crore households that were not accessing banking services; of these, around 2.5 crore are in urban areas and should be relatively accessible to banks, while reaching households off the highways will be the big challenge. Yet, on the launch date, the programme held more than 75,000 camps across the country and reportedly opened more than a crore accounts and the aim, says the PM now, is to reach the target before January 26, 2015, the coming Republic Day. Of course, with legal strictures preventing the use of Census household data to target specific households, the possibility of some overlap cannot be denied, given the camp mode of this mission.

MCI/AIIMS

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Make CVC letters public: ex-CVO of AIIMS](#)

Synopsis: Former AIIMS chief vigilance officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi on Thursday demanded that the Union health ministry immediately make public the letters written by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) rejecting him for the post at the institute. In a letter to union health minister Harsh Vardhan, Chaturvedi said that as per RTI records provided by the ministry itself, there was absolutely no such letter to show that he was rejected by the CVC. "I request you to direct the ministry officials concerned to immediately bring out the letter written by the CVC where they have specifically rejected my name for the post in 2012 and 2013, as being claimed in the press communications of the ministry," he wrote.

Publication: The Tribune

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: No MCI nod yet for relaxing norms for SCs (scan attached)

Synopsis: Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS) is finding it difficult to fill 240 vacant MBBS seats even as the last date of counselling is drawing near. The Department of Medical Education and Research (DMER) is waiting for an approval of the Medical Council of India (MCI) to allow 5 per cent relaxation in eligibility criteria to fill the seats in private and government medical colleges.

FDA

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: August 31, 2014

Headline: [WHO sounds warning to FDAs](#)

Synopsis: WHO Framework Convention of Tobacco Control has expressed serious concerns over the increasing use of e-cigarettes, which is expected to have a market of \$51 billion by 2030 across the world. Issuing a warning, WHO has appealed Food and Drug Administrations (FDA) around the world to curb this emerging market by controlling sale, advertisement and sponsorships. E-cigarettes, which operate on battery, work by converting liquid nicotine into water vapour and have been projected as an option for quitting smoking. However, the WHO report has highlighted that it can be harmful to bystanders, pregnant women and minors.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [Former Maharashtra FDA chief is new transport department head](#)

Synopsis: Former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commissioner Mahesh Zagade is the new transport commissioner while additional chief secretary Sumit Mullick will head the state excise. In a slew of transfers of senior IAS officials before the election code of conduct kicks in, the Maharashtra government appointed S S Sandhu as principal secretary (revenue).

Similar report in-

The Hindustan Times- Ex- FDA chief to head transport dept (link unavailable, scan attached)

Public Health/ Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [TB epidemic driven by lack of food in India](#)

Synopsis: Undernutrition or lack of adequate food is the biggest cause of latent TB infection progressing to active tuberculosis in India, adding over a million cases of the 2.3 million new cases each year. If endemic HIV infection is what drives the TB epidemic in Africa, in India, endemic undernutrition in adolescents and adults is what drives it. This was revealed in a paper published on Friday in the National Medical Journal of India by researchers from the Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences in Uttarakhand and the McGill International TB Centre, McGill University, in Canada. According to the paper, more than half of all cases of TB every year — two-thirds of new cases in people 15-19 years old — could be prevented by ensuring that people get enough to eat in terms of calories and proteins.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Dinesh C Sharma, science journalist and author

Headline: [Fit for the malnourished?](#)

Synopsis: In August 26, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, food processing industries minister, made an unprecedented request to PepsiCo Chairman Indra Nooyi when the latter met her to discuss ‘a wide range of topics concerning food processing sector.’ Referring to the malnutrition problem in India, particularly iron deficiencies in kids in rural areas, Kaur Badal requested Pepsi to “partner with India for further research and development in developing such food products that can be supplied as part of the mid-day meals in rural India”. It was feared all these years that the government has been trying to sneak in processed food products in its mid-day meal programme, but Kaur Badal has become the first high ranking Indian minister to articulate the nexus so openly.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Piramal-backed India venture looks to exit three investments](#)

Synopsis: India Venture Advisors Pvt. Ltd, the healthcare and life sciences focused private equity fund of the Piramal Group, is looking to exit three of its investments made from its maiden fund. “We are in the process of exiting from some of our investments,” A.K. Purwar, chairman at India Venture Advisors, said in an interaction on 25 August. The investments the fund is looking to exit include two hospitals— Sri Kavery Medical Care (Trichy) Pvt. Ltd and Ramesh Cardiac and Multispeciality Hospital Pvt. Ltd, and one pharmacy chain—MedPlus Health Services Pvt Ltd. The exits are expected to collectively yield a return of at least 25%.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Indian drug-makers fear Ebola outbreak will hit Africa business](#)

Synopsis: The pharma industry is concerned over the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West African countries and is in a ‘wait-and-watch’ mode. “As per the inputs we have received from the exporting community, business has not been impacted as on today, but the industry is keeping its fingers crossed,” PV Appaji, Director-General, Pharmaceutical Exports Promotion Council (Pharmexcil), told BusinessLine here on Thursday. However, the bigger impact on the industry could be in the form of delays in export process/deals. “I understand that the exporters are deferring business trips and other key visits to Africa,” Appaji said. Africa is a key market for Indian pharma industry and accounted for 19 per cent of the total exports of ₹90,000 crore last year, according to Pharmexcil data. South Africa and Nigeria are the top markets for India followed by Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: New Delhi

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [A bitter pill for the elderly and pregnant women](#)

Synopsis: Spread over 2.5 acres, B.R. Ambedkar Hospital in Rohini caters to a population of nearly a million in North-West Delhi. The result: long queues and overcrowded counters. Coupled with lack of infrastructure and shortage of manpower, this double-storey, 500-bed general medicine hospital can be quite chaotic at times. While there are long queues outside the eight out patient department (OPD) counters, the vast, airy hospital seems to provide a happy space for children to play and wait for their parents. On an average, each counter receives about 250 patients a day. “Sometimes, we make parchis for around 1,000 people in a day. Some of the patients have to return the following day,” said an

attendant at the counter.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Heart attacks in younger people due to odd working hours, unhealthy food](#)

Synopsis: When the young man came to Delhi's Max Devki Devi Heart and Vascular Institute with chest pain, he told doctors he worked for a startup. That certainly meant long hours, irregular eating habits and a lot of stress but at the age of 23, a heart attack was certainly not the first thing that came to mind. But as a matter of fact, that's exactly what it was. An increasing number of people have erratic timings, grab a bite when they can and just can't get a moment to exercise - all of which seems to be having a direct impact in terms of the age profile of patients that India's cardiologists are seeing.

Publication: Mail Today

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: India high on global list of deaths due to heart ailments (*scan attached*)

Synopsis: More than 80 per cent of deaths due to cardiovascular diseases are estimated to occur in middle-income and low-income countries like India and many die due to lack of awareness and access to proper treatment, according to a new study conducted over the past five years in 17 nations. The Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiologic (PURE) study published on Thursday in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine covered more than 1,50,000 persons from 628 urban and rural communities in three high-income, 10 middle-income and four low-income countries and assessed their cardiovascular risk.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Coimbatore

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [Dumping of bio-medical waste can cause disease outbreak: official](#)

Synopsis: Rising instances of trucks from other states transporting waste to border districts. Illegal dumping of construction debris and garbage has been prevalent for years especially along the border-lying districts, which has been the dumping ground for wastes from adjoining States. However, in recent years, this practice has acquired a dangerous dimension with the dumping of bio-medical waste, hazardous enough to cause an epidemic, says S. Elango, State president of Indian Public Health Association (IPHA).

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Heart disease more in low-income nations](#)

Synopsis: More than 80 per cent of deaths from cardiovascular disease are estimated to occur in low-income and middle-income countries, a new study has revealed. According to the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, though the risk-factor burden was lowest in low-income countries, the rates of major cardiovascular disease and death were substantially higher in low-income countries than in high-income countries. "The high burden of risk factors in high-income countries may have been mitigated by better control of risk factors and more frequent use of proven pharmacologic therapies and revascularisation," it said.

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Interview: Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister

Headline: [There is a complete reversal from paralysis: Arun Jaitley](#)

Synopsis: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley expects growth to pick up in the coming quarters as government spending rises and festival season kicks in. Jaitley, who's also minister for defence and corporate affairs, said in an interview that he will try and push for some exemptions within the scope of the land acquisition law to make the process easier.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [Sun-Ranbaxy deal under CCI scanner](#)

Synopsis: The Competition Commission, which has put the multi-billion dollar Sun-Ranbaxy deal for public scrutiny, on Friday said the major issue is whether the combination would result in high market concentration of certain molecules. "This is the first case" of combination where the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has gone for a public scrutiny, the fair trade watchdog's chairman Ashok Chawla said. In April this year, Sun Pharma and Ranbaxy had announced a \$4-billion deal that would create one of the top five largest speciality generics company in the world. Chawla said the major issues related to the deal are with regard to molecules market. "The major issues obviously are that in many of the molecules, the basic building block in the pharmaceutical industry, whether in some of those molecules there is high market concentration which will emerge as a result (of the consolidation). That is the matter," Chawla said.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Sun-Ranbaxy deal stirs monopoly concerns: CCI](#)

The Hindu- [Competition Commission of India puts Sun-Ranbaxy deal under public scrutiny](#)

The Financial Express- [CCI expands probe into Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy deal](#)

The Telegraph- [Concern over drug deal](#)

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [Drugmakers look to forgo India edge in margin race](#)

Synopsis: Drugmakers in the country are fleeing a regulatory morass at home and moving some research and development (r&d) to Europe and the US as they try to boost margins by producing high-value drugs. India's \$15-billion-a-year pharma industry, the world's largest source of cheap generics, is already reeling under a string of drug recalls and quality control issues that have called into question the regulator's oversight. Now, companies like Piramal Enterprises, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Lupin are investing millions of dollars and placing their growth in foreign regulators' hands as they seek to add more complex drugs to their product lines.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [In race for bigger margins, drug makers willing to lose the India 'advantage'](#)

Reuters- [In race for bigger margins, drug makers willing to lose the India "advantage"](#)

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Opinion piece: Rajiv Bhalla, director, market development, Intel South Asia

Headline: [Intelligent healthcare with Big Data analytics](#)

Synopsis: Big Data holds the promise to reshape medical practices to deliver more accurate and effective treatments, which can be rapidly developed at lower risks and costs. It can change the whole healthcare value chain, from drug discovery, to personalisation of care for patients, to industrialisation of healthcare provider processes for improved clinical outcomes and increased efficiency, to safer public health management, to more effective and inclusive reimbursement of care. The potential for Big Data, however, is still generally untapped. Technology developments are progressing rapidly, but in practice only 3% of potentially useful data is tagged and even less is analysed (New Digital Universe Study, 2012 IDC-EMC). And it is not 'just' a matter of semantics and data interoperability, it is more holistically a matter of understanding what set of methodologies, skills, regulatory, and organisational changes are necessary to leverage the benefits of Big Data.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 1, 2014

Headline: [Wockhardt's WCK 771 and WCK 2349 receive QIDP status from US FDA](#)

Synopsis: Wockhardt today said its new drug discovery programme in anti-infective research has received a major boost after two of its drugs, WCK 771 and WCK 2349, received the Qualified Infectious Disease Product (QIDP) status from the US FDA. This is the first instance of an Indian pharmaceutical company receiving a QIDP status, Wockhardt said in a release issued here.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Wockhardt anti-infection drugs qualify for fast-track US approval](#)

Business Standard- [Wockhardt gains 5% post USFDA fast-tracks nod for anti-infection drugs](#)

Portal: BusinessWire

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [USIBC Concludes Successful Medical Device Mission to India](#)

Synopsis: The U.S. India Business Council (USIBC) led a delegation of medical device executives from Abbott, Baxter, Boston Scientific, Covidien, GE Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson, and Medtronic to meet with the new government in New Delhi, India. Over the course of the two day mission, the delegation led by Mark Rooney, Vice President and Managing Director for Covidien in India, met with a wide range of public and private sector representatives as well as medical experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to convey the global medical device industry's long term commitment to working with the Indian Government and key stakeholders to address the country's public health challenges. Meetings with the Government of India included the Department of Biotechnology, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Drugs Controller General of India, the Ministry of Commerce, and a briefing with U.S. Embassy Officials.

Portal: Niti Central

Edition: Online

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Open defecation leads to malnutrition: Awareness is the solution](#)

Synopsis: The World Bank estimates that India is one of the highest ranking countries in the world for the number of children suffering from malnutrition. Various estimates show that 500 – 600 million or about 60 per cent of the India's population defecate in open. This number is roughly 58 per cent of the people defecate in the open all over the world. According to the UN, countries where open defecation is most widely practised have the highest number of deaths of children under the age of five, as well as high levels of under-nutrition. According to Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health professor Jean Humphrey, the stunting these children experience is not simply due to lack of food. The constant ambush of germs and bacteria from their environment forces "these children's bodies [to] divert

energy and nutrients away from growth and brain development to prioritise infection-fighting survival.”

Publication: Business Standard (Op-ed)

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Writer: Bhupesh Bhandari, Columnist, Business Standard

Headline: [Build toilets in the mind first](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exhortation to end [open defecation](#) has resulted in two large donations for the cause: Rs 100 crore each from the Bharti Foundation, the charitable arm of the [Mittal](#) family, and Tata Consultancy Services. The money may be large but it begins to look small when seen in the context of the problem. For instance, the [Bharti Foundation](#) has decided to make all the 965 villages in the Ludhiana district of Punjab free of open defecation. The programme will start next month and is expected to get completed in two to three years' time. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, the co-chairman of Bharti Foundation, reckons this will require the foundation to construct about 50,000 toilets. At Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 apiece, that could cost at least Rs 125 crore. And there are over 650 such districts in the country! According to the 2011 census, 67 per cent of rural households and 13 per cent of urban households defecate in the open. As much as 60 per cent of the entire open defecation in the world happens in India. In all global maps that depict the unhygienic practice, the reddest zone is India.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Piramal to focus on late-stage clinical development](#)

Synopsis: Piramal Enterprises is exiting its early drug discovery research and will focus more on late stage clinical development, Swati Piramal, Vice-Chairperson, Piramal Enterprises, confirmed. Drug discovery research has a long gestation period and the company's advisory board felt that funds should be realigned to late stage research, she said. The realignment process has just begun with 200 of its researchers at its suburban-Mumbai hub in Goregaon. They have been given a voluntary early separation scheme (VSS) or an option to move to other centres. "That is not to say we are not doing research and development," she said, but the company will put its funds on late stage research projects, where it can get maximum returns for its shareholders, she added. The company has about 900 scientists at eight research centres, including five in India, two in the UK, and one each in the US and Germany, she said.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: New Delhi, Chennai

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [Indian healthcare charts a global path](#)

Synopsis: Medical tourism from India to the West, a preserve of the affluent for years, is now accessible to the affluent middle-class, thanks to new high value covers designed by health insurers. For a premium ranging from Rs five lakh to Rs 13 lakh, an individual can get health insurance cover for as high as Rs 25 crore which covers treatment overseas. What's more, companies are willing to tailor this according to the paying capacity, while buyers can get a cover of Rs 25 crore. While recent trend has seen an increase in the number of foreign nationals coming to India for lower cost treatment, there are some procedures in which healthcare in the West still have an edge due to technological advancements.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 30, 2014

Headline: [New Novartis heart failure drug cuts risk by a fifth](#)

Synopsis: A new medicine from Novartis could replace drugs that have been central to treating heart failure for a quarter of century, after proving remarkably effective in reducing deaths in a keenly awaited study. The experimental treatment, known as LCZ696, cut the risk of both cardiovascular death and admissions to hospital by a fifth, boosting hopes for a product seen as a multibillion-dollar seller - thanks, in part, to its expected premium price.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [New drug cuts heart failure risk by 20%](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 29, 2014

Headline: [WHO says Ebola outbreak could strike 20,000 people](#)

Synopsis: The current Ebola outbreak in West Africa could infect more than 20,000 people, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Thursday in a bleak assessment of the deadly disease. The United Nations health agency issued a strategic plan to combat the outbreak in four West African nations where it said the actual number of cases could already be two to four times higher than the reported 3,069. The death toll stands at 1,552.