

NPPA issue**Publication: Deccan Chronicle****Edition: Kochi****Date: August 5, 2014****Headline: [Your regular medicines got costlier](#)**

Synopsis: Before you blame the local pharmacist for fleecing you by charging you more for the drugs that you have been accustomed to buying for much less, you need to sit back and give him a chance as the prices of drugs in daily use have gone up of late under a mechanism put in place a year ago. While the government upped the number of drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines subjected to price control from 74 to 348 drugs, it also changed the price fixing system from being based on manufacturing cost to the market-based pricing in May last year. In the process it also put a ceiling, 10 per cent of the MRP of a drug – on the price hike.

Blog: Apothecurry**Edition: Online****Date: August 4, 2014****Headline: [#MedicalDevice pricing in India: "Don't use a shotgun to kill an ant," says industry veteran](#)**

Synopsis: Late last month, the Maharashtra Food & Drug Administration wrote to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to include medical devices in the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO) which gives the NPPA its power to fix drug prices. Since the NPPA has been on overdrive, recently adding 108 drug formulations to the list of 348 already under price control, this sort of development can no longer be dismissed. Medical devices are definitely a not-insignificant part of overall healthcare cost but should their prices be fixed by the government and should it be under the same set of rules as drugs? I spoke to Ajay Pitre to understand this issue better.

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR**Publication: The Wall Street Journal****Edition: Online****Date: August 4, 2014****Headline: [India Becomes the Latest Country to Probe Pay-to-Delay Deals \(blog\)](#)**

Synopsis: The Competition Commission of India may examine patent settlements that are being negotiated between foreign brand-name drug makers and domestic generic companies over concerns the deals may restrict access to lower-cost medicines, according to LiveMint. The anti-trust agency is reportedly eyeing at least two deals. One involved the Tarceva lung cancer drug made by Roche and a deal with Cipla. The other was a settlement between Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, one of India's largest generic drug makers, and Merck concerning the Januvia diabetes pill.

Website: Pharmabiz**Edition: Online****Date: August 5, 2014****Headline: [Patent Controller to issue revised "draft guidelines for examination of patent applications in field of pharmaceuticals" soon](#)**

Synopsis: The Indian Patent Controller will soon release the revised "draft guidelines for examination of patent applications in the field of pharmaceuticals" which will help the examiners and the controllers of the patent office in achieving consistently uniform standards of patent examination and grant of patents.

According to sources, this revised guidelines will not also be the final document as this revised guidelines would again be open for comments and suggestions by the stakeholders. After receiving the comments, the patent office once again will revise and publish the final document somewhere next month.

Clinical trials

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [ISCR notes positive response of regulatory authorities, hopeful of return of business for trials](#)

Synopsis: Indian Society for Clinical Research (ISCR) views that the response of the regulatory authorities on the concerns raised by clinical research organisations (CROs) about some of the challenging guidelines makes it hopeful that issues will be ironed out and India could be back-in-business for human studies. "However, winning back the confidence of the CROs will be a challenging and uphill task. Given some of the sensationalism and misinformed reporting of clinical research in India, there is a need to garner the trust of investigators in conducting clinical research in the country and of the general public in participating in clinical research. It will take several months before we see clinical research back in India on track," Suneela Thatte, president ISCR told Pharmabiz.

FDA

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 4, 2014

Headline: [US FDA takes steps to help ensure reliability of certain diagnostic tests](#)

Synopsis: The US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) took important steps to ensure that certain tests used by health care professionals to help diagnose and treat patients provide accurate, consistent and reliable results. First, the FDA is issuing a final guidance on the development, review and approval or clearance of companion diagnostics, which are tests used to identify patients who will benefit from or be harmed by treatment with a certain drug. Companion diagnostic tests are intended to aid physicians in selecting appropriate therapies for individual patients. These tests are commonly used to detect certain types of gene-based cancers. Second, consistent with the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 (FDASIA), the agency is notifying Congress of its intention to publish a proposed risk-based oversight framework for laboratory developed tests (LDTs), which are designed, manufactured and used within a single laboratory. They include some genetic tests and tests that are used by health care professionals to guide medical treatment for their patients. The FDA already oversees direct-to-consumer tests regardless of whether they are LDTs or traditional diagnostics.

WTO/ Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 4, 2014

Blog: Sudeshna Sen, Foreign Editor of The Economic Times, working out of London for the past seven years

Headline: [India's WTO stance: Making a mountain of non-existent molehill](#) (blog)

Synopsis: It is considered to be in very bad taste for a columnist to turn novelist and write serials. This time, though, I will make an exception. I will continue to write about trade.

The other day, like all desis do from time to time, I trudged off to Tooting to stock up on Bhakarwadi and Amchur and other such things. The friendly, far from neighbourhood Patel Brother store was stocked with Pakistani mangoes, as were stores in Brixton, and I presume other parts of the country and the rest of Europe. They were selling hotter than hot cakes or dates. I picked up a couple to taste, they're a bit like Chausa. Meanwhile, Indian mango farmers were sitting on rotting stocks. A UK importer estimated that 2300 tonnes of Indian mangoes could not be exported after the EU put a temporary ban on imports of Indian mangoes, especially Alphonso.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Opinion piece: Roshan Kishore, works at Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Headline: [WTO, not the Third World, has to answer on food security](#)

Synopsis: In the ongoing debate about agriculture and food security, India has been accused of having acted in a dogmatic manner for refusing to ratify the trade facilitation agreement unless its food security concerns are addressed in the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, this issue and India's stand have to be seen in the context of the persistent discrimination against Third World countries by advanced countries in WTO. The preamble to Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) speaks about creating a "fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system" by providing for "substantial progressive reductions in agriculture support and protection" and assuring that "developed country Members would take fully into account the particular need and conditions of developing country Members". Food security was acknowledged as a specific "non-trade concern" where "special and differential treatment for developing countries" was supposed to be an "integral element of the negotiations". After two decades of the AoA's coming into effect, it is clear that the progressive elements in its preamble have been converted into a mirage, thanks to the deceit ingrained in the fine print by developed countries.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Opinion piece: Jaswant Kaur, Company Secretary

Headline: [WTO's Imposition Agreement](#)

Synopsis: The WTO ails from numerous institutional problems that its predecessor GATT had. The negotiation process itself acts as a barrier for the developing world. The series of successive rounds of discussions are basically recapitulation of previous rounds in which developing countries were forced to accept new concessions in lieu of remedial actions on earlier decisions. The TRIPS (trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights) agreement was executed in 1996 by providing modest agricultural trade liberalisation by opening Western markets to developing nations. The 160-nation member organisation takes decisions through consensus and every country is given a single vote. Yet, the actual decision-making power rests with 25-30 members, largely developed nations. The "so-called consensus" arrived at is then imposed on the rest. Developing nations meekly accept the decision fearing economic and political repercussions.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [India's tough stand on WTO gets support from UN body](#)

Synopsis: Supporting India's tough stand at WTO on the food security issue, UN body for development of agriculture IFAD on Monday said ensuring food for its people is more important than creating jobs in certain other nations. "Creating jobs for some other country, while people are still hungry, doesn't make sense... If I was in the position of feeding my own family or creating jobs for someone else, what would I do? What would you do?," International Fund for Agriculture Development president Kanayo Nwanze said. "The bottom line is that every government has the responsibility to ensure that it can feed its own people," he said while replying to a question whether he supports India's tough stand in the World Trade Organization.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Express- [India's tough stand at WTO draws support from UN body IFAD](#)

Moneycontrol- [WTO failure points to fragmented future for global trade](#)

Zee News- [India's tough stand on food security in WTO gets support from UN body](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [John Kerry's visit start of important relationship with Modi government: Obama administration](#)

Synopsis: US Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to India is the beginning of an important relationship with the new Indian government that has great "strategic value" to America, the Obama administration has said. Kerry, visited New Delhi last week to co-chair the fifth annual India-US Strategic Dialogue with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. He was the first cabinet minister from the Obama administration to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, also travelled to India along with the Secretary of State.

Health ministry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 4, 2014

Headline: [MPs urged to act against encephalitis](#)

Synopsis: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Monday urged MPs, particularly from districts affected by Japanese Encephalitis, to educate people to boil water before drinking and immunize their children. Replying to a debate in Lok Sabha on the spread of encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in eastern Uttar Pradesh and other areas of the country, he said there was a need to take preventive steps. Harsh Vardhan said 85 percent of the cases were from five states: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Assam.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu Business Line- [India takes help from US body to tackle encephalitis outbreak](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Encephalitis has claimed 700 lives this year, says Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Outlook- [Govt for Universal Immunisation to Combat Encephalitis](#)

Publication: The Week

Edition: Online

Date: August 4, 2014

Headline: [Better pill](#)

Synopsis: Vardhan, an ENT surgeon, says his first priority is to make health care accessible to all in the country. That is a huge task, considering our population. "I want to engage government resources, charitable institutions, the corporate sector, NGOs and doctors, for whom medicine is still a noble profession, to improve the condition of this important sector," he says. The first step, he says, would be to educate people about the importance of prevention. "Eighty per cent of health [care] is actually prevention. Health education will be introduced right from the school level. We have already signed MoUs with 17 departments, including the communication and IT ministry, to utilise their potential to strengthen the campaign to spread the message about preventive health [care]," he says. Citing a World Health Organization report, Vardhan says that 40 to 45 per cent of the disease burden is because of inactivity. And, he says people should walk for half an hour daily and mothers should encourage their children to play outdoor games. "Similarly, thousands of child deaths caused by diarrhoea can be prevented if people wash their hands before taking food and after using the toilet. A simple sachet of ORS [oral rehydration solution] or lemonade can treat a child suffering from diarrhoea. Prevention works," he says. "I believe that building 12 parks for children and adults to indulge in physical activity has a stronger impact on the health of the country than building a hospital."

FDI- Insurance

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 4, 2014

Headline: [FDI in Insurance Bill anti-people: Sitaram Yechury](#)

Synopsis: Stating that both Congress and BJP follow the same "anti-people economic policy", CPI-M politburo member Sitaram Yechury today snubbed BJP for bringing in FDI in Insurance Bill which it had opposed during the last UPA regime. "Congress and BJP both are same. The fact is that Congress is now opposing the FDI in Insurance Bill which it had tried to bring in during its regime, and BJP had opposed that. Now the tables have turned with BJP in power and trying to bring in the same Bill which the Congress is opposing now," Yechury said at a meeting of party's workers' union here.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Insurance reforms deadlocked](#)

Business Standard- [Govt open to minor changes in insurance Bill](#)

The Times of India- [Cong's ploy over Insurance Bill to hurt Modi?](#)

The Hindu- [NDA strategy is to divide Opposition on Insurance Bill](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Insurance bill stuck, govt says it is open to changes](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Government- opposition parties discuss Insurance Bill, agree to hold another meeting](#)

The Financial Express- [Suspense mounts over insurance bill; Opposition demands for in-depth consideration by a Select Committee](#)

The Financial Chronicle- [49% FDI in insurance stuck between ifs & buts](#)

The New Indian Express- [Government to Consult Opposition on Insurance Bill, Move it in RS Tomorrow](#)

The Asian Age- [Insurance Bill a political game?](#)

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [Unmusical chairs](#) (second edit)

Synopsis: The inconclusive end to Monday's all-party meeting called by the government to hammer out a consensus over the insurance bill before it can be taken up in Rajya Sabha is unsurprising. Posturing by key political parties, on the treasury benches or in the opposition, has repeatedly stymied efforts to liberalise this crucial sector in the past. Having cleared the long-awaited hike in the cap on foreign investment in the budget, the NDA government has moved 97 amendments to the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008. For the Congress, the contentious point is the composite cap of 49 per cent including "hot" FII investments. The arguments have come full circle. The proposal to have a 49 per cent cap on foreign investment was first proposed by the last NDA government, when Yashwant Sinha was finance minister. The Congress, at that time, opposed the move and the government was forced to fix the cap at 26 per cent. Subsequently, when the Congress-led UPA came to power, the cabinet moved to hike the insurance FDI limits in October 2012, but the BJP's opposition forced it to drop the proposal as it did not have the requisite numbers in Parliament. Now, the roles have again been reversed, with the NDA wanting to hike the cap but falling short of the requisite numbers in the Upper House.

Universal Immunization Programme

Publication: Business World

Edition: Online

Date: August 4, 2014

Headline: [Can India Afford To Not Vaccinate?](#)

Synopsis: India has taken giant leaps forward for improving the state of public health in the country in the past few weeks. In an unprecedented move, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley promised the country complete sanitation by 2019 and announced that the government would allocate Rs. 3,600 crore to help ensure safe drinking water. Excise duties on cigarettes, gutka and other tobacco products have been hiked to discourage the use of these harmful substances. Perhaps the most significant announcement preceded the budget by a week, when the Prime Minister announced the introduction of three new vaccines in the

country's Universal Immunisation Programmes. In a country where a large majority of children still die from vaccine preventable diseases, the introduction of vaccines against rotavirus, the leading cause of diarrhoea associated deaths and hospitalisations, as well as rubella, one of the leading causes of congenital defects in newborns, will doubtless breathe new fire into India's historic battle against infectious diseases. India is also joining hands with 125 other countries to introduce the injectable polio vaccine in a bid to speed up global eradication efforts.

Research and Innovation

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: August 4, 2014

Headline: [Govt to dip into innovation cess to fund industry research](#)

Synopsis: The Centre is considering ploughing funds collected through the innovation cess towards research, in collaboration with industry, in three critical areas: biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and automotives. The innovation or research and development cess, collected from industry, amounts to 5 per cent of the cost of technology imports, which include payments made for designs, drawings, and to technical personnel. The idea of channelling the cess, which remains largely unutilised, into specific sectors emerged in a meeting between Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Managing Director of Biocon Ltd Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, soon after the new Government was sworn in. Shaw told BusinessLine that the Minister was extremely positive about her suggestion that innovation was the key to building further expertise in areas where India is already making its presence felt.

Public Health

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 4, 2014

Opinion piece: Arvind Virmani, Former Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India and Executive Director, IMF and Charan Singh is the RBI Chair Professor of Economics, IIM Bangalore

Headline: [Swachh Bharat: Why India needs a Sanitation and Water Policy](#)

Synopsis: The unfortunate incident in Badaun and similar others has raised the issue of lack of sanitation facilities in India. According to a recent Report released by World Health Organization (WHO), India continues to be a country with the highest number of people in the world practicing open defecation (OD) - about half of its population. Of the one billion people practicing OD in the world, 597 million live in India. India's performance is worse than that of other emerging market economies and least developed countries (LDCs). In India 65 per cent population in rural areas (30 per cent in LDCs) and 12 per cent in urban area (6 per cent) resort to OD. And still worst, according to WHO, India is not making significant strides in reducing OD.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [60 per cent of people defecating in the open in world live in India: Report](#)

The Hindustan Times- [60% of people defecating in the open in world live in India: WHO report](#)

General Industry

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [Mint Conclave: Better medical technology, PPP could reduce disease burden](#)

Synopsis: India, home to a fifth of the world's population, spends about 1% of its gross domestic product on healthcare. It also shoulders a major share of the world's disease burden— something which modern technology could help ease. The first expert panel of the Mint Healthcare Conclave held in Mumbai, moderated by Mint's Vidya Krishnan, discussed technology in healthcare and how it could be put to best use. The government needs affordable medical technologies which can be scaled up to diagnose

diseases in a better way.

Publication: The Tribune

Edition: Delhi

Date: August 5, 2014

Opinion piece: RP Sapru, former Head of the Department of Cardiology, the PGIMER, Chandigarh

Headline: Corruption & decline of ethics in medical practice (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The issue of corruption in medical practice is not new. It troubled Hippocrates, Charaka and many others since then. Several codes of ethics have been suggested from time to time. The International Code Of Medical Ethics adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1949 (subsequently revised in 1968, 1983 and 2006) is the overarching international guideline. Most countries have formulated their own codes of conduct for medical professionals very similar to the International Code. However, in spite of the existence of regulatory bodies to ensure compliance with the prescribed standards of medical ethics, most countries have been periodically reporting concerns on the issue. Recent media concern, drawing attention to the scale of the problem in India is welcome; though any suggestion of a “discovery” seems misplaced since the practice is well within the knowledge of all stakeholders, including patients. No sting operations are necessary; the information is openly shared within the community; an open secret like none other. In addition, many formal publications in professional journals as well as the lay Press have referred to the issue from time to time building a substantial glossary by now. The Indian Journal Of Medical Ethics is specifically devoted to the subject. It is a pity though that the hallowed profession in the country is today precariously positioned, in danger of falling off the pedestal.

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: August 4, 2014

Headline: [Politicians Shouldn't Question Drug Costs But Rather Their Value. Lessons From Soliris And Sovaldi.](#)

Synopsis: It is not too surprising to see politicians now suddenly jumping on the bandwagon and expressing outrage over the cost of new drugs. Sovaldi, a drug that essentially, cures hepatitis C, has been the subject of numerous news stories focused on its cost – \$84,000 for a twelve week course of treatment. Rather than reacting to this medical breakthrough with applause, many have attacked Sovaldi's maker, Gilead, for charging this high a price despite the fact that this drug is more effective, safer, and cheaper than existing drug regimens used to treat hepatitis C. This furor has sparked Senators Wyden and Grassley to probe all of Gilead's expenses, from the acquisition of Pharmasset (originator of Sovaldi) to the costs of the development program in order to embarrass Gilead publicly and perhaps shame them into lowering Sovaldi's price.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [Ebola threat: Public health experts advise India to be vigilant](#)

Synopsis: It does not spread through air like the SARS virus that sent the world into a panic about 10 years ago. Nor is it like swine-flu, where every incoming aircraft from an infected region brings with it the immediate danger of transporting the HINI virus. Yet public health experts caution that India be vigilant and send out an advisory on Ebola, as the virus takes its biggest toll in West Africa. Advisories are in order, agrees Anurag Bhargava, a public health physician and epidemiologist. Indian doctors need to be made aware that infection by the Ebola virus could be a possibility in a patient showing high fever with rash, bleeding and multi-system dysfunction, especially if the person had returned from West Africa in the last three weeks.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [Our high technology deficit](#)

Synopsis: A new Indian government searching for ways to revive Indian manufacturing seems to have chosen to emphasise integration into global value chains at the lower, labour-intensive end, by exploiting its cheap labour reserve. That not only turns the tables on the kind of industrialisation strategy that the Indian government emphasised from Independence to the 1970s, but also ignores the immense potential that exists for hi-tech manufacturing growth for a country with the necessary skilled manpower. This comes through when we examine the 2014 edition of the biennial Science and Engineering Indicators report of the National Science Board, a division of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the US. Perhaps influenced by the erosion of US competitiveness in hi-tech manufacturing, these reports have for some years now tracked the changing geography of the high technology manufacturing sector, defined to include the following sectors: aircraft and spacecraft, pharmaceuticals, computers and office machinery, semiconductors, and communications equipment, and scientific (medical, precision, and optical) instruments. The tracking exercise has yielded one striking result. Not only has the geography of hi-tech manufacturing shifted as expected, but that shift reflects a significant displacement of the US and the EU as producers as a result of a rise of wholly new competitors.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [GSK fortifies its OTC play](#)

Synopsis: The consumer arm of British pharma major GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is making a bid to fortify its over-the-counter (OTC) portfolio, the second-largest category after health food drinks (HFD). Adding to its roster comprising Eno (Rs 400 crore), Crocin (Rs 120 crore) and Iodex (Rs 100 crore), it is relaunching one of its legacy brands, Ostocalcium (which is now only Rs 42 crore). OTC, which like GSK's oral care (Sensodyne), sits outside the listed entity, has been identified as a key driver of its health and wellness agenda in India. It will relaunch its calcium supplement in August, in order to ramp up its sales in the OTC space.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 5, 2014

Headline: [Sun-Ranbaxy combine to control over 40% market for 25 drugs](#)

Synopsis: Sun Pharma will have a market share of over 40% in 25 drugs once it takes control of Ranbaxy, according to an ET analysis, that may be reason for a close look at the deal by the competition watchdog that has begun to examine the biggest deal in the Indian pharma industry. For nine drugs its market share will be more than 65% and in another 15 it will be 40-60%, revealed an analysis of the latest data from market research firm AIOCD Awacs.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 4, 2014

Headline: [Integrated approach needed to tackle NCDs, say experts](#)

Synopsis: India needs an integrated approach to address the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD), which if delayed further is likely to severely affect the economic health of the nation, experts said here Monday. The experts laid emphasis on strengthening the national monitoring and surveillance system and scaling up the implementation of evidence-based measures to reduce incidence of non-communicable diseases caused by various factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful alcohol use.

