



**News Updates: August 6, 2014**

### Drug Price Control

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 6, 2014**

**Headline: [Pharma firms earn excessively; govt asked to reduce MRP of drugs](#)**

**Synopsis:** Allowing pharma companies to earn excessive profit is against the principles of morality and ethics, the National Consumer Commission has said, directing the Centre to reduce the MRP of a drug for checking effects of non-cancerous tumor on which Novartis make over 100 percent gain. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) bench noted that the MRP of Octreotide LAR 20mg (Sandostatin LAR) by Novartis India Ltd is Rs 58,000 per injection and the company had provided 50 per cent discount to a patient and sold it at Rs 29,000.

**Similar reports in-**

**Business Today- [Pharma firms earn high margins; govt asked to cut MRP of drugs](#)**

**The Financial Chronicle- Pharma firms earn lavishly; govt asked to reduce MRP (link unavailable, scan attached)**

**The Telegraph- [Rip-off alert on medicines](#)**

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 5, 2014**

**Headline: [Govt developing online database to monitor drug prices](#)**

**Synopsis:** The government is developing an online database system that will require pharmaceutical companies to submit information in order to enable NPPA to control drug price effectively. "National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is in the process of developing an online database system wherein pharma manufacturer and/or marketers would be required to submit prescribed information periodically in respect of compliance of various provisions of DPCO, 2013," Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Nihal Chand said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

**Similar report in-**

**The Financial Chronicle- [Online database for drug prices \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)**

### OPPI Access Summit

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 5, 2014**

**Headline: [OPPI's third Healthcare Access Summit on Aug 8](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), will organise its third Healthcare Access Summit in Mumbai on August 8. The summit will bring together diverse stakeholders to discuss how quality healthcare can be provided across all segments of the population, OPPI said in a statement here.

### Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR

**Publication: Free Press Journal**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 6, 2014**

**Headline: [Scientific Lag](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Indian Patent Office, now celebrating its centenary, has had a relatively uneventful career. The reason for this is to be found in the fact that scientific progress in this country has been restricted by the kind of education imparted to the youth; and our industrial undertakings have been content with copying methods evolved in the West some decades ago. This has meant a large gap, particularly in the technological field, between the industrialised countries of the west and India. Not only has the Indian mind been slow with gadgets and machines, our industries also suffer because of the reliance on outdated mechanisms.

#### WTO/ Modi government

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 6, 2014**

**Headline: [WTO standoff: India regrets unilateral focus of developed nations](#)**

**Synopsis:** The government has put the blame for collapse of a global customs pact at the WTO at the last minute on the developed world's refusal to show any commitment on the food security issue and pursuance of only its own interests. Last week, India had vetoed the Trade Facilitation Agreement, demanding that a permanent solution on food subsidy be reached before signing the deal. "In contrast to their efforts on trade facilitation at WTO, some developed countries have been reluctant to engage on other issues," minister of state for commerce & industry Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament on Tuesday, adding that India was apprehensive that once an agreement on trade facilitation was reached, "other issues would be ignored".

#### Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [Cannot sacrifice farmers' interests at WTO: Govt](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Won't compromise interest of farmers at WTO: govt](#)

The Hindu- [India will convince WTO, says Minister](#)

The Financial Chronicle- [India sticks to tough position on WTO](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [India not to compromise on WTO negotiations](#)

The Financial Express- ['Confident WTO will understand India's sensitivities'](#)

Business World- [India Blames WTO For Deadlock](#)

**Publication: The Indian Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 6, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Devashish Mitra, professor of economics and Cramer professor of global affairs at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, New York**

**Headline: [Great Indian backtrack](#)**

**Synopsis:** At the WTO, India just vetoed the Trade Facilitation Agreement that it had agreed on six months ago along with 159 other countries. The reason being given by the Indian government is food security and concern for the poor in a country that has more than a quarter of the world's poor. In order to understand what India just did and whether it makes sense, we need to know the answers to a number of questions. What is the TFA and what does it try to achieve? How can India have the power to veto something that affects 160 countries (almost the entire world)? How is food security affected by this agreement? Why did India accept the TFA in the first place in Bali if it wasn't in its interests to do so? In addition, there are questions about India's current policies themselves — whether they are efficient or distortionary.

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 6, 2014**

**Headline: [Obama invites India to 'underwrite' global order](#)**

**Synopsis:** U.S. President Barack Obama said this week that India was dragged “kicking and screaming into the world marketplace,” a necessary step for it to succeed in absorbing its young workforce and realising their ambitions as the country moved towards “underwriting” the global order. Commenting on the recent emergence of the BRICS Bank of emerging world powers, Mr. Obama said in an interview with The Economist magazine some generational shifts needed to take place, of the type that happened in India where “much of the leadership in [its government] came of age when [the country] had very different attitudes towards the global economic system.”

**Publication:** The Indian Express

**Edition:** National

**Date:** August 6, 2014

**Headline:** [Facing closure after Khobragade row, US club back in business](#)

**Synopsis:** In signs of a thaw after the chill in India-US ties following the Devyani Khobragade incident last December, the plush American Embassy club, located within the US mission in Chanakyapuri, is back in business. The club faced threat of closure after New Delhi questioned membership to “non-diplomats”. Sources said the US embassy has now “pruned” the club’s membership to include only US diplomats and their families. Earlier, the club was open to all American passport-holders. According to sources, the Indian and American officials agreed on this “compromise” following efforts from both sides to bring the relationship “back on track”.

#### Health ministry

**Publication:** The Hindustan Times

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 6, 2014

**Headline:** [PM Narendra Modi wants health insurance for all](#)

**Synopsis:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called a meeting on health reforms this week in which the format of the health insurance for all, setting up medical colleges in each district and a three-year BSc course in community health are likely to be discussed. Improving public health facilities had been high on PM Modi’s agenda and health minister Harsh Vardhan has been working on series of reforms that entails to provide affordable health to all. The government has announced the setting up of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in different states and improving health infrastructure. But government sources said the meeting of all dealing with health, including department of pharmaceuticals, have been called with an idea to take the agenda ahead.

**Publication:** The Indian Express

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 5, 2014

**Headline:** [Encephalitis: Centre puts toll at 208, Mamata govt suspends NBMCH principal](#)

**Synopsis:** On a day Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan put the death toll in West Bengal due to encephalitis at 208, the state government Monday suspended North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMCH) principal Anup Kumar Roy for alleged dereliction of duty. Confirming Roy’s suspension, state health services director Biswaranjan Satpathy said Samir Ghosh Roy, principal of National Medical College, Kolkata, will take charge of the NBMCH.

**Publication:** Business Standard

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 5, 2014

**Headline:** [Need for radical reform for tackling anaemia: Govt](#)

**Synopsis:** Acknowledging the need for "radical reform" in the implementation of schemes aimed at tackling the prevalence of anaemia among women and children, Government today said it would hold a meeting of

its national council in this regard. Replying to a question by Rajani Patil (Congress) about the prevalence of anaemia and mineral deficiencies among women, the Health minister said the government is actively monitoring the implementation of programmes and schemes to redress the issue.

**Publication: The Telegraph**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 5, 2014**

**Headline: [Grant to prevent diseases unspent](#)**

**Synopsis:** A letter from the central official in charge of overseeing the national vector control programme has said that Bengal failed to use over Rs 24 crore of funds allotted to it for the 2013-14 financial year. The revelation comes at a time the state government is grappling with an outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis in north Bengal. The unofficial toll — figures given by different hospitals, not the director of health services — is 131. The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme's funds are not just for countering Japanese Encephalitis — the virus of which is spread by the Culex mosquito — but also for malaria, chikungunya and several other vector-borne diseases.

### FDI- Insurance

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 6, 2014**

**Headline: [Insurance Bill: NDA government's worry increases as Congress remains firm](#)**

**Synopsis:** The central government's worries on the Insurance Bill aggravated on Tuesday with Congress accusing it of adopting double standards on the issue and dismissing threats from the treasury benches that a joint session may be convened, forcing BJP ministers to knock on the doors of parties like SP and BSP to muster the numbers in the Rajya Sabha.

Congress sources maintained the government was reportedly keen on passing the insurance bill in Parliament in this session so that Prime Minister Narendra Modi can showcase it to the US during his visit in September and hence wants to hurry through the process without sending it to a select committee of the Rajya Sabha. BJP leaders, on the other hand, alleged Congress was playing politics on the issue and that was the reason for its volte-face on the bill which was brought by the erstwhile UPA government.

#### Similar reports in-

**Business Standard-** [No double standards on Insurance Bill: Rahul](#)

**The Financial Express-** ['No double standards on insurance Bill'](#)

**The Financial Chronicle-** [NDA gets into hectic parley mode to push through insurance bill](#)

**The Asian Age-** [Government awaits Opposition reply, Congress calls it 'arrogant'](#)

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 6, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Monika Halan, works in the area of financial literacy and financial intermediation policy and is a certified financial planner. She is editor, Mint Money, Yale World Fellow 2011 and on the board of FPSB India**

**Headline: [Evil foreigners, upright Indians and FDI in insurance](#)**

**Synopsis:** Do we see representatives of trade unions and other such organized labour unions come out on the street in "national interest"? Do they threaten to strike work if rapists are not brought to book? Do they burn effigies of airline owners who owe banks millions of rupees and don't pay their employees for months, while they vacation in their yachts and buy super-expensive stuff for aspiring offspring? Nope. But try doing something that will enhance efficiency, reduce corruption and increase consumer protection in any industry controlled by these unions and see them pour out on the streets to protest. The red rag of higher foreign direct investment (FDI) in insurance was waved in the budget and as the Bill struggles to get passed, the political parties against the legislation have cranked up the organized protests. Trade unions, insurance staff

and the Communist Party of India (CPI) have all been active in the past week threatening strikes and worse if the Bill that allows foreigners a 49% stake in insurance companies, up from 26% now, goes through.

### Universal Immunization Programme

**Publication:** Deccan Herald

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 5, 2014

**Headline:** [Centre's move to bring Rotavirus vaccine has researchers divided](#)

**Synopsis:** The Narendra Modi government's plan to introduce a Rotavirus vaccine in the universal immunisation programme (UIP) has split the opinions of public health researchers, with one group supporting the move and the other questioning its safety and efficacy. Rotavirus is the most common cause of diarrhoeal death among children. The estimated diarrhoeal death count in India is up to 80,000 annually, along with 8,00,000 hospitalisations. Prodded by the Prime Minister's Office, the Health Ministry plans to introduce the Rotavirus vaccine in the UIP in 2014, beginning with the procurement of 10 million doses for select districts.

### FDA

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 5, 2014

**Headline:** [FDA chief who cracked down on erring chemists shunted out](#)

**Synopsis:** Bowing to the mounting pressure of chemists and a section of multinational firms, CM Prithviraj Chavan on Tuesday shunted out Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commissioner Mahesh Zagade on the ground that he has completed his tenure. While no new assignment has been given to Zagade, director of municipal administration Purushottam Bhapkar will replace him. Significantly, Bhapkar, an IAS officer of the 1997 batch, did not complete even one year as the director.

**Similar reports in-**

**Daily News & Analysis-** [FDA commissioner Mahesh Zagade transferred](#)

**Publication:** Daily News & Analysis

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 6, 2014

**Headline:** [FDA cracks down on docs hoarding medicines](#)

**Synopsis:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has started cracking down on doctors who store medicines in bulk in their clinics and later sell it to patients. According to the FDA, doctors can store medicines in a limited quantity as per the requirement of patients. Since they cannot charge patients, doctors generally include it in their consultation fees. FDA has dug out information from wholesalers about doctors who buy antibiotics in bulk. FDA officials have found that doctors later sell these medicines to patients. This is in violation of the Drug and Cosmetics Act and FDA inspectors can even file FIRs against such doctors.

**Website:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 6, 2014

**Headline:** [MSPC refers back cases of professional misconduct of pharmacists to FDA for lack of clarity](#)

**Synopsis:** In order to seek clarity on cases of professional misconduct by pharmacists for timely action, Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council (MSPC) has referred back over 20 such cases to Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) due to lack of documents required as evidence to back council proceedings on matters of non-compliance. MSPC is a quasi-judicial body which takes action against errant pharmacists

who fail on non-compliance to Pharmacy Act, 1948 can face action ranging issuance of warning letters to canceling registrations. According to an MSPC official, referral of cases of professional misconduct from FDA has to be backed by circumstantial evidence which could prove that the absence in the retail drug store was due to a pharmacist doing dual employment, in an incident of he being found forging bills and in an event of prescription medicines or Schedule H drugs sold without a bill in his/her absence.

### General Industry

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 6, 2014

**Headline:** [New Hepatitis-C drug 99% cheaper in India](#)

**Synopsis:** There is some hope for hepatitis C patients in India. Amid mounting criticism over the eye-popping price of Sovaldi, the first breakthrough treatment for hepatitis C virus, US pharma firm Gilead Sciences has offered to introduce the drug in India at nearly 99% discount of the US price. The blockbuster hepatitis C drug will cost about \$900 (around Rs 54,000) in India for a 12-week course of treatment. That would be a fraction of the \$84,000 (over Rs 50 lakh) price tag for the same treatment in US.

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 6, 2014

**Headline:** [Govt figures on GM crops run counter to RSS logic](#)

**Synopsis:** In what could be a disappointment to RSS-linked groups opposed to genetically modified crops, the government on Tuesday told Parliament that "there is no credible scientific evidence proving that GM crops have adverse impact on environment, human health and livestock". Besides, the government also shared details of the Bt Cotton success story in India and the fact that 27 countries have been cultivating different varieties of transgenic crops including Soyabean, Maize, Papaya, Canola and Tomato for long.

**Website:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 6, 2014

**Headline:** [MCI plan action against doctors for having nexus with diagnostic centres, pharmacies](#)

**Synopsis:** The Medical Council of India (MCI) has taken a serious note of doctors falsely projecting their professional speciality even when they are not specialised in any areas. The council is also viewing seriously the illegal nexus between doctors, diagnostic centres, pharmacy stores and super speciality hospitals to earn commissions against their professional ethics. "Doctors should abide to their professional ethics and should not cross the limits of their ethical dignity for the sake of earning money through commissions or by falsely projecting themselves as specialists. If found guilty of violating the norms and regulations set by Medical Council of India, the Council will not hesitate to take serious action against the violators," said a source at MCI.

**Website:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** August 6, 2014

**Headline:** [Medical devices industry needs separate set of rules for its sustainable growth](#)

**Synopsis:** AdvaMed, an association of medical device manufacturers, stressed that in the light of many regulatory hurdles the industry is facing in India, it is high time for the government to frame a specific set of acts and rules for the medical devices industry. The association welcomed the government's effort to create a distinction between medical devices and drugs through a separate chapter in the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, and its commitment to tackling non-communicable diseases.

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: August 5, 2014**

**Headline: [No reason to panic over Ministry's advisory on Ebola: doctors](#)**

**Synopsis:** The outbreak of Ebola in west and central African countries and the Union Ministry's advisory to State Health Departments to keep vigil is no reason to panic, according to doctors in the city. They, however, added that vigilance and surveillance had to be stepped up. Head of Neurovirology at NIMHANS, V. Ravi, who is in charge of the National Influenza Surveillance Centre, said the chances of the animals in India harbouring the virus was very low.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: August 6, 2014**

**Headline: [Management Idea | Why mega-mergers in pharma is a good idea](#)**

**Synopsis:** Mergers and acquisitions come with their share of risk and reward, but when compared with most industries, big mergers and acquisitions among pharmaceuticals have generally resulted in positive returns to shareholders, say Myoung Cha, a principal in McKinsey's Silicon Valley office and Theresa Lorrinan, a specialist in the Boston office. In an article in the McKinsey Quarterly, the authors say there is more to big mergers than conventional wisdom, which holds that large mergers have destroyed value in the pharmaceutical industry.