



News Updates: August 7, 2014

OPPI- NPPA

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Pune, Ahmedabad

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [More drugs under DPCO can increase reliance on MNCs: IPA](#)

Synopsis: The report talks about industry associations being concerned about the NPPA's move to bring more drugs under price control as it would kill small and medium pharma manufacturers in the long term leading to increased dependency on pharma MNCs. Further, the report mentions that the IPA and the OPPI have already made representations to the Ministry of Health whereas the IDMA is planning to do so in a week's time.

Website: iGovernment

Edition: Online

Date: August 6, 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.

OPPI Access Summit

Publication: Navshakti

Edition: Mumbai

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Healthcare Access Summit on Friday in Mumbai \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), will organise its third Healthcare Access Summit in Mumbai on August 8 from 9am to 5p.m in Lower Parel's Hotel Palladium.

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [India, US to talk ways to remove differences on trade](#)

Synopsis: After sparring for months, India and the US are finally getting down to negotiate ways to sort out their differences on trade and economy. The meeting is a precursor to much awaited India-US Trade Policy Forum, the ministerial level consultations, scheduled for later this year. Sources familiar with the talks told TOI that the intellectual property rights (IPR) regime is expected to be the top agenda item, given the US government's concerns over India's ability to deny patents on grounds of lack of innovativeness and to use a provision to waive patent rights for medicines on the grounds of affordability. Besides, Washington is worried over provisions in the New Manufacturing Policy and has dropped hints of initiating penal action, a move that the government has described as unilateral and threatened to drag US to the WTO.

WTO/ Modi government

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [India hopes to convince WTO on food subsidy by September](#)

Synopsis: India hopes it will be able to convince the WTO by September about the need for developing countries to give subsidies on food-stocks so that it is relieved of the "draconian sword". "We are trying to convince WTO on permanent solutions. We are still making efforts. We hope to succeed by September," commerce minister Nirjala Sitharaman told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu- [WTO imbroglio: India not for 1986-87 as base year](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [India working for permanent solution at WTO, says Minister](#)

The Financial Chronicle- [India not isolated at WTO, asserts government](#)

Health ministry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Nearly 45,000 Indians in Ebola-hit countries, may bring virus home](#)

Synopsis: A total of 44,700 Indians are living in different countries affected by Ebola, a deadly virus that has claimed 932 lives so far. Of this, 300 are CRPF personnel deployed in Liberia for UN peacekeeping operations. Union health minister Harsh Vardhan said this on Wednesday in a written statement to Parliament. Vardhan said 500 Indians were in the Republic of Guinea, 3,000 in Liberia and 1,200 in Sierra Leone, from where the maximum cases have been reported. Nigeria has a much larger presence of nearly 40,000 Indian citizens. "If the situation worsens, there is a possibility of these people returning home," Vardhan said.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [India to screen air travellers as precaution against Ebola](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Govt to monitor travellers from Ebola-affected regions](#)

The Hindu- [Government issues alert for early detection of Ebola Virus](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Ebola outbreak: Measures in place to deal with any cases reported in India, says Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

NDTV- [India to Screen, Track Passengers From Ebola-Affected Region: Health Ministry](#)

The Telegraph- [Delhi wakes up to Ebola](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [Ebola scare: 45,000 Indians living in affected nations, may bring virus home](#)

Deccan Herald- [Govt taking precautionary steps to tackle Ebola virus outbreak](#)

The New Indian Express- [Ebola Test in Place for Air Travellers](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: August 6, 2014

Headline: [India needs more bone marrow donors: Health minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Wednesday called upon citizens to voluntarily register themselves as bone marrow donors to help enhance the chances of patients with blood cancer and other blood-related diseases get genetically compatible donors. "Unlike blood donation, in the case of unrelated donor, the chances are one in a million that a donor's Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) will match with the needy patient's. Therefore, there is a requirement of having millions of registered donors," Vardhan said while speaking at the launch of a "Public Initiative of Bone Marrow Donation" at All India Institute of

Medical Science (AIIMS) here.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [Vardhan is first to give marrow registry blood](#)

Zee News- [Vardhan relaunches Asian Indian Donor Marrow Registry at AIIMS](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Allow pharmacists to work as medical practitioners, IPA urges govt](#)

Synopsis: Soon, pharmacists may don the role of a medical practitioner in rural areas if the proposal made by the Indian Pharmacist Association (IPA) to the Union Ministry of Health comes through. The IPA has suggested that pharmacists be allowed to double up as non-doctor medical cadre in the rural areas with some additional training as they already have knowledge of pharmacology.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Need to address drug-resistant TB cases in India: Union Health Secretary](#)

Synopsis: India accounts for nearly one-fourth of global incidence of tuberculosis and public health officials here are working on finding a cure for drug-resistant tuberculosis, Union Health Secretary Luv Verma today said. "India has the highest tuberculosis burden in the world, accounting for nearly one-fourth of the global incidence. In 2012, out of the estimated global annual incidence of 8.7 million TB cases, 2 to 2.4 million were estimated to have occurred in India," he said.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Need to address drug-resistant TB cases in India: health secretary](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Medical education system may see radical revamp if government agrees with its panel](#)

Synopsis: The Indian medical education system could be in for a radical revamp if the Narendra Modi-led NDA government agrees with its newly-appointed advisors. A group of experts, set up by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, is in favour of a three-pronged strategy — common entrance examination, compulsory exit test for medical graduates and mandatory renewal of medical licences for doctors — to improve the quality of healthcare in the country.

Website: One India

Edition: Online

Date: August 6, 2014

Headline: [Health reform in offing: Narendra Modi Govt pledges for Health insurance to all](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always cared for poor and deprived section of the society and that he has proved time and again. Best example of his golden heart came to fore recently where Modi proved Messiah for a poor Nepali boy. Prime Minister had been supporting this boy named Jit Bahadur continuously for twelve years. Modi government also rejected WTO's Trade facilitation agreement, keeping in mind the larger interest of poor of the country. Going with the legacy of pro-people policy, the new dispensation is contemplating to provide health insurance to all and regarding this, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called a meeting on health reforms this week. According to a

Hindustan Times report, in the meeting the Government will discuss a range of issues including a roadmap of providing health insurance to every section of the society and establishing medical colleges in each district.

Website: India TV

Edition: Online

Date: August 6, 2014

Headline: [Health services high on Narendra Modi's agenda](#)

Synopsis: Providing quality public health facilities is on the top of the agenda of Narendra Modi government. Acting at the behest of the Prime Minister, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan along with top officials are working on series of reforms in this regard. Recently, Vardhan had said that Narendra Modi wanted to do extraordinary work in the health sector. Vardhan is also visiting several hospitals including AIIMS in different cities to take a stock of services being provided to common people. Establishing top medical institutes like AIIMS and improving current situation reflect in government's attitude while dealing with this sector.

FDI- Insurance

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 7, 2014

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

Synopsis: Congress refused to budge from its stand that the insurance bill be sent to a select committee of the Rajya Sabha despite backchannel attempts by senior Union ministers to convince the party, forcing the government to delay its plans of bringing the proposed legislation in the Upper House by another day. Congress and BJP leaders said no progress was made in the last 24 hours and the deadlock continues. "There is status quo on the insurance bill," a Union minister said.

Similar reports in-

The Hindustan Times- [Govt mulls alternative plan to pass insurance bill](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Congress seems to have one round on insurance bill](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 6, 2014

Headline: [Insurance employees' union oppose FDI](#)

Synopsis: The Insurance Employees' Union (IEU) has decided to organise a day's strike to protest the decision of the Centre to increase the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance sector and to pass the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2008 pending in the Rajya Sabha. General secretary of the IEU Dharwad unit Uday Gadagkar said, the protest is part of the campaign launched by the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA). The date of strike is yet to be finalised. Terming the NDA government's move disastrous, the IEU is organising a campaign in the form of a request to important personalities and opinion makers to write to Union Finance Minister opposing this move.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Editorial: Politics is back](#)

Synopsis: Given the Congress party's new-found aggression, including party vice-president Rahul Gandhi storming into the well of the House to push for a discussion of the Communal Violence Bill, it is fair to say politics is back. Indeed, given the Congress party was a proponent of hiking FDI limits in the insurance

sector, it is difficult to justify why it now wants the Bill to be referred to a select committee of Parliament. While the party's official stand is that the new changes, including the composite FII/FDI cap, need to be discussed as they are different from what was cleared by the committee, Congress leader Anand Sharma pretty much indicated what the issue was when he said the BJP had opposed the Bill for six years. In other words, the Congress party's stance seems to be that what goes around, comes around. The principal aim, it would appear, is to deny the Prime Minister the ability to go to Washington in September with this achievement. With the US already upset with India's WTO-play, not having insurance FDI sewn up will be a dampener.

FDA

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Handed over change of FDA. Awaiting new assignment... hush: Mahesh Zagade](#)

Synopsis: Even as outgoing Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) commissioner Mahesh Zagade remained tight-lipped about his transfer, it was hard to miss the disappointment of his colleagues as they bid him a sombre farewell. Zagade received abrupt transfer orders on Wednesday evening from the chief minister's office. Zagade was to lead a committee of Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to make an official presentation in the Union health ministry to cabinet minister Dr Harshvardhan about the Maharashtra Model of FDA reform later in the month.

Similar report in-

Pharmabiz- [Purushottam Bhapkar to take over as new Commissioner of Maharashtra FDA](#)

Drug regulation

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 6, 2014

Headline: [STRENGTHENING REGULATORY SYSTEM](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Under the 12th five year Plan, a budgetary allocation of Rs.1750 crore is provided by the Union finance ministry for expanding the country's entire drug control machinery. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 900 crore is earmarked for the strengthening the CDSCO, country's apex drug regulatory body while the remaining Rs. 850 crore is expected to be spent for the development of the state regulatory bodies. The funds will be used to help the CDSCO and state drug control departments in their capacity building measures like construction of new drug testing laboratories, expansion of existing facilities and hiring of regulatory staff. Adequate regulatory infrastructure, qualified technical staff and proper coordination between the Centre and state governments are the key factors that determine the efficient functioning of a national drug control network. And that is what has been lacking in the country for several years despite India being a major producer and exporter of drugs and pharmaceuticals today. Testing laboratories in major drug producing states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh are far from adequate. Primarily it is the responsibility of the respective state governments to allocate funds to set up sufficient number of drug testing laboratories to ensure only quality medicines are produced and sold in the territory of that state. By allocating Rs.850 crore in 12th Plan, the Centre is trying to help the state governments which are hesitant to set up testing labs and recruit necessary regulatory staff.

Universal Immunisation Programme

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Government to introduce vaccine to reduce under-5 mortality rate](#)

Synopsis: With an aim to reduce under five mortality rate, the Union health ministry is all set to

introduce Pentavalent vaccine in the National Immunisation programme in 11 high burden states. The move will reduce the injection load as a single shot of the vaccine has antigens of five diseases — Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and HIB. While, the vaccine was first introduced in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and later to Karnataka, Puducherry, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, the health ministry has further decided to expand it to states like West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Assam.

Public Health

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Zero-open-defecation drive: Villages, schools sans toilets to be mapped](#)

Synopsis: In its bid to tackle sanitation and waste management issues in the country, the government on Wednesday decided to make India free from open defecation on a priority basis. At a high-level meeting at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which had senior officials from about 10 ministries, the government outlined its policy on the newly-proposed Swachchh Bharat mission that aims to ensure hygiene, waste management and sanitation across the nation by October 2, 2019.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Sanofi ties up with Emcure for its oncology drugs](#)

Synopsis: Sanofi India announced it has entered into a marketing and distribution agreement with Emcure Pharma for its oncology portfolio in the country. According to the agreement, while Sanofi will continue to own its oncology range - comprising four brands, Taxotere, Jevtana, Fludara and Fasturtec, Emcure will market and distribute these brands through its specialty unit. All these brands are imported into India in small quantities as it is not economical to produce small quantities here.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Emcure to sell Sanofi's cancer drugs in India](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Sanofi, Emcure in marketing pact for cancer drugs](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 7, 2014

Headline: [Better community participation, targeted immunisation to tackle hepatitis on war footing: Experts](#)

Synopsis: United Way of Mumbai and AmeriCares India with support from Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation organised a panel discussion on the prevalence of hepatitis and need for community based interventions for its prevention in Mumbai recently. During the discussion, experts emphasized that it is very important to sensitise the people in the right manner. The panel discussion bears relevance considering the fact that more than 100,000 people die in India due to hepatitis more so as the disease is silent in nature which implies that it can sustain in the body without exhibiting symptoms. Awareness about its prevention is therefore required on an urgent basis.