



News Updates: August 9-11, 2014

OPPI- Access Summit

Publication: The Economic Times (*flashed by PTI*)

Edition: National

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Pharma companies ready to be 'healthy' ally to meet medicare goals](#)

Synopsis: The Pharmaceutical industry today said it is willing to partner with the government for achieving the vision of "healthcare access for all" and sought its support to encourage innovation and clinical research that will provide access to modern medicines. "The pharmaceutical industry is more than willing to partner with the Government to achieve the vision of healthcare access for all. "Focus on human resource augmentation, last-mile availability of medicines and stronger healthcare distribution will catalyse access to healthcare," said Shailesh Ayyangar, President, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), here.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Union Health Ministry seeks synergy in fragmented healthcare industry](#)

Synopsis: The health ministry is working towards bringing all the healthcare related departments under one fold over the next five year period and put in place a health policy in the near term to increase healthcare access for the people, a senior government official said on Friday. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, advisor in public policy, economy, rural development, healthcare, retail, innovation, on the sidelines of healthcare access summit organised by the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India in Mumbai, said, "One of the biggest lacuna is that the health industry is spread across different departments and the best way to bring synergy is to conversion of related departments under one. I think the health ministry is also thinking the same."

Publication: The Economic Times (*flashed by PTI*)

Edition: National

Date: August 10, 2014

Headline: [Price controls: Pharma industry favours dialogue with government](#)

Synopsis: After failing to get a stay order from Delhi High Court on the latest round of drug price control order, the pharma industry has called for a dialogue with the regulators to resolve the row, saying such issues are best ironed out through dialogues than in court rooms. "I think unless there is dialogue with the appropriate authorities, we are going to run into these kind of issues again. These issues are not to be settled in court rooms," a senior official of Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), who did not wish to be named, said on the sidelines of an event here over the weekend.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [Drug sector seeks dialogue with govt on pricing row](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Pharma Ind favours dialogue with govt on price control issue](#)

The Financial Express- [Price controls: Pharma industry seeks dialogue with regulators](#) (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Financial Chronicle- [Pharma firms seek dialogue](#) (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Asian Age- [Pharma cos seeks dialogue](#) (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Telegraph- [Drug firms for talks on price curbs](#)

The Pioneer- Price controlAs: Pharma industry favours dialogue with Govt (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Statesman- [Pharma industry for dialogue with govt on price control](#)

Moneycontrol- [Drug industry seeks talk with govt to resolve pricing row](#)

First Biz- [Drug price control issue: Pharma sector seeks dialogue with govt](#)

Free Press Journal- Price controls: Pharma industry favours dialogue with govt (link unavailable, scan attached)

Publication: Metro India

Edition: Hyderabad

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Universal Health Access Key](#)

Synopsis: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) organised its Third Healthcare Access Summit in Mumbai on Friday. At this summit, leaders from the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare policy experts, consumer activists and other distinguished professionals focused on the importance of partnerships in achieving affordable healthcare access for all. Global best practices in healthcare access were shared and discussions revolved around better standards in healthcare and wellness. "Understanding the challenge is critical to achieving universal healthcare access and finding sustainable solutions. Government needs to lead the way in collaborating with the industry and all stakeholders. We need holistic solutions and all the stakeholders will have a role to play and the pharma industry is willing to step forward and do its part." said Ranjana Smetacek, director general, OPPI.

Website: First Biz

Edition: Online

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Healthcare for all: Pharma firms ready to ally with govt, seek aid for innovation](#)

Synopsis: The pharmaceutical industry today said it is willing to partner with the government for achieving the vision of "healthcare access for all" and sought its support to encourage innovation and clinical research that will provide access to modern medicines. "The pharmaceutical industry is more than willing to partner with the Government to achieve the vision of healthcare access for all. "Focus on human resource augmentation, last-mile availability of medicines and stronger healthcare distribution will catalyse access to healthcare," said Shailesh Ayyangar, President, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI).

Website: Moneycontrol

Edition: Online

Date: August 8, 2014

Headline: [New pricing order caught us by surprise: Pfizer India MD](#)

Synopsis: The government's decision to control therapeutic drug prices has unsettled many in the industry. Latest to voice his concern is Aijaz Tobaccowala, managing director, Pfizer India . Tobaccowala said that the new pricing order had caught the company completely by surprise, and will wait for more clarity before making on-ground changes.

OPPI- NPPA/ Drug pricing

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [HC junks AIDAN plea to intervene in drug price cap matter](#)

Synopsis: The Delhi High Court today refused to allow an NGO to intervene in a plea challenging National Pharma Pricing Authority's (NPPA) July 10 notification bringing over a 100 medicines under price control. "You are neither an interested party nor an affected party," Justice Vibhu Bakhru said and dismissed the

application of All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN) which was seeking to intervene in the petition filed by an organisation of drug manufacturers opposing NPPA's notification.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Consider pharma firms' proposal to resolve re-labelling issue: HC to NPPA](#)

Synopsis: The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA) to consider a "practical solution" offered by a group of pharma companies to a long-pending issue of re-labelling of drugs that are already in the retail market with new price tags. Earlier this year, pharma companies such as Cipla, Sun Pharma, Wockhardt, Lupin, Alembic had submitted a proposal to the HC on the same issue. The companies had argued that relabelling existing drug stocks in the market with new prices notified by the NPPA under the new Drug Price Control Order is not required as the distributors have been asked by the companies from time to time to comply with NPPA's revised price lists. Also, they argued, the revised price lists had been circulated to dealers and state drug controllers, as required under the DPCO.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Supreme Court stays Bombay High Court drug price order in favour of Pfizer](#)

Synopsis: The Supreme Court has stayed a Bombay High Court order that told the government to review its direction to drug maker Pfizer to cap prices of popular cough syrup Benadryl. A Supreme Court bench, comprising justices Ranjana Prakash Desai and NV Ramana, on August 8 also issued notices to the US multinational to formally state its position on the government appeal against the high court order issued on July 30, 2013.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Supreme Court stays HC order on Benadryl's pricing](#)

The Financial Express- [SC notice to Pfizer on govt plea over Benadryl price cut](#)

Free Press Journal- SC stays Bombay HC order on Pfizer's Benadryl cough syrup price (link unavailable, scan attached)

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Congress criticizes NDA's foreign policy](#)

Synopsis: The Congress party on Friday criticized the foreign policy of the Narendra Modi-led government in the context of the government's overtures to Pakistan and attempts to mend relations with the US. Khurshid also criticized the lack of clarity on details of US secretary of state John Kerry's meetings with Indian leaders in New Delhi last week. "There are a lot of issues with the United States and we are not saying that one meeting should discuss all these issues. There are issues of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), software issues and visa issues which have been discussed before but we want to know if any movement on that has happened or not," Khurshid said. He added that during the joint media address of external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and Kerry, while the former said the issue of snooping was raised firmly, the visiting US leader simply said that it was an intelligence issue and could not be discussed. "We are not making any conclusive judgement but we are duty-bound to caution towards any slip and slide," Khurshid added.

Clinical trials

Publication: The Hindu
Edition: Kochi
Date: August 10, 2014
Headline: [Humanism as a casualty](#)

Synopsis: After a highly poignant 'Melvilasom' which touched on the casteism still prevalent in the Indian psyche, film-maker Madhav Ramadasan returns with another hard-hitting question: who decides the value of human life? Is the dice always loaded against the poor, the ignorant, the impressible? 'Apothecary' deals with the issue of brutal, unethical clinical trials that treat human bodies as mere tools to mint money. This brooding tale of a neuro-surgeon and his patients, aka specimens, is sure to send a shiver down the spine of the viewers.

WTO/ Modi government/ Indo- US ties

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: Online
Date: August 9, 2014
Headline: [India opted for tough stand at WTO to protect poor: PM Narandra Modi](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narandra Modi today said the government "chose" to take a tough stand in the recent WTO talks as it has to protect the interest of the poor people of the country rather than to look for good publicity in the international media. "There are attempts to spread doubts on WTO. Should we choose in favour of our farmers or for getting good international publicity in the media? We have chosen the former. We have chosen the interest of the poor people of the country," Modi said at the BJP's National Council meeting here.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Why this Independence Day is different](#)
The Times of India- [WTO stand in interests of poor, Modi says](#)
Business Standard- [PM justifies WTO stand](#)
The New Indian Express- [Parliament Braces for WTO Storm After PM Dig](#)
The Hindustan Times- [Congress reacts to Modi's take on UPA's WTO stand](#)
Daily News & Analysis- [WTO trade deal: Congress says Narendra Modi's remark that India had compromised on food security in Bali is incorrect](#)

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: Online
Date: August 10, 2014
Headline: [US calls for stronger defence ties with India](#)

Synopsis: US defence secretary Chuck Hagel has called for a stronger defence partnership between India and America and stressed that both countries should "seize the opportunities" before them and not be bound by bureaucratic red tape. "A stronger US-India partnership is critical for sustained peace and prosperity around the globe... there is bipartisan support in the US for stronger India-US relations," Hagel said during a talk at the Observer Research Foundation, a think tank in Delhi on Saturday.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [India, US agree on arms deal, but technology transfer remains key](#)
Daily News & Analysis- [Chuck Hagel credits Jaswant Singh for transforming Indo-US ties](#)
The Indian Express- [Hagel calls for India partnership in Iraq](#)
The Asian Age- [India needn't pick between US or China: Chuck Hagel](#)

Publication: The New Indian Express- Sunday Standard
Edition: National
Date: August 10, 2014

Headline: [America Follows India's Money](#)

Synopsis: In 2002, Robert Blackwill, then the US ambassador to India, lamented loudly that US-India trade was as “flat as a chapatti.” After the US-friendly Manmohan Singh government’s exit and Narendra Modi taking over, America is desperately seeking dough with a series of India visits by senior officials. So far, 13 of them have visited New Delhi. In just eight days, three cabinet-level officials from the US administration came, the last being US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel, seeking early decisions on defence deals ranging from the next-generation Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs)—for which President Barack Obama has personally lobbied with Narendra Modi— to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: August 10, 2014

Opinion piece: Rahul Goswami, studies agriculture practices, food policy and their impacts on costs and prices. He has written extensively on the subject and has worked for the National Agriculture Innovation Project

Headline: [All about genetically modified food](#)

Synopsis: Three common arguments are advanced to the citizens of India as justifying the need for genetically modified crops. None of these owe their intellectual genesis to the present NDA government (which is employing them nonetheless), and can be found as theses in both UPA2 and UPA1. They are: Genetically engineered seed and crop are necessary in order that India find lasting food security; that good science and particularly good crop science in India can only be fostered in the public interest by our immediate adoption of agricultural biotechnology; that India’s agricultural exports (and their contribution to GDP growth and farmers’ livelihoods) require the adoption of such technology.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: August 10, 2014

Opinion piece: G. Venkataramani, agricultural communications specialist, who worked as water management communications and knowledge-sharing specialist at the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Drylands in Aleppo, Syria, until recently

Headline: [Frankenstein foods? Say no](#)

Synopsis: The mere mention of genetically modified (GM) crops or organisms, will send shivers down the spine of common people, for they conjure up an image of Frankenstein foods. The fears are not only in vogue in developing countries but also persist in several advanced nations. It is not without valid reasons the negative image for GM crops looms large in the minds of people. Past experiences have shown that several technologies held by the profit-seeking multinational corporations (MNCs) were dumped on the third world countries without any concern for the people and the environment. Altruism, in general, is not their cup of tea!

Health ministry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Strict surveillance by India for Ebola virus, health minister Harsh Vardhan says](#)

Synopsis: Health minister Harsh Vardhan, on Saturday said that the government is maintaining intensive surveillance to prevent the spread of the dreaded Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the country. He said that there is no confirmed or even suspected Ebola virus-affected person in the country as of now.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu- [No Ebola case has been reported in India: Harsh Vardhan](#)

The Financial Express- [Tamil Nadu man under Ebola watch](#)
Deccan Chronicle- [Man under observation for Ebola virus found healthy: Government](#)
India Today- [Man under observation for Ebola virus found healthy: Government](#)

Publication: India Tribune

Edition: Online

Date: August 10, 2014

Headline: [Rebuild medical profession's lost glory: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Sunday asked doctors to "introspect" and rebuild the "lost glory" of the medical profession in India. Addressing medical professionals at a function here marking the centenary celebrations of the Delhi Medical Association, he said: "I would like to see DMA reviving its social mission and contributing to the government's health for all objective. "I would like to involve all sections of society in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals."

FDA

Website: International Business Times (India)

Edition: Online

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [USFDA to add Personnel in India to Boost Inspection](#)

Synopsis: Due to fewer US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) staff members in India, the number of inspections has been declining. However, the agency now intends to increase its manpower in the country, so that inspections are carried out regularly and efficiently. The USFDA follows the October-September fiscal year. In 2014, 90 inspections have been carried out till 4 August and there were 70 instances where 'Form 483' was issued; versus 101 such forms in 2013 and 102 forms in 2012.

Drug regulation

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 11, 2014

Headline: [DCGI issues uniform procedures in regulatory inspection for issuance of CoPP, GMP certificates](#)

Synopsis: In order to ensure uniform implementation of regulatory inspection procedures for issuance of CoPP and other GMP certificates by both the state drug authorities and the CDSCO, the drugs controller general of India (DCGI) has issued new uniform procedures. As per the new procedures, all GMP inspections including that of CoPP will be focussing mainly on the requirements of Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 with respect to establishing shelf life, conducting validation studies, and ensuring prompt and effective recall besides WHO GMP requirement.

Universal Immunisation Programme

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Chennai

Date: August 11, 2014

Opinion piece: Vinod Paul, heads the paediatrics department at AIIMS, New Delhi

Headline: [Going for rotavirus](#)

Synopsis: Almost half of India's 1,76,000 diarrhoeal deaths in children below five are caused by rotavirus, the pathogen responsible for severe childhood diarrhoea. In addition, 8 lakh hospitalisations and over 30 lakh outpatient visits each year among children below 5 are triggered by diarrhoea of rotavirus origin. WHO recommends the rotavirus vaccine for infants in all national immunisation programmes. Globally, at least 62 nations have already introduced it. These include not only most of the developed nations, but also low and middle income countries. The Government recently decided to

introduce a rotavirus vaccine in the universal immunisation programme. The broadened efforts to control childhood diarrhoeal disease means preventing deaths, disease, economic hardship and offering protection to the children of the poor.

Innovation

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 11, 2014

Headline: [Say yes to innovations and no to 'jugaad': India Inc honchos](#)

Synopsis: India 'desperately' needs big innovations to address largescale problems and make use of opportunities in the country and not just stick to the now-famous concept of 'jugaad', aid some of the biggest corporate honchos of the country said on Saturday. They were speaking at a Google hangout at Mahindra & Mahindra's corporate office in southern Mumbai. Rajan Anandan, managing director of Google India, said many Indian companies "are living quarter-to-quarter and not thinking five years out, how to shape a new industry or how to go figure anew business or market".

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 11, 2014

Headline: [Vaccine against Ebola vaccine will not be available before 2015: WHO](#)

Synopsis: An effective vaccine against the deadly Ebola vaccine will not be available before 2015. British pharma giant GlaxoSmithKline is planning to start clinical trials of the most promising vaccine next month. The World Health Organization on Saturday said there is currently no available cure or vaccine for Ebola but a candidate is being rushed through the trial process to become available by 2015.

Similar reports in-

Reuters India- [Clinical trial to start soon on GSK Ebola vaccine](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Ebola vaccine to trial next month, may be ready by 2015: WHO](#)

The New Indian Express- [Ebola Vaccine to Trial Next Month, May be Ready by 2015: UN](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 11, 2014

Headline: [Share of MNC pharma brands to grow in FY15: Report](#)

Synopsis: Multinational pharma firms' share in the domestic pharma market is expected to go up to 20 per cent in the current fiscal, and further up to 21 per cent in FY16, claims a recent report by Centrum Broking. The report titled MNC Pharma Brands-Sector Update, says that the share of MNCs is expected to go up in the domestic market due to the price increase of around 6.4 per cent in price controlled products in April this year, as well as volume growth. "The eight MNC pharma companies generated 19 per cent revenues in the domestic market in Q1FY15. These companies have 74 brands (25 per cent of total) among the top 300 brands indicating strong brand building. These brands have strong recall in the doctor's chamber," the report says.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 9, 2014

Interview: Manasije Mishra, CEO, Max Bupa

Headline: [Government must raise tax-exempt limit for health insurance above Rs 15000: Manasije Mishra](#)

Synopsis: The benefits of the proposed rise in FDI limit, the need for cover by senior citizens and the two-year reduction in waiting period for pre-existing diseases are some of the issues discussed by Manasije Mishra in an interview.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Chennai

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Consultation explores grey areas in healthcare](#)

Synopsis: What happens when there is a drug or a life-saving technology that is patented and therefore very expensive? How ethical is it that the drug is not available to people who need it? But then, if the industry does not recover the costs it has invested in making the drug, will it continue with research? These are thorny questions, and ones the healthcare sector has been grappling with for some time. But with the growing double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases in India, and a system that is not equipped to deal with it, finding solutions has become urgent, said Nata Menabde, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) representative to India.

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: August 9, 2014

Headline: [Rajat Goyal | Mender of maladies](#)

Synopsis: "We, in India, have a habit of talking negative," says Rajat Goyal, director of the India chapter of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (Iavi), a global not-for-profit, public-private partnership working towards the development of vaccines to prevent HIV infection and AIDS. "Although I don't know if we will have a vaccine during my lifetime, I am sure we will have enough scientific breakthroughs by then to help the human population." Suitably for a scientist engaged in one of the most complex and elusive missions in contemporary medical research, he avoids making tall claims. "My prolonged exposure to mortality and interest in science motivated this move," says Dr Goyal, an oncologist by training, with years of work experience abroad. "I was treating cancer patients, some of whom were also carriers of HIV. Their suffering was excruciating." At the time, having AIDS was as good as being given "a certificate of death", he adds. "What can I do to change this? I kept asking myself." After he moved back to India and worked in industry for a while, the answer presented itself in the form of directorship of Iavi.