



News Updates: July 18, 2014

NPPA issue

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [Passing the burden](#) (Editorial)

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, or the NPPA, last week cut the prices of about 50 cardiovascular and diabetes medicines by up to 35 per cent. Some estimates suggest that after this order, 58 per cent of cardiovascular medicines and 21 per cent of diabetes medicines will come under price control. The industry says this will burn a hole of Rs 550 crore in its pocket. There is talk that such price controls will be extended to other therapeutic segments as well. When that happens, drug makers could suffer some serious loss of business. Naturally, they are up in arms.

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual Property Rights

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [High court's Nexavar ruling strikes a blow for patient's rights in India](#)

Synopsis: Paving the way for cheaper liver and kidney cancer medicines, the Bombay High Court in a landmark judgment on Tuesday dismissed US pharma major Bayer Corporation's challenge to an order by the Controller of Patents granting compulsory license to Indian company Natco to make and sell the drugs. Bayer holds the international and Indian patent for the drug, Sorafenib Tosylate, sold under the brand name Nexavar, administered to cancer patients to reduce pain and slow the growth of cancer cells. "Medicine has to be made available to every patient and this cannot be deprived/sacrificed at the altar of rights of patent holder," observed a division bench of Chief Justice Mohit Shah and Justice M S Sanklecha. The court held that it did not find any reason to interfere with the Controller's order under the Patents' law "to the extent it holds that the patented drug is not available to the public at reasonably affordable price."

Clinical trials

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [MCI corrupt, clinical trials body a snake pit: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Days after the British Medical Journal published articles by doctors on corruption in Indian healthcare and prompted a debate among health and policy experts, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has said he is "fully conscious" he "inherited a poisoned chalice". He has called the Medical Council of India a "corrupt organisation" and the Central Drug Standards Control Organisation, which oversees clinical trials, a "snake pit of vested interests". In an email response to queries on corruption in the healthcare sector, Harsh Vardhan said: "As a doctor and former health minister, I am more aware than anybody else of the corruption that is eating into the entrails of every aspect of governance, including the health system. Within days of assuming office I had remarked that the Medical Council of India is a corrupt organisation... There is corruption in the approval of drugs. The Central Drugs Standard Controls Organisation, which is supposed to oversee clinical trials, is another snake pit of vested interests."

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [Clinical trials hit rough patch](#)

Synopsis: Tough regulations and pending court cases have hit the clinical trials market in Hyderabad and elsewhere in the country, industry experts here on Thursday said. The number of clinical trials being approved by the Union government has come down drastically in the last one year, with authorities still framing new regulations to streamline the entire process of clinical trial approval to large pharma companies. "In 2012, the government had approved nearly 300 clinical trials to be taken up in India. That number came down to just five in 2013 while nearly 300 clinical trial projects were awaiting approval. Since 2013, the clinical trials industry has been completely stalled in India," said CEO, GVK Bio, Manni Kantipudi on Thursday.

Health Ministry- National Health Profile 2013

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [Over 20% more cancer cases in 2020: govt report](#)

Synopsis: Over the next six years, India will see a 21 per cent increase on average in the incidence of cancer. Women are already more vulnerable than men; the increase in incidence will also be higher in women. The National Health Profile 2013, released on Thursday, projects a 19 per cent increase in cancer among men, and a 23 per cent increase among women by 2020. Among men, the incidence of mouth cancers will increase the most; among women, the sharpest spike will be in the incidence of cancers of the gall bladder.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [Health infrastructure in India below international standards: Report](#)

Synopsis: Despite growth in recent times, health infrastructure in country remains below international standards with only 6.28 lakh hospital beds and 9.18 lakh allopathic doctors for over 1.25 billion people in the country. National Health Profile, 2013, released by Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today also highlights the wild difference in health facilities available to people as infant mortality rate, a key human development index, in Kerala was only 66 per 1 lakh live births while it was 328 in Assam in 2010-12.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Centre calls for advanced health information system](#)

NDTV- [India's Healthcare Infrastructure Lacks International Standards: National Health Profile](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [India's burden of disease rises, but doctor availability falls](#)

Synopsis: India's doctor-to-population ratio worsened in 2013 with just one doctor available for a population of more than 1,200 people, even as the world's second-most populous nation grapples with a growing burden of disease. There is one allopathic or AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) doctor for a population of 1,217.84 compared with 1.3 doctors per 740.49 people in 2012, according to the National Health Profile 2013 released by Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday. The Medical Council of India (MCI) in 2011 had said a doctor-population ratio of one doctor per thousand population could be achieved by the year 2013. The Union health minister earlier this week informed the lower house of the Parliament that the MCI has recommended establishment of 16

new medical colleges with an intake capacity of 2,050 MBBS seats and an increase of 600 MBBS seats in 10 existing medical colleges for the academic year 2014-15.

Similar report in-

The Hindustan Times- [Only 33% govt docs in rural areas, where 70% India lives](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [Poor healthcare ups private spending](#)

Synopsis: The ninth edition of the National Health Profile, 2013, released here on Thursday, reveals that per capita private expenditure on health is three to four times higher than per capita public expenditure in all major States — the exceptions being some Northeastern States and Jammu and Kashmir. The report by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare says the expenditure on health has gone down from 4.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2000 to 3.7 per cent in 2010. The report highlights data on relevant health indicators and uses information from the 2011 census data and said fund flow to the health sector is maximum by private funds at 71. 62 per cent as per 2008-09 estimates. It said public funds had accounted only for 26.70 per cent.

Website: First Post

Edition: Online

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [India's infant mortality rate dips](#)

Synopsis: India has seen a dip in its infant mortality and fertility rates, official figures released here Thursday showed. The infant mortality rate in India has declined from 47 per 100,000 live births in 2010 to 42 in 2012, according to the National Health Profile, 2013. The National Health Profile, released by union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, said the total fertility rate also continued to fall.

Indo- US ties

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [John Kerry, Chuck Hagel to visit India to push strategic ties](#)

Synopsis: America's top diplomat and the head of its defence department will visit India in coming weeks seeking to revitalise a relationship the United States sees as a crucial counter-balance in Asia to an increasingly assertive China. US secretary of state John Kerry will represent the United States in an annual session of strategic dialogue with India scheduled for July 31, and he will be followed to New Delhi by defence secretary Chuck Hagel in early August, US officials said on Wednesday.

Similar report in-

The Financial Chronicle- [US on all out mission to woo Modi \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Editorial: Sriram Ramakrishnan, Resident Editor

Headline: [What crony capitalism? This Modi govt is taking on big business](#)

Synopsis: Among the many dire forecasts made about life under prime minister Narendra Modi was this one about crony capitalism and alleged closeness to business. Opposition politicians, media columnists, academics lost no opportunity in touting Big Business' support for him and his own economic record in Gujarat as evidence of his alleged crony capitalism. Life under a Modi government, they argued would be hell for the common man as the government would turn a blind eye to corporate excesses. Well, we have had a Modi government now for more than a month. It is probably a good time to take stock of what has happened and explode a few myths.

Drug quality

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [Pharmexcil, CDSCO to work with Vietnamese drug regulatory agency to address quality issues](#)

Synopsis: With a view to safeguard the interest of the Indian exporters, a four-member team of regulatory officials from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) recently had a strategic meeting with their counterparts in Vietnam to discuss issues on quality of Indian made drugs. This was done in the wake of growing number of reports questioning the quality of Indian made drugs and the subsequent move by the Vietnamese drug authority issuing letters and black listing some Indian exporters. It is understood that during the meeting the Vietnamese regulators discussed and impressed upon their Indian counterparts about the quality issues of the drugs supplied to them by the Indian exporters.

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [Cipla, Aurobindo, Emcure to supply HIV drugs for UN-backed programme](#)

Synopsis: Three Indian pharmaceutical firms, Cipla, Aurobindo and Emcure, are among seven global companies that have signed new sub-licensing agreements with UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) for the manufacture of generic HIV medicines -- atazanavir and dolutegravir. MPP negotiates licences with key patent holders to speed access of low-cost, generic medicines to developing countries. Commenting on the development, MPP Executive Director Greg Perry said: "With licences signed today, four new manufacturers are joining us to speed the availability of crucial medicines, atazanavir (ATV) and dolutegravir (DTG), to developing countries."

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Cipla becomes sublicensing partner of the Medicines Patent Pool](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Cipla, Aurobindo in Medicines Patent Pool agreement on anti-AIDs drugs](#)

The Hindu- [Medicines Patent Pool inks pact with 7 firms for anti-AIDS drugs](#)

Pharmabiz- [Medicines Patent Pool collaborates with 7 pharma cos to manufacture generic HIV drugs](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [India's poor sanitation linked to malnutrition](#)

Synopsis: It is a question being asked about children across India, where a long economic boom has done little to reduce the vast number of children who are malnourished and stunted, leaving them with mental and physical deficits that will haunt them their entire lives. Now, an emerging body of scientific studies suggest that many of the 162 million other children under the age of 5 in the world who are malnourished are suffering less a lack of food than poor sanitation.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [AIDS deaths decline in high income nations](#)

Synopsis: HIV-positive adults in high income countries face a substantially reduced risk of death from AIDS-related causes, cardiovascular disease, and liver disease compared with a decade ago, a large international study published in The Lancet has revealed. The study, which involved nearly 50 000 HIV-positive adults receiving care and antiretroviral therapy (ART) at more than 200 clinics across Europe, USA, and Australia, found that overall death rates have almost halved since 1999, while deaths due to AIDS-related causes and cardiovascular disease have declined by around 65 per cent and liver-related deaths by more than 50 per cent. Although deaths from most causes declined over the study period, there was no reduction in death rates from non-AIDS cancers which remained stable over time (1.6 deaths per 1000 years 1999–2000 to 2.1 in 2009–2011).

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [Sun's US prospects improve on price hikes, approvals](#)

Synopsis: Sun Pharma's stock has gained 22 per cent since June. With the company's growth momentum likely to sustain, driven by domestic performance and acquisitions in the US market, the outlook remains positive. On Wednesday, the company announced yet another acquisition, buying US-based Pharmalucence, to develop its presence in the niche injectibles segment. Though in the near term the acquisition might not amount to much, it remains a long-term growth driver. Hitesh Mahida at Antique Stock Broking says the company continues to remain positive on Sun and believes there is sufficient scope for it to grow both organically and inorganically.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [Price rise hits the bedroom: Condoms now dearer by Rs 1.5](#)

Synopsis: Condoms will now be dearer by Rs 1.48. The government has increased the cap on prices of all brands of condoms in the country by 22 per cent, the Centre on Thursday told the Delhi high court. The submission was made before a bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice RS Endlaw which was hearing a plea by pharma firms Reckitt Benckiser and JK Ansell Ltd (JKAL) who have challenged the government's decision to put a ceiling on the prices of condoms.

Similar report in-

Deccan Chronicle- [Centre hikes cap on condoms by 22 per cent: report](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 18, 2014

Headline: [DoP directs NPPA to revalidate data on co-trimoxazole on plea of Abbott, rejects petition on gentamicin](#)

Synopsis: The department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) has directed the national drug price regulator NPPA to revalidate the data on co-trimoxazole suspension 40+200mg/5 ml and co-trimoxazole tablets 160+800 mg by appropriate survey or evaluation as empowered under para 9 of the DPCO. Hearing a review application filed by Abbott Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. against fixation of ceiling prices of co-trimoxazole suspension 40+200mg/5 ml and co-trimoxazole tablets 160+800 mg, the DoP ordered, "NPPA is directed

to get updated data from IMS Health or any other appropriate means and revalidate the data by appropriate survey or evaluation as empowered under para 9 of the DPCO. The Petitioners in the meantime are directed to maintain the ceiling price already notified by NPPA.”