

OPPI- NPPA issue**Website: Moneycontrol****Edition: Online****Date: July 28, 2014****Headline: [Drug price regulator sued over order, stands ground](#)**

Synopsis: The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) have taken the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to court over a recent pricing order mandating price ceilings of several drugs. On July 10, the NPPA passed an order mandating capping prices of 108 formulation packs of 50 non-scheduled drugs in the anti-diabetic and cardiovascular segments, under Paragraph 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. Sources have told CNBC-TV18's Malvika Jain and Archana Shukla that the industry bodies have questioned the regulator's decisions on two grounds: its jurisdiction as well interpretation of Para 19 of the DPCO.

Publication: The Economic Times**Edition: National****Date: July 28, 2014****Headline: [CII seeks PM Narendra Modi's intervention over drug price fixing](#)**

Synopsis: Industry chamber CII has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention over "unilateral fixing" of drug prices by NPPA saying the exercise based on "an inequitable formula" has done collateral damage to the indigenous industry. "The industry is willing and committed to partner the government in its efforts to meet the healthcare needs of Indian patients through various mechanisms ... but questions the unilateral fixing of ceiling prices based on an inequitable formula which will only devalue and erode the strength of this very important sector," CII National Committee on Biotechnology Chairperson, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw said in an open letter to the Prime Minister.

Similar reports in-**The Hindu Business Line- [CII seeks PM's intervention over drug price fixing](#)****The Financial Chronicle- CII seeks PM's action over drug pricing (link unavailable, scan attached)****Moneycontrol- [NPPA's unilateral stand-off unhealthy for sector: Biocon](#)****NDTV- [Industry Body Seeks Prime Minister's Intervention Over Drug Price Fixing](#)****Pharmabiz- [Biocon chief seeks PM's intervention to solve issues being faced by pharma industry](#)****Publication: The Hindustan Times****Edition: National****Date: July 28, 2014****Headline: [NPPA to launch online database for drug cos](#)**

Synopsis: To crack the whip on drug companies National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is set to launch an online database that will help to track fraudulent activities such as overcharging, drug shortages, and evasion of drug pricing control order among others. Drug makers, in next three to four months, will have to fill the mandatory forms online, which were otherwise filled manually. The drug price regulator will now track the developments through a comprehensive online software. At present, it is dependent on drug pricing information from outsourced agencies.

Blog: Tapan Ray.in

Edition: Online

Date: July 28, 2014

Headline: [Alarming Incidence of Cancer: Fragile Infrastructure: Escalating Drug Prices](#)

Synopsis: Tapan Ray blogged about the alarming incidences of cancer and highlighted the escalating costs of cancer drugs becoming a key issue all over the world. He stated that unlike many other developed and developing countries of the world, there is no system yet in place in India to negotiate prices of innovative patented drugs with the respective manufacturers, including those used for cancer. According to him, CL for all patented anti-cancer drugs may not be a suitable measure for all time to come. One robust alternative, therefore, is the intense price negotiation for patented drugs in general, including anti-cancer drugs, as provided in the NPPP 2012. Mr. Ray adds that the new govt. would hopefully make the DoP break its deep slumber now to resolve this critical issue decisively, in a time bound manner, assigning clear accountability, without any further delay.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Letters to the editor: Divestment process](#)

Synopsis: Drug price disparity- The NPPA should remove the price disparity of the drugs manufactured by different companies that give the same results. It is no secret that some doctors fall prey to the designs of the pharmaceutical companies offering incentives to prescribe the drugs priced at higher rates. The patients are obliged to buy the drugs prescribed by the doctors only. In this, the coffers of the pharmaceutical companies and doctors swell. Finally, patients fall victims.

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Visa, patent regime likely to be on agenda of visiting US commerce secretary](#)

Synopsis: A number of issues are to be discussed by Indian and US officials during the visit of US commerce secretary Penny Pritzker to India, beginning June 30. Issues expected to dominate the talks include curbs on mobility of high-skilled workers, especially in view of increased cases of rejection of visas applied by IT professionals, state-wide restrictions on off-shoring IT projects by US government departments, enforcements in pharmaceutical business, "Buy American" norms and the double avoidance treaty. Further, irritants that have come up in the IPR such as incremental innovation and data protections would also figure during proposed talks.

Publication: BioSpectrum India

Edition: Online

Date: July 28, 2014

Headline: [IPA terms assessment of Indian IP policy by USTR, unfair](#)

Synopsis: Mr Shah's paper notes that the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), in its submission [pdf] to the USTR on Special 301, formulated complaints about India and the Philippines that were very similar. In particular, they pointed out narrow standards of patentability, lack of regulatory data protection, and issues with patent enforcement and drug regulatory approval. The only difference, according to Mr Shah, is the use of compulsory licensing by India, while the Philippines, due to its lack of manufacturing capabilities, has been using parallel importations.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Government mulls to provide 50 essential drugs free by year-end, Health ministry seeks Rs 500 cr for scheme](#)

Synopsis: The Narendra Modi government will roll out the first instalment of its ambitious 'health assurance for all' promise by providing 50 essential drugs free by year end. As a first step, the Union health ministry has sent a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office seeking `500 crore for the programme this year. Although the ministry is yet to finalise the list of 50 essential drugs to be covered under the programme, officials.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Doctoring Medicine](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: The cancer of corruption eating into India's medical sector is no secret. Reports of patients being prescribed unnecessary tests by unscrupulous doctors in league with labs abound. Alongside there are frequent reports of needless procedures – from caesarean births to the insertion of stents into healthy hearts and replacement of workable knees – thrust upon patients by doctors keen to make a killing off someone's unease. Such practices seriously harm the health and finances of Indian patients.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 28, 2014

Headline: [Free medicine scheme: Activists asks govt to review criteria](#)

Synopsis: Civil society organisations today protested near the Assembly building against the state government's decision to downsize the free medicine scheme by re-visiting the eligibility criteria, and demanded its roll back. The activists demanded Rajasthan government to review its decision to revise the criteria for determining beneficiaries of free medicines.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu- Curtailment of welfare schemes by Rajasthan government opposed (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Indian Express- [Experts slam Raje's move to clip free medicine scheme](#)

Publication: The Tribune

Edition: Delhi

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Generic medicines for free at govt hospitals soon \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: The state Health and Family Welfare Department has prepared the essential drug list (EDL) of as many as 446 generic medicines, which will be given for free to patients at government hospitals. But the powerful lobby of drug manufacturers is out to scuttle the government move as big companies have patent for their medicines.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 28, 2014

Headline: [Medical council seeks to regulate diagnostic labs](#)

Synopsis: The Medical Council of India (MCI) has sought the Delhi government's intervention to keep a stringent check on diagnostic centres in the national capital and penalise those promoting unethical practices. The council has written to the chief secretary and top health officials to take "appropriate action" under the applicable laws against erring diagnostic laboratories. MCI has also issued an advisory to all medical councils, asking them to monitor diagnostic centres and take immediate action whenever there is a complaint for unethical practices such as accepting commissions or referrals for diagnostic tests.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Drive to Fight Diarrhoea on War Footing](#)

Synopsis: In a new strategy to address diarrheal deaths, Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Monday launched the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) demonstrating the urgent need to focus attention on the disease that is responsible for over 2 lakh deaths of children in India every year. Under the IDCF, Apart from health interventions, the role of the wider community would be sought in generating awareness on the simple steps that could prevent such tragedies.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 27, 2014

Headline: [Satisfied at polio-free India, but can't be complacent: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan says that he is happy about India being polio-free for three years and receiving WHO certification, but warned against becoming complacent and neglecting steps to save the country from getting re-infected by the polio virus. "I feel so happy and satisfied... We are talking to each other in a polio-free India which has been certified polio-free by World Health Organization and in the last three years we have not seen any case of polio. I think the credit for all this goes to the whole country.

Similar report in-

Daily News & Analysis- [Injectable polio vaccine to be part of immunisation programme: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: July 28, 2014

Headline: [The euthanasia debate: which side is your doctor on?](#)

Synopsis: Euthanasia is a delicate matter, something on which there can be endless debate. Both sides—for and against—have compelling arguments to make and horror stories of misuse and hardships to tell. Now that the Supreme Court has opened up the debate on euthanasia and the Union minister of health and family welfare, Harsh Vardhan, has propelled it into the public domain, the issue is being discussed at length. At the moment, both passive euthanasia (withdrawal of life support) and active euthanasia (assisting a terminally ill patient's death through, say, a painless injection) as well as assisted suicide (a physician providing means to die but not administering it) are illegal. Those who are brain dead, however, can be taken off life support after the consent of family members.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Kerry to focus on India-US ties in his speech today](#)

Synopsis: US secretary of state John Kerry is expected to set relations with India in a new perspective, perhaps even try to reinvigorate it, in a speech Monday, ahead of his coming visit. Kerry will likely address a common criticism that this administration had not paid the relationship enough attention, not after President Barack Obama's visit in 2010.

It's been downhill since, critics have argued.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Express- [US secretary of state Kerry on India visit from July 30 to Aug 1](#)

The Hindustan Times- [US, India look towards reenergizing ties \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

The Hindu- [India has to decide on trade: Kerry](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [American think tank launches programme for US-Indo ties](#)

Moneycontrol- [India, US to focus on trade policy, commercial ties](#)

The Telegraph- [Trade agenda set for US chat](#)

Publication: The Telegraph

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Opinion piece: Kanwal Sibal, former foreign secretary of India

Headline: [The challenges will not be easy to overcome](#)

Synopsis: India's relations with the United States of America need to be put back on track. The relationship has lost steam in the recent months with many contentious issues surfacing that remain unaddressed. We have now to see whether, with the change of government in Delhi, a new start can be made. The challenges ahead will not be easy to overcome. The irritants marking the relationship arose when a 'pro-US' prime minister, Manmohan Singh, was in power. His government was grappling with problems of development and growth, and sought US participation in building a strong Indian economy. Indeed, the strategic dialogue, with its five pillars — strategic cooperation, energy and climate change, education and development, economy, trade and agriculture, science and technology, health and innovation — was instituted in 2009, under his watch. If, despite four previous rounds, the relationship became somewhat morose, no breakthroughs can be expected from the fifth one.

Drug quality/ Drug regulation

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Expired medicines used: CAG report](#)

Synopsis: The state government's utilization of funds, received from the Centre under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), a programme aimed at improving primary healthcare, has raised eyebrows. The latest report of comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of India, tabled in assembly on the last day of the current session on Monday, said medicines not of standard quality (NSQ) and expired drugs were administered to patients. The NSQ medicines included tablets, syrups, vials of injections and ointments. They were given to patients in several districts like Balangir, Cuttack, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Koraput and Sundargarh even after receiving reports from drug testing laboratory.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Govt to frame trade policy to check huge imports of APIs from China, to strengthen domestic industry](#)

Synopsis: With a view to reduce India's dependence on imports of bulk drugs, the government is contemplating to formulate foreign trade policy focused specifically for setting standards and limiting imports of APIs. This move is mainly aimed at checking unrestricted imports from countries like China resulting in serious quality issues and also to encourage domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs with key focus on exports. It is understood that to fast track this agenda, the government has asked the CII and Sun Pharma to finalise the list of imported APIs taking into consideration the volume and value of the requirement for both the domestic consumption and total consumption including export. It is also focussed on tracking and controlling the share of domestic production which is decreasing drastically due to cheaper imports.

Clinical trials

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [DCGI sets up Independent Expert Committee on Cardiology for trial deaths caused by drugs](#)

Synopsis: The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has constituted an Independent Expert Committee on Cardiology for examination of reports of serious adverse events (SAEs) of deaths occurred during clinical trials in the country. Dr Arun Agarwal, Professor of ENT, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi has been appointed the chairman of the expert committee. The committee will be in force till March 31, 2016. Dr Urmila Thatte, SGS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai; Dr VK Bahl, AIIMS New Delhi; Dr Girish MP, GB Pant Hospital New Delhi; Dr Bikash Medhi, PGIMER Chandigarh; Dr RK Saran, KGMC Lucknow; Dr Anil Agarwal, GB Pant Hospital New Delhi; and Dr Rajesh Khadgawat, AIIMS New Delhi are the other members of the committee which will function under the provisions as specified in Appendix XII of the Schedule Y of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

UN Health Development Report 2014

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [After 2015](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: The annual Human Development Report, or HDR, has recorded with depressing regularity India's mediocre performance in seeking to improve the overall well-being of its people. The latest one, for 2014, is no exception. In the last five years (2008-13), India's performance on improving its Human Development Index (HDI) has been poorer than most of its peers in South Asia, and among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, or the BRICS countries. By most estimates, China leads with a 10-rank improvement; Sri Lanka follows with five; Nepal and Indonesia score an impressive four; South Africa and Bangladesh manage two. If you look at decadal performance, after turning in a decent average annual growth in the HDI in the 1980s, the 1990s were a washout. In this century (2000-13), however, there has been a good comeback, perhaps thanks to the additional spur of the millennium development goals, or the MDGs.

WTO

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 28, 2014

Headline: [Why India needs to soften its stance at WTO](#)

Synopsis: India has talked tough at the WTO General Council in Geneva. Very good, India can talk tough. India has effectively vetoed the trade facilitation proposal. Even better, India has the economic clout to assert itself.

Is it in New Delhi's long term interest? Not really. India has made its point and should now consider some sort of compromise to take things forward. There are three reasons why this would make sense. One, right or wrong, the previous democratically elected government agreed to a particular schedule of taking forward the agreement arrived at the Bali ministerial.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [WTO'S Director-General Roberto Azevedo will make one more attempt to end TFA impasse](#)

The Times of India- [WTO chief tries to break impasse](#)

Mint- [India's WTO stand is justified](#)

Business Standard- [WTO chief to meet G-33, G-20 countries today](#)

The Indian Express- [A 'principled' Congress stance at the WTO?](#)

Niticentral- [India's WTO veto – will it be Narendra Modi's masterstroke?](#)

FDI- Insurance

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [FDI in insurance & pension sector will induce long-term investments: PHD Chamber](#)

Synopsis: Cabinet approval to the FDI in insurance sector to 49% from 26% and 26 per cent FDI in pension sector is inspiring and it would go a long way to rebuild investment sentiments in the country. There is a strong need to channelize the household savings from physical assets to financial assets and allowing FDI in pension sector and enhanced cap in insurance sector will facilitate financial sector vis-vis strong financial infrastructure, said Mr. Sharad Jaipuria, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

General Industry

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [DCGI ban on DC therapy for cancer](#)

Synopsis: The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has issued safety alerts against the use of dendritic cells for the treatment of cancer and has asked the companies engaged in selling the medicine to stop collection and sale of the dendritic cells after it was found that the companies manufacturing it had not taken clinical trial permission from the DCGI office. The DCGI's action comes following investigations carried out by the DCGI office at the facilities of the two companies based in Gurgaon and Noida for administration of dendritic cells for the treatment of cancer. The dendritic cells are the most potent antigen producing cells. The DC-based cancer therapy is used specifically on those patients who have failed conventional chemotherapy. In this therapy, the DCs were isolated from patients and the "antigen loaded" cells obtained from the patients tumour are then reinjected back into the patients.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Rise in cases of thalassemia-hep C combo worries doctors](#)

Synopsis: While thalassemia is a disorder where a faulty gene affects the body's capacity to produce haemoglobin, Hepatitis C is a viral condition spread through infected blood, needles, tattooing, surgery or intravenous drip and affects the liver. Two new drugs on the block, Sofosbuvir and Simepravir, approved by the US-FDA in 2013, which, doctors say, cure 90% of Hepatitis C cases, are exorbitantly priced at Rs1.8 crore for a six-month treatment. Imran sees little hope in getting himself cured as, he said, he can't afford the additional

expenses of Hepatitis C drugs. A month ago, CLF and Think Foundation had petitioned to Union health minister Dr Harshvardhan for making these drugs available for less price in India. Alternatively, the petition also suggested that Indian pharmaceutical companies should be engaged to produce cheaper variants of the expensive drugs currently manufactured by multinational companies Johnson & Johnson and Gilead.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [Get wonder drugs that cure hepatitis at subsidized cost, patients and doctors in Mumbai urge health ministry](#)