

OPPI- NPPA issue**Publication: The Economic Times****Edition: National****Date: July 30, 2014****Headline: [Organisation of Pharma Producers of India challenges NPPA's decision to bring more drugs under price control in High Court](#)**

Synopsis: The industry grouping of pharma multinationals— Organisation of Pharma Producers of India (OPPI) has challenged National Pharma Pricing Authority's(NPPA) recent decision to bring over 100 more drugs under price control in Delhi High Court on Monday. The first hearing of the case is expected to come up on Friday. The NPPA has invoked a clause in the drug pricing order to cite extraordinary circumstances for these drugs, which lie outside the scope of National List of Essential Medicines(NLEM) and fixed their price caps in 'public interest'.

Publication: The Economic Times**Edition: National****Date: July 30, 2014****Headline: [NPPA to coordinate with state governments to combat overcharging by drug makers](#)**

Synopsis: India's drug pricing regulator plans to make better use of technology, coordinate with state governments and set up its own market intelligence cells across the country to combat overcharging by pharmaceutical companies. The National Pharma Pricing Authority or NPPA is in the process of developing a software which will store and update information on all drug companies, their manufacturing facilities, level of production of essential drugs and product prices related data, among other details, to fix one of the most stubborn maladies that afflict the Rs 80,000 crore domestic drug market, government officials told ET.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line**Edition: National****Date: July 28, 2014****Headline: [Drug industry's IPR, price control concerns to take centre stage](#)**

Synopsis: A Government decision to fix the price on diabetes and heart-related medicines is sure to find an echo in any home that has dealt with diabetes in the family. But has the Government been arbitrary in taking that decision, leaving the local pharmaceutical industry to deal with shifting goal posts? Or is the Government well within its right to intervene on medicine prices in the interest of public health? These concerns are likely to come up in a case on Wednesday at the Bombay High Court, after a clutch of companies under the umbrella of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance approached the Court on this Government directive. In fact, this week is set to see the pharmaceutical industry's twin concerns of price control and intellectual property rights (IPR) take centre stage. India's track-record on IP protection is also expected to come up during US Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to India this week.

Publication: Mint**Edition: Online****Date: July 30, 2014****Headline: [Drug price control order: Pharma lobbies move Delhi high court](#)**

Synopsis: Two pharmaceutical industry associations have moved the Delhi high court, challenging the drug price regulator's recent move which brought 50 non-essential drugs under price control. Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and Organization of Pharmaceuticals Producers of India (OPPI) argued that the National

Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) does not have the power to decide on the essentiality of drugs. By adding drugs from the non-essential segment into the price control list, the petition said, NPPA has overruled the authority of the department of pharmaceuticals, which finalizes the essential medicines list.

Publication: Express Pharma

Edition: Online

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [India's loss, China's gain?](#)

Synopsis: NPPA's focus is on the patient's health, but will we end up with a sick industry? India's drug pricing authority, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is once again at loggerheads with the industry. Its July 10 diktat to bring certain anti-diabetic and cardiac drugs under price control is not the end; it now has cancer drugs and five other categories in its sights. In fact, the narrow interpretation of Para 19, NPPP 2012 almost seems like a déjà vu of the retrospective tax issue à la the Vodafone case.

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [More pharma firms trying to settle patent rows via talks](#)

Synopsis: Indian generics or copycat drug makers and multinational pharma companies are increasingly resorting to mediation to resolve patent fights. The move could give both sides some respite from the prolonged judicial process involved in patent litigation. It could also make drugs costlier in countries such as India. In April, Swiss drugmaker F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd and Cipla Ltd, a company that has emerged the global flag-bearer for generics manufacturers, sat down to mediate. The issue: the Tarceva patent infringement case that dates back to 2008.

Health ministry/ Healthcare

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Government to set up 10 labs for hepatitis surveillance](#)

Synopsis: Government will set up ten regional laboratories through the National Communicable Disease Centre (NCDC) for the surveillance of viral hepatitis, which kills more people than HIV/AIDS, malaria and dengue combined together in India. "The aim of these laboratories will be to find the burden of viral hepatitis in India by 2017 and to provide lab support for investigating outbreaks," Lov Verma, Secretary of Union Health Ministry said today at a roundtable consultation organised by Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in collaboration with WHO Country Office for India on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day.

Similar report in-

The Hindu- [Ten labs to come up for viral hepatitis surveillance](#)

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Young Lives Can't be Lost to Preventable Diseases](#)

Synopsis: Encephalitis has claimed more than 570 lives, mostly infants and children, in several states this year as of now. With death toll on the rise, it has taken shape of a public health emergency necessitating urgent steps to control its spread. The disease in both its forms of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) and Japanese encephalitis (JE) has, in fact, become endemic to more than five states with annual outbreaks claiming

hundreds of lives. While Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the worst affected, West Bengal and Assam have posted an alarming surge this year, accounting for more than 250 deaths till date.

Similar report in-

The Indian Express- [Encephalitis death toll climbs to 124](#)

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Govt to Set up Health Institutes](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that there is a shortfall of approximately 64 lakh Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) in various health cadres in the country. To overcome the shortage, the Health Minister said the government has decided to establish one National Institute of Paramedical Sciences (NIPS) in Delhi, and eight Regional Institutes of Paramedical Sciences (RIPS) at Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Bhagalpur, Bhopal, Lucknow, Chandigarh and Nagpur. The eight RIPS would generate 8,320 paramedics, the Minister said.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Where politics takes over education: Harshvardhan's sex education ban to Batra's books](#)

Synopsis: India appears to be witnessing a renewed battle to win the minds of the next generation of students. From Health Minister Harshvardhan's reservations about sex education to Dinanath Batra's books being introduced as supplementary texts in Gujarat; from efforts by Sangh Parivar to 'correct' the study of the past to intensifying polarization among academics, the politics of pedagogy is back. In the past, the BJP accused school books being driven by 'Marxists'. When Murli Manohar Joshi became the HRD minister, a key critique of the left and liberal intelligentsia was that NDA was 'saffronising education'.

Indo – US ties

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [US Secretary of State John Kerry heads to India to end relationship rut](#)

Synopsis: US Secretary of State John Kerry headed Tuesday to India on a mission to break the ice with new Prime Minister Narendra Modi and repair a rut in a once warming relationship. For the past two decades, the world's two largest democracies have described themselves as natural allies as they share similar concerns over China's rise and Islamic extremism. But incidents including the US arrest of an Indian diplomat last year sent relations plunging to their lowest point in years. The Hindu nationalist Modi had been treated as a pariah by Washington before he led his party to a decisive victory in April-May elections.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Ahead of Modi meeting, John Kerry says US-India ties at a key juncture](#)

The Times of India- [John Kerry's positive remarks highlight an opportunity to reboot India-US ties](#)

The Financial Express- [John Kerry, in Hindi, plays music for Narendra Modi ears](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Kerry lays stress on Modi's 'sab ka saath, sab ka vikaas' growth slogan](#)

The Hindu- [Kerry visit: fully loaded agenda, high expectations](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Deepening ties with India is strategic imperative, says US Secretary of State John Kerry](#)

The Asian Age- [John Kerry praises Narendra Modi on eve of Delhi dialogue](#)

Deccan Herald- [Indo-US talks to focus on trade disputes](#)

First Post- [John Kerry arrives in India today; will lay groundwork for Modi-Obama meet](#)

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Field trials of 13 genetically modified crops put on hold: Prakash Javadekar](#)

Synopsis: Environment minister Prakash Javadekar has said that the government has decided to keep in abeyance the decision by the statutory committee of genetic engineering to allow field trials of 13 genetically modified or GM crops, a clarification that marks a departure from the previous Congress led UPA government's policy. Javadekar gave this assurance to representatives of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch and Bharat Kisan Sangh at a meeting held on Tuesday. Both organisations are affiliates of the ruling BJP's ideological mentor Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Sangh outfits oppose GM crop trials, govt says no decision yet](#)

Business Standard- [Genetically modified crops' field trials put on hold](#)

The Times of India- [Sangh outfits oppose GM crop trials, govt says no decision yet](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Govt will 'tread cautiously' over GM crop trials](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [RSS wings oppose GM crop trials, government says decision only after consultations](#)

The New Indian Express- [Decision on GM Crops Put on Hold, Says Javadekar](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [Genetically Modified crop trials put on hold by Centre](#)

Deccan Herald- [Govt puts GM crop trials on hold](#)

Drug regulation

Website: The Wall Street Journal (blog)

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Indian Drug Makers Need a Cure for Their Profit Problems](#)

Synopsis: As India's drug companies announce their quarterly earnings this week, investors and analysts will be hoping to hear a game plan on how they will react as heavy-handed regulators have been restricting their business at home and abroad. After a strong showing last year, India's pharmaceutical companies are facing leaner times as there are fewer generic drug launches in the pipeline, scrutiny of U.S. regulators forces them to spend hundreds of millions of dollars upgrading their facilities and Indian authorities are lowering the amount they can charge.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [IPA president optimistic of robust regulatory landscape with Centre's fund allocation of Rs.1,750 cr](#)

Synopsis: The fragmented India pharma market needs a larger regulatory workforce, better drug testing laboratories including on-the spot analysis of medicines picked up by inspectors to report faster assessment of quality, noted Dr Rao VSV Vadlamudi, president, The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA). Now that the government of India in its recent budget has allocated Rs.1,750 crore to strengthen the regulatory machinery, we anticipate a positive outcome in the drug inspection methods and a robust enforcement mechanism in place, Dr. Vadlamudi told Pharmabiz in a telecon.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [PRICE & QUALITY OF DEVICES](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Medical devices are life saving products like medicines and have to be produced with quality materials and as per good manufacturing practices (GMP). But, most of the units engaged in the manufacture of medical devices in India are small and they do not follow GMP voluntarily. As of now there are no specified standards laid down for the raw materials used for making them. Quality, safety and fair pricing are three factors that determine the growth of any industry and that is not happening in the case of medical devices sector in India. Perhaps profiteering in this sector with the collusion of hospital managements, distributors and doctors is one serious issue that needs to be addressed by the government urgently. A recent report by Pharmabiz brought out the huge margins charged on medical devices when these products are sold to patients. A big part of these margins on devices are shared between the hospital managements and the other intermediaries. Take the case of drug eluting stents (DES) required for the heart patients. The DES manufactured by Medtronic Inc and imported by India Medtronic Pvt Ltd at Rs.30,848 has a MRP of Rs.1,62,000. The huge difference in imported price and MRP is shared by the distributor and the hospital. Another DES manufactured by Abbott Vascular Devices Holland of Netherlands and imported by Abbott Healthcare Pvt Ltd, at Rs.40,710 is sold to the patients at a MRP of Rs.1,50,000 in hospitals. Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration recently came across many such cases of profiteering in medical devices and approached the Drug Controller General of India and National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority urging these life saving products under the DPCO 2013 to make it affordable to the patients.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Industry seeks incentives for SMEs of APIs to boost domestics market](#)

Synopsis: Industry experts want the government to have a focused approach while drafting the foreign trade policy for the APIs, so that key focus is given on developing and encouraging exports. Experts strongly feel that this can be done only by incentivising the domestic API manufacturers with interesting schemes, while simultaneously making laws stringent for imports of APIs. There are only about 100 bulk drugs that are exported from India while large quantities of bulk drugs are being imported from countries like China, which shows the huge disparity in initiatives taken to promote exports of APIs from India. In the light of the recent events, industry experts are pushing for the government to provide various export incentive schemes and specialised incentive schemes specifically for the small and medium scale enterprises of bulk drug manufactures to venture into overseas markets.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Hospitals making huge profit on simple disposables in collusion with stockists](#)

Synopsis: A racket of forcing manufacturers of medical devices to sell their products only to distributors and hospitals at low prices bypassing retail medical stores has become rampant. The practice of selling emergency medical devices by hospital managements at exorbitant prices to patients is also flourishing of late. As there is no transparency maintained over the actual cost of production and retail prices of even simple medical devices, the practice of hospitals selling these products directly to patients has however posed a big financial burden to the patients.

Clinical trials

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [First glimmer: After Asian success, dengue vaccine trials come to India](#)

Synopsis: A dengue vaccine, tested on 10,275 children in the age-group of 2-14 years in Asia, has shown an

overall efficacy of 56.5 per cent, according to study reported in The Lancet. More trials of the vaccine are now being conducted in India. While leading company Sanofi Pasteur is the main funder, the chief investigator has been identified as Dr Maria Rosario Capeding of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines. India has witnessed a dramatic rise in dengue from 18,860 cases recorded in 2011 to 75,454 cases reported last year, according to data from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP). Following the promising results of the study, another trial of the vaccine is now being conducted in India to examine its success.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [CDSCO to launch IT-enabled system for online submission of information on clinical trials](#)

Synopsis: Aiming to ensure protection of rights, safety and well beings of trial subjects and authenticity of the data generated, the CDSCO will soon launch an IT-enabled system for online submission of various information on clinical trials which will streamline the process of approval, maintaining comprehensive database and monitoring of clinical trials in the country. Senior officials in CDSCO said that looking at the current regulatory environment of clinical trial in India, it is important that all information related to four major domains of clinical trial (CT) such as sponsor/CRO; investigator; ethics committee (EC); and patient will be captured through online in an organised manner.

WTO

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [TFA impasse: Roberto Azevedo puts World Trade Organisation members on two-day alert](#)

Synopsis: WTO director-general Roberto Azevedo has put all members on a 48 hours notice asking them to be ready to meet anytime in a desperate last ditch effort to break the impasse. There was no consensus reached at the Tuesday meeting of group coordinators called by Azevedo, who warned that there were deep concerns over the future of Doha round of negotiations.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [Protect national priorities, seal win-win outcome: FICCI on WTO](#)

Mint- [WTO chief meets coordinators as attempts to resolve trade pact impasse fail](#)

The Times of India- [WTO: India firm on food security](#)

Business Standard- [Arvind Subramanian: A solution for the WTO](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [WTO in 'crisis' as Azevedo puts members on alert](#)

The Hindustan Times- [World trade talks stutter over India stand](#)

FDI- Insurance

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Positive move](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: The Union cabinet's decision to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from the existing 26 per cent to 49 per cent is welcome for many reasons. The proposal has been pending for long, ever since the UPA government came up with the Insurance Laws (Amendment) bill in 2008. The UPA government approved the proposal two years ago but the legislation could not be passed because of opposition from the BJP and the left parties. While the left was ideologically opposed to it as it is against foreign capital, the BJP's opposition was political, as it opposed most of the reform policies of the UPA government on some ground or the other. The argument that it will adversely affect the country's economic sovereignty is wrong, as the experience of many other countries shows. The NDA government has done well

now to go ahead with the proposal and it is one of the first major economic policy decisions of the government.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Insurance IPOs still 2-3 years away](#)

Synopsis: The Union Cabinet has approved up to 49 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance sector but listing of these will take some time, as the process of foreign promoters raising their stake will have to be first completed. In addition, detailed procedural approvals from the insurance and market regulators will also take time. As a result, insurance companies said it might take between two to three years for these to be listed on the stock exchanges.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Medical council to make docs watch films on ethical practices](#)

Synopsis: The Maharashtra Medical Council (MMC) will make short films to re-teach ethics to the medical fraternity. The films will be screened at medical conferences and meetings, said the council officials. The decision to make films follows the long list of anti-ethical violations by several doctors. While doctors are not allowed to advertise their services, a recent report released by the council lists 44 such cases by doctors and healthcare institutes. MMC has also registered 1,037 cases of unethical practice and 123 cases of violation of the Pre-Conception Prenatal Diagnostic Test Act.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: July 30, 2014

Opinion piece: Payal Malik, economic advisor and Avirup Bose, competition lawyer, CCI

Headline: [So many regulators](#)

Synopsis: Much has been written about the leanness of Narendra Modi's cabinet, constituted on the mantra of "minimum government, maximum governance". This shift may mean a shrinking government, but it also means a changing role for it. In several markets, government intervention is necessary to enhance market performance. Government intervention affecting industry structure and behaviour takes two forms: regulation and antitrust. Regulatory agencies and antitrust authorities are only two of the several institutional players defining the competitive environment. Regulators define ex ante a set of permissible business conduct for operators by regulating entry conditions, licensing requirements, tariff standards, access, control over price, quantity and quality, etc. Antitrust enforcers, in contrast, check ex post that anti-competitive conduct as identified by competition law is not pursued.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy deal in CCI crosshairs](#)

Synopsis: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd's acquisition of Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd may have hit a major hurdle, with the antitrust body, the Competition Commission of India (CCI), asking the two companies why a public investigation should not be ordered into the deal because it will result in significant market domination by one company and could affect the prices of essential life-saving drugs in the domestic market.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: July 30, 2014

Opinion piece: Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO regional director for South-East Asia

Headline: [Viral hepatitis is a silent killer](#)

Synopsis: Viral hepatitis kills approximately half a million people every year in the 11 member states of WHO's South-East Asia region. An estimated 100 million people are currently infected with hepatitis B and 30 million with chronic hepatitis C. Since these infections can go undetected for years, many people do not know they are infected until much later, when treatment may be too late. India has intermediate to high prevalence (3-4.2 per cent) of hepatitis B and an estimated 100,000 Indians each year die due to hepatitis B-related complications.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Jaipur

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Initiative to reduce maternal, infant mortality](#)

Synopsis: Concerned over the high maternal and child deaths, the Rajasthan government on Tuesday launched MSD for Mothers, a global initiative that would help in reducing maternal mortality by establishing a hospital network offering high-quality and affordable private services. MSD for Mothers has partnered with the Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust (HLFPPT) to work in 19 'high-focus districts' and Jaipur. During the course of the next three years, 19 urban and 38 rural Merrygold Hospitals will be set up along with the deployment of more than 1,000 village-based 'Merrytarang' community health members.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Maharashtra Government's plan to boost rural health care gets MMC nod](#)

Synopsis: To solve the problem of shortage of specialists in rural areas of the state, Maharashtra Medical Council (MMC) will soon conduct diploma courses for MBBS students. They are specially designed to boost children and maternity health care in rural parts of Maharashtra, according to MMC president Dr Kishor Taori. At a meeting held last week, MMC, the quasi-judicial body governing the quality of medical education and ethics, gave the green light to the state's ambitious plan to boost rural health care. However, the degree will be given to a doctor once s/he completes an additional two-year posting in state's rural areas. Admission for the diploma course will be held through Maharashtra Common Entrance Test.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: July 30, 2014

Headline: [Ind-Swift in stake sale talks with US cos to raise Rs 200cr](#)

Synopsis: Mid-sized active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) manufacturer IndSwift Laboratories is in talks with two leading US based firms for strategic stake sale to mop up Rs 200 crore, said sources. "Ind-Swift Lab is in talks with Teva and Perrigo and the deal may involve selling up to a 30% stake or issue of fresh shares for a long-term order of 10 years for drug Temador--generic name for Temazolamide, used for treatment of cancer," said the sources. The funds will be used to expand existing manufacturing capacities. The company has mandated E&Y to conduct due diligence to rope in strategic investors for the stake sale.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: July 29, 2014

Headline: [Amitabh Bachchan celebrated India's polio-free status as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador in Delhi](#)

Synopsis: Amitabh Bachchan's involvement in the national campaign for polio eradication over many years has

been perhaps the most fruitful partnership of a Bollywood celebrity with a government programme, and he's had an undeniably significant role in its success. Therefore, it was perfectly natural that Bachchan was recently in town to celebrate India's polio-free status, in his role as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador. The actor expressed great faith in Indian doctors, much to the delight of the Union health and family welfare minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, saying, "The medical profession is close to my heart, because during my career, I've had many life-threatening medical issues that the doctors here have helped me with. I've never gone out of the country to seek medical assistance, because I have a lot of respect for Indian doctors." On whether he was open to supporting other health campaigns in other countries, he said, "Mujhe jahan se bulawa aayega, main pahunch jaunga. Jab tak swasthya ki baat hai, main hamesha taiyyar hoon."