



**News Updates: July 31, 2014**

**OPPI- NPPA issue**

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: July 31, 2014**

**Headline: Drug Cos may reduce output of many life-saving medicines (link unavailable, scan attached)**

**Synopsis:** The report highlights that the drug manufacturers may cut back on production of several life-saving medicines after the government decided to cap prices of over 100 formulations. The report quotes DG Shah, IPA Director General. Commenting on NPPA's decision, he said that, "Many developed and developing countries importing medicines from India benchmark their procurement price with Indian domestic prices. This may either lead to loss of exports or encourage companies not to supply price-controlled products in the domestic market for better realization abroad. In either case it is a loss to the country".

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: July 31, 2014**

**Headline: [Kiran Mazumdar asks PM to heal pharma sector](#)**

**Synopsis:** The report highlights Kiran Mazumdar Shaw making a representation to the PMO requesting the PM's intervention to cure the pharma sector of its ailments. She states that the NPPA's decision to impose a ceiling on pricing of 348 essential drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) has been to the detriment of the industry and could deter investments in R&D and high quality manufacturing.

**Website: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: July 30, 2014**

**Headline: [OPPI moves Delhi HC against NPPA's July 10 notification](#)**

**Synopsis:** Close on the heels of Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) has also challenged the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)'s July 10 notification in which it had brought 108 drug formulations under price control. While the IPA had moved Bombay High Court, the OPPI has moved the Delhi High Court. According to sources, the matter is expected to come up in Delhi High Court on August 1.

**Publication: PharmAsia**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: July 30, 2014**

**Headline: [Indian Industry Sues Pricing Watchdog, Fearing Investment Fallout](#)**

**Synopsis:** The report talks about IPA and OPPI taking legal action against NPPA's decision to cap prices of over 100 formulations. The report quotes Dr. Shailesh Ayyangar, OPPI President and Sanofi India managing director. Calling NPPA's move retrograde, Dr. Ayyangar said that, "The industry feels aggrieved because of the "one-sided approach" of the government in concluding the price cuts without a due consultation process. The industry feels slighted as the essentiality criteria was drawn last year after long-drawn consultations, but with this new decision the non-essentiality criteria is ignored", he said. "The current round of cuts amounts to a "sword hanging on the head" as it dries up sources of income

for drug makers. India's reliability as a country and efforts to encourage business will be cast in doubt if government agencies take decisions without following a proactive approach. "Future investments will be hampered if pricing stability is not respected," Ayyangar added.

**Website: Moneycontrol**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: July 30, 2014**

**Headline: [New drugs added in NPPA to have minor revenue impact: Lupin](#)**

**Synopsis:** After reporting a stellar performance in Q1, drug player Lupin is beaming with confidence and hopes to achieve a USD 5 billion/ year sales target by FY18. The company may start licensing out new drug molecules by next year, says MD Nilesh Gupta. Speaking to CNBC-TV18 post results, Gupta says, the US market led to the growth of the company where a whole bunch of launches were made last year. The company also took several initiatives to improve its India growth story and saw 16 launches in Q1 alone, he adds. Meanwhile, Gupta believes the recent move of price control for cardiovascular and anti-diabetic drugs by NPPA will affect the revenues of the company marginally, by just around 0.5 percent.

#### Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ IPR

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: July 30, 2014**

**Headline: [India says US Special 301 process on IPR is a unilateral measure](#)**

**Synopsis:** India today accused the US of taking "unilateral measure" to pressurise countries to accept Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection beyond WTO obligations. On April 30, the US has brought out the Special 301 report, an annual review of the global state of IPR protection and enforcement, in which it has classified India as a 'priority watch list country'.

**Similar reports in-**

The Times of India- [US disappointed with India's WTO stand: Penny Pritzker, US commerce secretary](#)

Business Standard- [Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre set up in Guwahati](#)

The Financial Express- [US Special 301 process on IPR a unilateral step: India](#)

Free Press Journal- [India raps US over IPR](#)

#### WTO/ Indo – US ties

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: July 31, 2014**

**Headline: [US Secretary of State John Kerry seeks to revive US-India ties after friction](#)**

**Synopsis:** US Secretary of State John Kerry on Thursday holds his first meetings with India's government as he seeks to reboot a relationship seen as a bulwark against a rising China. Kerry's visit to New Delhi comes after an unusually large number of disputes between the world's largest democracies, including charges of US surveillance against Indian politicians and a trade rift that could scuttle a global customs deal.

**Similar reports in-**

Mint- [John Kerry to focus on reviving ties with India](#)

Business Standard- [India-US strategic dialogue on Thursday](#)

The Hindu- [Kerry's mission overload](#)

The Indian Express- [His Washington test](#) (first edit)

The Indian Express- [In the name of India, why?](#) (Op-Ed: Surjit S Bhalla, chairman, Oxus Investments and senior advisor to Zyfin)

The Indian Express- [The real threat to WTO](#) (Op-Ed: Sanjaya Baru, director for geoeconomics and strategy, International Institute for Strategic Studies and honorary senior fellow, Centre for Policy Research)

Daily News & Analysis- [US Secretary of State John Kerry arrives in India for strategic dialogue with Narendra Modi government](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [Disappointed with India's blocking WTO trade deal: US](#)

NDTV- [John Kerry Presses India on Global Trade Deal as Deadline Looms](#)

Bloomberg- [How Modi Can Boost India-U.S. Ties](#)

First Post- [As Kerry arrives to woo Modi, Indo-US relations go from strategic to historic](#)

### Health ministry

**Publication:** India Today

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** July 30, 2014

**Headline:** [Modi government pushes for Ayurveda, Unani to tackle dengue and malaria](#)

**Synopsis:** With vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria surfacing again this season, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has directed states to use expertise of department of Ayush - Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy and Unani -in checking their spread. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, who has long been an advocate of alternative medicine, is looking closely at the potential of unconventional systems of medicines in controlling vectorborne diseases. The ministry has already issued advisories for prevention and control of dengue, malaria and other vector borne diseases under the Directorate of National Vector-Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) to all states.

**Publication:** The Telegraph

**Edition:** National

**Date:** July 31, 2014

**Headline:** [Five deaths takes toll to 118](#)

**Synopsis:** Five persons died in the last 24 hours of suspected Japanese Encephalitis in the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital taking the death toll from January onwards to 118. Sources in the hospital said none of the patients' tests had confirmed the presence of the Japanese Encephalitis virus, so the reason for their deaths was reported as Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) — an umbrella term for any kind of undetermined viral fever that causes inflammation of the brain and symptoms similar to Japanese Encephalitis.

**Publication:** The Hindu Business Line

**Edition:** National

**Date:** July 30, 2014

**Headline:** [Govt keen to involve private players in healthcare](#)

**Synopsis:** The Government is seeking private participation for the rollout of the National Assurance Mission, under which public healthcare facilities will assure certain important facilities such as x-rays. A senior official in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said the Government would like to involve private players to fill the infrastructural gaps. "We are completely moving to a 'free drugs, free diagnostics' scenario as far as primary health care is concerned," he said, adding that this is part of the National Assurance Mission.

### Modi government

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** July 30, 2014

**Headline:** [Talks of ban on GM crop trials is disappointing: Biotech companies](#)

**Synopsis:** Amid reports that the government may consider a ban on GM crop trials, the Association of

Biotech-led enterprises, Agriculture Group (ABLE-AG), today said it is "extremely disappointed" by the "anti-science, anti-domestic research recommendations". "The reports said the government is considering decision to half field trials of GM crops. If this is indeed true, we are extremely disappointed by the anti-science, anti-domestic research recommendations which seems motivated to kill the biotechnology sector in India," ABLE-AG, an association of leading biotech companies in India, said in a statement here.

**Similar reports in-**

The Financial Express- [What lab-to-farm process?](#)

Business World- ['Per Drop, No GM Crop'](#)

The Indian Express- [Say yes to trials](#)

The Hindu- [On GM crops](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Driving a wedge](#)

The New Indian Express- [Time to Consign GM Crops to Wastebasket](#)

The Asian Age- [GM trials 'freeze' is wise](#)

### FDI- Insurance

**Website:** NDTV

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** July 31, 2014

**Headline:** [Modi Government's First Big Reform Push: Insurance Bill in Parliament Today](#)

**Synopsis:** The two-month-old Narendra Modi government is set to push its first big reforms; it is expected to introduce in Parliament today, the Insurance Amendment Bill and the Sebi Act, which seeks to provide more teeth to the market regulator.

**Similar report in-**

Zee News- [Insurance Bill likely to be introduced in Parliament today](#)

### General Industry

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** July 30, 2014

**Headline:** [World's first malaria vaccine to hit markets soon](#)

**Synopsis:** The world's first malaria vaccine will be available in the market by next year. Pharma company GSK has submitted a regulatory application to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for its malaria vaccine candidate, RTS,S. RTS,S will be exclusively for use against the Plasmodium falciparum malaria parasite, which is most prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

**Publication:** The Hindu

**Edition:** National

**Date:** July 31, 2014

**Opinion piece:** Mathuram Santhosham, scientist and the recipient of the 2014 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award.

**Headline:** [A need to turn the corner on child health](#)

**Synopsis:** As the leading economic power in the region, India has a moral obligation to ensure that its children have access to life saving interventions like vaccines. At 400 million, India is home to the world's largest child population. More than 50 per cent of the children are malnourished and almost 50 per cent of them do not attend school. That's the state of our country, soon to have the world's largest young population.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: July 31, 2014**

**Headline: [CCI might ask Sun Pharma, Ranbaxy to divest products](#)**

**Synopsis:** Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Ranbaxy Laboratories might have to let go some of their products to secure the competition watchdog's approval for the proposed combination of the country's two leading drug makers. Competition Commission of India (CCI), which has raised concerns on the proposed merger, might direct the companies to divest some of their product portfolios wherever there is overlap and a potential threat of monopoly, a top CCI official said.

**Similar report in-**

**The Financial Express- [Sun, Ranbaxy get show-cause notice from CCI](#)**

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: July 30, 2014**

**Headline: [Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council recommends two more seaports for exports](#)**

**Synopsis:** Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has recommended two new ports - Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Kattupalli in Tamil Nadu - for export and import of drugs. Pharmexcil Director General PV Appaji said the body has requested the ministries of Commerce and Health, besides Drug Controller General of India to notify these ports for import and export of drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.