

OPPI News Update
Thursday, October 16, 2014

Price fixation order of 108 drugs unaffected: National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority to High Court

Publication: [The Economic Times](#)

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) today told the Delhi High Court that the Centre's recent decision to withdraw its power to fix prices of non-essential medicines would not affect its earlier order on prices of 108 drugs formulations. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, by a September 22 notification, withdrew the earlier guidelines empowering the NPPA to fix prices of non-essential drugs.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard (B2B Connect)- [Novartis receives NPPA notice imposing Rs 300-cr penalty for overcharging](#)

The Indian Express- Price fixation order of 108 drugs unaffected: NPPA (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

Moneycontrol- [NPPA clarifies stand; says July price control order valid](#)

DIPP defers decision on issuance of compulsory licence for cancer drug Dasatinib

Publication: [The Economic Times](#)

The department of industrial policy and promotion, or DIPP, has delayed a decision on issuing a compulsory licence for cancer drug Dasatinib by seeking fresh clarification from the health ministry early this week. Through compulsory licensing — provided under the Indian Patent Act — the government can allow someone else to produce Dasatinib without the consent of the patent owner, Bristol-Myers Squibb. If the DIPP had agreed to issue such a license on health ministry's recommendation, it would have cheered the public health activists, but would have had adverse repercussions on Indo-US relations.

India says will not cooperate with US on IPR regime review

Publication: [Business Standard](#)

The Government of India has told American authorities that it will not cooperate with the out-of-cycle review (OCR) initiated by the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) as part of the latter's annual 'Special 301 Report', on India's supposedly slack intellectual property rights (IPR) regime. New Delhi says it believes what the USTR is doing is unilateral and it is not "obliged" to participate or cooperate in the OCR process. The length of the OCR depends from country to country. The process starts with the USTR publishing in the Federal Register a request for the public to give its comments. It is generally open-ended and anyone can give comments — the American public and companies or anyone else. Once all the comments are collated within a stipulated time, which in this case is October 31, it will be sent to the relevant government (India, in the present case) for reactions. A month is given to respond. With India refusing, the US has plans to take up the matter strongly under the high-level IP working group, which will begin during the next India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF), slated to take place here next month.

Inter-Min meeting on IPR next week

Publication: [The Economic Times](#)

An ET Now report announced a meeting between 8 different Ministries on a holistic IPR policy to be held next week. Members of Ministries of Health, IT, Information and Broadcasting and more will be giving their inputs on intellectual property, patents to the Commerce Ministry as it goes ahead with building India's new IPR framework.

India's IPR laws needs to be recast: Lalit Bhasin

Publication: [Business Insider](#)

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce is organizing its 10th Indo-US Economic Summit to explore investment opportunities as well as cooperation between various Indian industries and their counterpart in the US. In an exclusive interview with BI India, Dr. Lalit Bhasin, regional president of the chamber and an eminent legal personage shares his views on the Indo-US trade, India's stand on WTO's TFA and the key challenges faced by the US companies in India.

The perils of irrational antibiotic use

Publication: [Mint](#)

Uncontrolled use of antibiotics in food and for treating diseases is rendering many of these medicines ineffective to prevent infectious diseases. The key culprits are a faulty treatment regime, lax regulations on medical practice, availability of irrational drug combinations in the market, and the greed of the food and drug industries, experts say. Doctors are left with no options to control infectious diseases caused by drug-resistant bacteria or superbugs; inadequate measures to handle these patients in the community and hospitals cause the infections to spread rapidly. And awareness of the severity and magnitude of the problem remains low.

India Needs to be a Global Brand

Publication: [The Economic Times](#)

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw opines through her blog 'Plainspeak' that Prime Minister Modi has a unique opportunity of correcting India's credibility challenges. According to her, there is a need to build a national narrative that corrects the negative global perception of India and highlights the core strengths and values that differentiate us from other nations. India needs to build a credible story around its science and knowledge base. Higher investments will enable India to build scale in S&T endeavours to make science-led national narrative credible. There is need to establish large scientific centres of excellence across the physical and life sciences, mathematics and computational sciences that offer exciting opportunities to scientists. Big data analytics in genomics is another area where global excellence can be built. Drug discovery has always been an area that has eluded India despite the talent pool since India prefers to export our talent than provide them with a research platform in India. Doctors have preferred to be medical practitioners than clinical researchers. Pharmaceutical companies have preferred to imitate and produce generic drugs rather than innovate and develop novel drugs.

India facing shortage of life-saving albumin serum

Publication: [The Indian Express](#)

For two months now, hospitals across the country for around are grappling with an acute shortage of life saving human albumin serum – a protein in blood plasma which is critical for treatment of patients suffering from liver disease, kidney failure, or recuperating from a transplant surgery. According to several doctors, the situation is a result of the government's attempts to impose price control as a handful of companies importing that serum have now stopped its supply. There is a local brand of albumin serum, but it is not favoured by many doctors. The supplies from even that firm have become erratic, doctors said.