



News Updates: October 2-6, 2014

OPPI – Drug pricing

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Kerala

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Move on drug pricing set to hit Kerala](#)

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's (NPPA) decision to withdraw the provisions which allowed it to fix a ceiling for the prices of certain 'non-essential' drugs has drawn widespread protests from Kerala, one of the largest consumers of drugs in the country. NPPA, the country's drug price regulating body, had in July this year, used a provision in the Drug Price Control Order 2013, which authorised it to regulate the prices of drugs under 'extraordinary circumstances,' to fix the ceiling prices of 108 drugs (cardiac, diabetes, cancer drugs), which are currently not included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). The Indian Medical Association has also expressed its anxiety that the move could go in favour of the pharma companies which are already fighting legal battles regarding the price control of cardiac and diabetes drugs. It is worried that the prices of these drugs could go up and affect the government's NCD control programme. The Indian Pharmaceutical Association and the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India are currently engaged in a legal battle, seeking the withdrawal of NPPA's July order. The IMA pointed out that while drug quality control was under the Health Ministry, the manufacture and price control of drugs were under the Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Saturday Special | Same ailment?](#)

Synopsis: The pharma industry is not known for presenting a united front. Yet, things appear to have changed. At the last meeting of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) — a platform mainly for MNCs — representatives from two other industry associations representing small/medium and large players, were also present. Perhaps their common grouse against the Government's recent price control diktat brought them together.

Portal: [EquityBulls.org](#)

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [HealthyDunia.com announces India Health & Wellness Awards 2014](#)

Synopsis: HealthyDunia.com, the fastest growing health and wellness information portal, has announced the launch of the INDIA HEALTH& WELLNESS AWARDS 2014 (IHW Awards) to recognize excellence in the Indian healthcare industry and unparalleled contributions made by key contributors who have enriched the field. The IHW Awards will be held on December 20th, 2014 in a gala and glitzy ceremony at Hotel Hyatt Regency in the national capital. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan are scheduled to be the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour, respectively. The IHW Awards is the most comprehensive recognition platform with over 60 awards in multiple categories. The awardees will be chosen through a rigorous selection process, manned by an eminent jury, including some of the biggest names from the Indian healthcare companies, doctors, scientists, experts, media representatives, government sector and social leaders. Dr Sanjay Jaiswal, Head of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on health and family welfare, leads the jury. The IHW Awards is being supported by reputed healthcare bodies, including Delhi Medical Association (DMA), Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), Indian Orthodontic Association (IOA), World Simulation Society (WSS), Indian

Publication: DNA

Date: October 3, 2014

Headline: Clarification and Reporter's Reply (*scans attached*)

Synopsis: DNA has published the rebuttal to the story headlined Cancer drug price goes up from Rs 8,000 to Rs 1.08 lakh dated October 01, 2014. It has published Clarification on behalf of OPPI and the reporter's reply where Mr. Iftikhar Gilani defended all the assertions from the earlier report. This is with reference to prices go up from Rs 8,000 to rs 1.08 lakh published in your paper on October 1, 2014.

Similar reports:

SpicyIP – [Cancer drug price is NOT going from Rs 8000 to Rs 1.08lakhs!](#)

NPPA/Drug pricing

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: New Delhi

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Life-saving protein in short supply in Delhi](#)

Synopsis: Harassed patients, helpless chemists and worried doctors have appealed to Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan to look into the acute shortage of life saving essential drug Human Serum Albumin (HSA) in the Capital. Chemists claim that HAS – a protein – has gone missing from chemist stores for the past two months. The worst hit are patients who have liver disease and are trying to buy this drug from the open market. "Currently only hospitals – which have indented the drug – have supply of the drug. The shortage is also being felt in Mumbai and Pune and patients have been struggling for over three months now. We have at least 5-10 enquiries from families of patients who need to procure the drug. They have been running from pillar to post to procure the drug without any success," said a representative from Chawla Chemists store, Yusuf Sarai.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [Caught between legal basis and industry protests, NPPA loses pricing powers](#)

Synopsis: The government, in a sudden move late last month, withdrew the power of the drug price regulator – the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority – to cap prices of non-essential drugs. The decision came just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States. The issue of intellectual property rights especially in pharmaceuticals have been a constant bugbear in the bilateral trade relations.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Pharma cos. refute Congress' post claiming hike in prices of life-saving drugs](#)

Synopsis: A post on the Congress party's website claiming steep hikes in the prices of life-saving medicines, especially cancer drug Glivec, has led to the social media playing it up and also creating confusion. Novartis, which owns the patent for Glivec globally but excluding India, and Natco Pharma, whose generic version of the drug was also listed on the website, denied any price increases after a section of the media also reported it. "The price of Glivec was revised downwards by 93% under DPCO (drug price control order) 2013 and remains unchanged." said Ranjit Shahani, vice chairman and managing director of Novartis India.

Publication: Mid-Day

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: A bitter pill to swallow *(scan attached)*

Synopsis: On hearing that on the eve of Modi's visit to the US, the government had instructed the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to withdraw its recent guidelines on price control of 108 drugs used to treat life-threatening diseases like tuberculosis, AIDS, diabetes and heart ailments, we thought of our friend, Padma Bhushan awardee, Yusuf (Yuku) Hamied and how sad he must be. Because though Hamied heads one of India's largest pharmaceutical companies, CIPLA, and would stand to make even more money out of this decision, his whole life's mission has been to champion the cause of cheaper medicine for the afflicted and to ensure that these medicines would be accessible to those who need them.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Drug cos bet on NDDS for better price, market share](#)

Synopsis: With the drug pricing control getting more stringent, pharma companies are increasingly focussing on developing novel drug delivery systems (NDDS) to get an edge both in terms of pricing as well as promote their products as more efficacious so as to garner better market share. Take for example, Gujarat-based mid-sized drug maker Troikaa Pharma, which has developed an NDDS for its Diclofenac painkillers, which it sells under the brand Dynapar QPS. The company claims that this is the first transdermal preparation of diclofenac which can enhance the action of pain-relief through topical application as enhances the penetration of diclofenac through skin.

Patent/ IPR/ Innovation/ Compulsory licensing

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Op-ed: Feroz Ali, MHRD Intellectual Property Rights Chair Professor, IIT Madras

Headline: [The patent discord](#)

Synopsis: India is probably the only country that is consciously working towards a system of open prosecution of patents. The opposition to the Indian patent law that emanates from the US is unparalleled. Early this year, the Global Intellectual Property Centre, an affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce, ranked India at the bottom of the International IP Index for having the weakest IP environment among 25 countries. In May, the US Trade Representative's report, the Special 301, opted India for "Out-of-Cycle" review amidst pressure to designate India as a "Priority Foreign Country", a tag preserved for the most notorious IP regimes

Publication: The Financial Express *(Contributory article)*

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Op-ed: Rudramuni B, Executive Director & Head, Dell India R&D

Headline: [Innovated in India, for the world](#)

Synopsis: If you ever thought India is merely a software sweatshop for the west, it's high time you rethink! India is today poised to play a more significant role in the global R&D spectrum. Since 2012, emerging markets like India, China, Brazil, and Mexico have stepped up their innovation efforts and entered the list of top 10 innovative markets in the world. Overall, these markets contribute 31% of the world's new product innovation, while innovation in developed markets has dropped to 69%. Over the years, India R&D has moved up the value chain from cost impact to business impact to strategic impact, with the current ownership to deliver enterprise software products, design future releases of products

and influence architecture of next generation products. Housing over 750 product development and engineering services companies and over 1,031 MNC R&D centres, India today has thousands of high-skilled talent to innovate, develop and deliver world-class products. There is variety of technologies owned and delivered from India including a range of systems management products, plugins for heterogeneous data centre, networking switches, building blocks to manage virtual data center, advisors tools to design cluster solutions etc. In fact, global organisations are now leveraging the R&D and Product engineering activities in India to move closer to emerging markets.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Op-ed: Narayan Ramachandran, Chairman, InKlude Labs

Headline: [India's frugal innovation](#)

Synopsis: India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), Mangalyaan, successfully deployed all five of its payloads in Mars' orbit late last week. The 1,337kg orbiter completed the journey from Earth to Mars in September. MOM lifted off 10 months before from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, using an indigenously designed Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C25) rocket. It spent a month in low-Earth, elliptical orbit before being lifted to Mars trajectory in stages during a launch window that comes only once every 26 months. It is India's first inter-planetary mission and the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) becomes only the fourth space agency, and the first Asian one, to complete the trek to Mars. The design and implementation of Mangalyaan has been completed in 14 months and at a remarkable cost of about \$70 million (about Rs.420 crore). This much is well known

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: October 5, 2014

Headline: [New needle-coated capsule may replace injections](#)

Synopsis: A pill coated with tiny needles that can deliver drugs directly into the lining of the digestive tract has been developed by scientists, an advance that may eliminate the need for injections. In animal studies, researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) found that the capsule delivered insulin more efficiently than injection under the skin, and there were no harmful side effects as the capsule passed through the digestive system.

Similar reports:

DNA – [No more injections? Researchers say oral drug capsule may replace injections](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: New Delhi

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [Government says India's intellectual property regime fully compliant with WTO norms](#)

Synopsis : NEW DELHI: India's intellectual property regime is fully compliant with WTO norms, the government said on Friday, two days after the two countries decided to set up a high-level working group on IPR during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit to sort out the contentious issue. "India has consistently pointed out that the intellectual property right (IPR) legal regime in India is fully TRIPS compliant and that any issues to be discussed have to be discussed in bilateral forums like Trade Policy Forum (TPF)," the department of industrial policy and promotion said in a release. The US is conducting an 'out of cycle review' on India's IPR regime based on its Special 301 report.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: New Delhi

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [IPR panel to address India's concerns over misuse: Govt](#)

Synopsis: NEW DELHI: The government on Friday said the high-level working group on intellectual property rights (IPR) will help address India's concerns over misappropriation of traditional knowledge and copyrights, in addition to threat of US action against government policies, through bilateral discussions. The statement from the department of industrial policy and promotion came in response to apprehensions expressed by activists that the government may amend its laws, which government officials ruled out. The government said there is already an agreement for an Innovation and Creativity Focus Group in the Trade Policy Forum since 2010 to consult each other no less than twice a year. The deal was reached by Anand Sharma, the then commerce and industry minister, and was reiterated in the joint statement issued after a meeting of PM Narendra Modi and US president Barack Obama. "India has consistently pointed out that the IPR legal regime in India is fully TRIPS compliant and that any issues to be discussed have to be discussed in bilateral forums like Trade Policy Forum. India has refused to be subjected to unilateral action proposed by US under the Special 301 report, an annual report on IPR under US Trade Act," the industry department said.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: ['Patently transparent and easily accessible'](#)

Synopsis: Patent Controller General's office is making strides in openness and fairness. "My entire office is exposed to the world," says Chaitanya Prasad, not displaying the strain of his high profile office. As Controller General, he heads the office that issues patents, designs and trademarks, besides being the registrar of geographical indications that protects products identified with a region, like the Darjeeling Tea or Pochampally Ikat.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [India says US agrees to its stand on IPR](#)

Synopsis: India on Friday said the US had agreed to its position that differences over intellectual property rights should be resolved through talks. India has been refusing to be subjected to unilateral action proposed by the US under its Special 301 report. A joint statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama met in Washington earlier this week talked about setting up an intellectual property working group with appropriate decision making and technical level meetings as part of the Trade Policy Forum between the two countries

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [Beyond the rhetoric](#) (*Opinion article by Rudra Chaudhuri, Author of Forged in Crisis: India and the United States since 1947*)

Synopsis: That Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the United States was distinctly successful is without doubt. He was, according to commentators, the second most googled — after President Barack Obama — person within the United States during the period of his stay. Yet, and these achievements aside, the Prime Minister was less clear when it came to crucial matters of security. References to terrorism and the critical issue of Afghanistan needed enunciation. This is not to say that these were abiding matters of discussion or that the Prime Minister set out on his flight to America to offer precision on issues less connected with infrastructural growth, patents and foreign direct investment. But two points bear mention.

Publication: Down to Earth

Edition: National

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [Pursuing a nationalist IPR policy](#)

Synopsis: India has enough laws to protect its intellectual property rights. It is the implementation that is wanting. IT was an unexpected announcement that conveyed a strong message. "We are very strong in IPR (intellectual property rights) and we want to protect our national interest. That does not mean we are going to be regressive or restrictive, but it is the duty and right of the government to protect the IPR of our country." That was Union minister for commerce and industry Nirmala Sitharaman at a recent meeting where she outlined the objectives her ministry had set for itself. "When we are going for arbitration on IPR, others are picking holes because we don't have an IPR policy. The lack of policy has really curbed us from establishing our rights in a forceful way."

Similar Reports:

Millennium Post – Pursuing a nationalist IPR policy (*Scan attached, Link unavailable*)

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Health experts concerned over India's IPR working group](#)

Synopsis: The decision of India and the US to establish a high-level working group on intellectual property will allow America to put "pressure" on India to expand liberal grants of drug patents in the country, independent American health care experts have warned. "This working group will give the US a dedicated forum to continue to pressure India to adopt TRIPS-plus IP measures, including repeal of section 3(d) of the India Patents Act, adoption of data exclusivity/monopolies, patent term extensions, and restrictions on the use of compulsory licenses," Professor Brook K Baker from the Northeastern University School of Law, said. Agreeing on the need to foster innovation in a manner that promotes economic growth and job creation, President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a joint statement issued on Tuesday committed to establish an annual high-level Intellectual Property (IP) Working Group with appropriate decision-making and technical-level meetings as part of the Trade Policy Forum.

Ethics and Medical Corruption

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Corruption in medical practice: An open letter to PM, FM and health minister](#)

Synopsis: This is regarding a recent sting operation on some path labs that give cutbacks to referring doctors. I am surprised to know that the Union health minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, was not aware of it. This practice of giving money to referring doctors is pretty old in this country and I think everybody knows about it; even many patients are aware of it. It is not only path labs and other diagnostic centres, which do this. Nowadays a large number of doctors in big private hospitals in Delhi are sending cutbacks to referring doctors. Even some private hospitals are officially giving referral fees to physicians, quoting one excuse or another. The government has asked MCI to investigate this problem. I do not know the credentials of the present MCI, but everybody knows how corrupt some of the previous MCIs have been. It is just like an anti-corruption department being one of the most corrupt itself. Mind you, sting operations have found out only the tip of the iceberg. The rot in ethics in medicine is rampant. We are ourselves to blame when patients doubt every opinion of ours and go for second third opinions. Many times people do not agree for a particular treatment even in an emergency, like the advice of urgent angioplasty in the case of an acute heart attack, again due lack of faith in the treating doctor. This often results in damage to the heart with bad consequences for the patient.

Drug quality and drug availability

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [India exploring legal action against think tank shocking, say US researchers](#)

Synopsis: The authors of a controversial report, which alleged that Indian drug makers sell inferior drugs in poor African countries, have called the Indian government's threat of legal action against them a 'shocking overreaction' to an academic work. "The government's threat of legal action is a shocking development, and if it proceeds, it will hurt India more than it hurts us," said Roger Bate and Aparna Mathur, research scholars at US think tank American Enterprise Institute (AEI), authors of the paper along with Ginger Jin, professor at the University of Maryland, and Amir Attaran, professor of law at the University of Ottawa. Not even North Korea or Russia have taken the illiberal step of suing scholars for publishing academic research and India is poised to become the first government to do so, the authors told ET.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [The right to medicines in a world of stock-outs](#)

Synopsis: India is widely recognised as the pharmacy of the developing world thanks to its generic drugs manufacturing sector. Yet, ironically, it often fails to provide necessary drugs to its own population. Several States across India have been reporting that essential HIV drugs, especially nevirapine, have gone out of stock. This is deplorable considering we supply affordable HIV drugs globally and save millions of lives but have somehow managed a stock-out at home.

Modi government – Health, Pharma & IPR

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Essential goods' prices under govt watch](#)

Synopsis: The Narendra Modi government has set up a mechanism to monitor prices of key essential commodities to ensure there is no unusual flaring in the ongoing festival season. Officials said the exercise started sometime ago with the department of consumer affairs along with food and agriculture forming a select group to monitor prices. The Prime Minister's Office is being sent daily updates on the food price situation in four major metropolitan cities. The commodities being monitored are wheat, rice, edible oils and sugar. In edible oils, prices of mustard, groundnut and palm oil are of particular importance because they are widely consumed during the festival season.

Publication: Mail Today

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [India and U.S. work closely on health and wildlife after Modi's visit](#)

Synopsis: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. has spurred efforts by the two countries to develop affordable vaccines to combat dengue, malaria and tuberculosis, and to manage wildlife parks such as Corbett, Gir and Panna. Both countries agreed to cooperate in fields aimed at promoting India's development during Modi's recent visit. India's Health and Family Welfare Ministry will work with the US National Institutes of Health and Center for Disease Control to develop 'affordable vaccines' to fight dengue, malaria and tuberculosis, said a top government official.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [MEA logs into e-diplomacy](#)

Synopsis: Diplomats are still required to be discreet and master the art of equivocation, but they are also now mandated to be more communicative without giving too much away. This explains multifarious social media initiatives launched by India's external affairs ministry. The official spokesperson's Twitter account boasts of more than 132,630 followers. The new-look website of the external affairs ministry, revamped a year ago, is also on course to get a million visitors.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [India exploring legal options against US think tank for allegedly maligning country's image](#)

Synopsis: The authors of a controversial report, which alleged that Indian drug makers sell inferior drugs in poor African countries, have called the Indian government's threat of legal action against them a 'shocking overreaction' to an academic work. "The government's threat of legal action is a shocking development, and if it proceeds, it will hurt India more than it hurts us," said Roger Bate and Aparna Mathur, research scholars at US think tank American Enterprise Institute (AEI), authors of the paper along with Ginger Jin, professor at the University of Maryland, and Amir Attaran, professor of law at the University of Ottawa.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [US firms plan to invest \\$42 b in next 2-3 years](#)

Synopsis: American companies plan to invest \$42 billion in India over the next two-three years following the positive global investor sentiment in India and in Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a senior Government official said. Speaking to newsmen, the official said that during the Prime Minister's recently concluded visit to the US, a quick survey done among members of the United States India Business Council showed that they plan to invest \$42 billion in India.

Publication: The Asian Age (op-ed)

Edition: National

Date: October 5, 2014

Headline: [American takeaway](#)

Synopsis: A host of troubling issues were tackled upfront, not brushed under the carpet. These included the "current impasse in the World Trade Organisation" — where India has suggested a compromise formula that secures its food stockpiles and allows the Trade Facilitation Agreement to go through; the creation of an "annual high-level Intellectual Property (IP) Working Group"; the role of the Indian "IT-enabled service industry in strengthening... investment relations"; and the "Contact Group on advancing the implementation of civil nuclear energy cooperation" that will look at, among other issues, "liability". There was a whole sub-section on "energy and climate change". It incorporated cooperation on clean energy, and a recognition of the need for "phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons". Each of these is a story in itself. Both sides have been mindful of sensitivities. Mr Modi has understood his plans for a manufacturing revolution in India will have to take into account US technology, intellectual property and climate change concerns.

Website: PIB

Edition: Online

Date: October 3, 2014

Headline: [DIPP Statement on Bilateral Mechanism for Discussing IPR Issues with USA](#)

Synopsis: The US- India Joint Statement issued by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States of America after the bilateral summit had the following reference to IPR issues "Agreeing on the need to foster innovation in a manner that promotes economic growth and job creation the leaders committed to establish an annual high level Intellectual Property (IP) Working Group with appropriate decision making and technical level meetings as a part of the trade policy forum". It is appropriate to mention that there already exists the Innovation and Creativity Focus Group in the Trade Policy Forum since 2010 to consult each other no less than twice a year on "Improving intellectual property rights protection and enforcement, enhancing awareness of intellectual property rights, fostering innovation and creativity, and increasing collaboration between U.S and Indian innovators". The statement on US-India Trade Policy Forum was signed by the then Commerce and Industries Minister in March 2010 with his US counterpart.

Similar reports:

Businessstandard.com – [DIPP Statement on Bilateral Mechanism for Discussing IPR Issues with USA](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Clean India initiative will be a blessing in disguise](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Dr. Harshvardhan on Thursday claimed that the 'Clean India' mission will turn out to be a blessing in disguise for the countrymen and appeared to indicate that it was the responsibility of every individual to keep things clean. "We are not involved in doing anything important work. This is a responsibility of every individual. If I am the Health Minister then and I expect that a worker in my ministry will contribute in his own way and give his heart and soul, then this has to start from myself," Harshvardhan said here to the mediapersons.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Real-time online app opens Indias patent process to public eye](#)

Synopsis: The government is throwing open the entire process of patents—from the filing of an application to the final decision rejecting or granting it—by putting it online in order to curb corruption and address charges of opacity. The public will be able to access digital updates at each stage of file movement at the Indian patents and trademarks office—the Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks—with all specifications, including patent examination (verification of the invention claims) reports, official remarks, reviews and corrections and the final decision, on the patent office's website from September. The move is aimed at introducing transparency in the functioning of the patent office and checking corruption.

Similar reports:

The Hindu Business Line – [‘Patently transparent and easily accessible’](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Online push buoys patent filings](#)

Synopsis: The Government's efforts to encourage people to file their patent applications online seem to be paying off. In February, the Indian patent office had introduced a 10 per cent price differential for those filing online, as compared to those filing for patents manually. Between February and March 2014, online filings have jumped from 30 per cent of the total filings to 75 per cent, said Chaitanya Prasad,

Controller General of patents, designs and trademarks. Adding to the benefits of filing online, the Government recently also introduced a comprehensive payment gateway. This expands the options for filing online from the earlier two banks – SBI and Axis Bank to about 70 banks now, besides being allowed to use debit and credit cards for transactions, he explained. This will further encourage small and medium enterprises and individuals to take advantage of the 10 per cent differential in price, he added.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [India, US draw up blueprint to work around differences](#)

Synopsis: India and the US have drawn up a blueprint to work around their differences and breathe new life into strategic ties once described by President Barack Obama as one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century. Obama recognized that India's "rise as a friend and partner is in the US's interest" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "emphasized the priority India accords to its partnership with the US", said a joint statement issued after the latter's visit to Washington on the second leg of a five-day trip to the US. The statement described the US as a principal partner "in the realization of India's rise as a responsible, influential world power".

Similar reports:

The Economic Times – [India, US ask officials to urgently start consultations on WTO](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Narendra Modi has compromised on IPR: Congress](#)

Synopsis: Congress on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of compromising India's position on intellectual property rights, saying he capped the visit with a major concession to the US, just like he started it by opening the gates for rise in price of essential drugs. Slamming the PM, AICC spokesman Anand Sharma said the joint statement issued after the meeting between President Barack Obama and Modi mentioned the disturbing bit about a joint task force on IPR. "This is a major compromise of our consistently held position that India is TRIPS-compliant and would not discuss IPR in any bilateral forum," he said. The former commerce minister said India was under global pressure on intellectual property but the previous governments staved off the developed world. "It is a compromise," he said.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Modi's US visit disappointing, no major takeaways, says Congress](#)

Synopsis: The Congress Party Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit was "disappointing" as there were "no major takeaways" from the trip. "When you look at the outcome, it is definitely disappointing. There are no major takeaways of this much hyped visit," Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said. The Congress is India's leading Opposition party. He said an atmosphere was created where everybody got excited and people started believing that the world is going to change and there would be major agreements between the two countries. However, there was nothing new in defence pacts or discussions on terrorism, he said. "That India and the United States have a strategic partnership, this is not new.

Similar reports:

Hindustan Times – [Modi's US visit disappointing, no takeaways: Congress](#)

The Hindu – [Little to show for the hype: Congress](#)

The Times of India – [Has PM Modi bowed to US pressure on patent laws?](#)

Health Ministry – Diabetes and preventive health

Publication: The Pioneer

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [HEALTH MINISTRY WANTS TYPE-I DIABETES UNDER DISABILITY ACT](#)

Synopsis: Coming to the rescue of lakhs of school children and college students inflicted with Type-I diabetes, the Union Health Ministry has favoured including the disease under the Disability Act so as to ensure special privilege for the sufferer during examination time. It has written to the Human Resource Development and Social Welfare Ministries to consider the cases of such sufferers who have to go through a harrowing time for want of timely medical care such as snacks as they sit through the long examination hours. If accepted, the move will be a great relief to students with such medical condition. Since their pancreas fail to produce insulin, they have to take small meals to avoid the complications of hypoglycemia. In hypoglycemia, blood sugar drops so low that the sufferer may faint or have a fit. Such students can also suffer permanent brain damage in such situations.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [Give free insulin to destitute diabetic children: Govt to docs](#)

Synopsis: Please provide free insulin to juvenile diabetic patients belonging to an economically weak background, was an appeal made today by Union Minister Jitendra Singh to doctors. Pitching for approximately 75,000 juvenile diabetic patients, Singh, a practising doctor himself, said a high rate of death among such children was mainly due to inability of their parents to afford insulin for their lifelong treatment.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Combine Ram Lila revelry with health checks: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Wednesday said Ram Lila, the traditional enactment of the Ramayana during Navratri festival, should be linked with health checkups. The minister said that the camps will be set up at five locations during the ongoing festival, involving community health volunteers. This would be done under Swasth Chetna Evam Jan Sahyog Abhiyaan (SCEJSA), which will be the first government initiative to draw people into the benefits of promotive and preventive health in the national capital.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Swacch Bharat inextricably linked to Swasth Bharat Dr Harsh Vardhan: Cleanliness=Healthiness= Savings on pocket](#)

Synopsis: Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, has called upon citizens to view the Prime Ministers revolutionary initiative, Swacch Bharat Abhiyan, as a blessing in disguise. Mahatma Gandhi had said cleanliness is next to Godliness. I say cleanliness and Godliness add up to the biggest dividend good health. Most of our common diseases find it impossible to thrive in clean surroundings. If we succeed in achieving this revolution, peoples expenditure on medical treatment will be considerably reduced, and so they can use their savings for better things, he remarked.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Silicon Valley takes benefits 'arms race' to health care](#)

Synopsis: High salaries and free food aren't enough any more in Silicon Valley, where maturing companies are competing for talent with creative health care and "wellness" programmes that use gadgets to promote good behaviour. Standard benefits at the largest technology companies, including Google Inc and Apple Inc, range from fertility treatments to deluxe on-site medical clinics, to new technology treats like health-tracking bracelets.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: Untrained pharmacists, a deadly menace *(scan attached)*

Synopsis: The number of complaints about medical shops operating without qualified pharmacists is alarming as it can impact public health. Regular sales staff without proper training can dispense the wrong drugs and end up endangering a patient's life. Experts say qualified pharmacists not only counsel patients about dosage and relevance of taking a medicine at a particular hour but also serve as a line of defence against doctors prescribing wrong medicines.

Portal: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [High risk Ebola could reach France and UK by end-Oct, scientists calculate](#)

Synopsis: Scientists have used Ebola disease spread patterns and airline traffic data to predict a 75 percent chance the virus could be imported to France by October 24, and a 50 percent chance it could hit Britain by that date. Those numbers are based on air traffic remaining at full capacity. Assuming an 80 percent reduction in travel to reflect that many airlines are halting flights to affected regions, France's risk is still 25 percent, and Britain's is 15 percent.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Pharma may be a not-so-sweet play in the short term](#)

Synopsis: If you thought the export-oriented pharma sector was a promising defensive sector, think again. While the bulk of pharma stocks has enjoyed a secular rally in the past five years, abrupt developments like US FDA import alerts, price controls by the regulatory body in India, awarding of compulsory licences on patented drugs by Indian courts, key drug approvals, receipt of milestone payments, exclusivity launches and payment of penalties towards settlement of lawsuits have kept pharma stocks volatile in the short term.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Sun Pharmaceutical Industries plans to invest \\$280 million in experimental process of psoriasis drug](#)

Synopsis: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., India's largest domestic drug maker by market

capitalisation, plans to invest more than \$280 million in the experimental psoriasis drug that it in-licensed from US-based Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) last month and hopes to commercialise globally by 2018, said industry consultants with direct knowledge of the matter. This is part of Sun's attempt to invest in a basket of promising innovative products in select therapies to grow beyond generics and add new revenue streams, they said. Sun is the first Indian drug firm to adopt this strategy of in-licensing experimental drugs at a late trial stage for commercialisation. In-licensing involves drug makers tying up with each other to cooperate on various aspects of development and marketing.

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: Mumbai

Date: October 5, 2014

Headline: TB second largest cause of death at Mumbai's municipal hospitals (*scan attached*)

Synopsis: Tuberculosis has caused more deaths at Mumbai's municipal hospitals than cancer and liver failure combined. An analysis of deaths reported in 21 municipal hospitals, between 2001 and March 2010 shows TB was the second biggest cause of mortality — killing 84,614 people — after heart attack, which claimed 97,677 people during the period.

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: October 5, 2014

Headline: Patients must claim medical records as their right (*scan attached*)

Synopsis: Why can't the Medical Council of India (MCI) instruct all hospitals in the country to publicise, through a prominent notice board at the entrance, the hospitals statutory obligation to provide medical records to patients? Such an instruction has become imperative in the light of the recent Central Information Commissions (CIC) order on the patients right to medical records and the statutory duty cast on all hospitals and doctors to give them voluntarily.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 5, 2014

Headline: [Over the counter drug market to reach \\$6.6 billion by 2016](#)

Synopsis: The over the counter (OTC) drug market in India is expected to grow to \$6.6 billion by 2016 with pharma companies and chemists increasing their presence in the rural market. India's OTC drug market stood at \$3 billion in 2011 and a "rise to \$6.6 billion is forecast by 2016," according to a sectoral document for Pharmaceuticals industry under the 'Make In India' campaign.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: Polypharmacy hits patients past 60 years (*scan attached*)

Synopsis: Geriatrician Dr V S Natarajan says almost 40% of patients past the age of 60 consume more than six pills a day for various health conditions. When drugs that are initially prescribed for particular ailments start to create side-effects, the patient tends to get more drugs prescribed to deal with the side-effects he said. One reason for this is the demise of the concept of the family physician Dr Natarajan said. Patients these days approach specialists based on their symptoms. When a patient consults more than one specialist, the intake of drugs usually increases. Indian Medical Association, Tamil Nadu chapter president Dr M Balasubramanian agrees, observing that polypharmacy has increased alongside a drop in doctor-patient interaction. Many doctors prescribe medicines without analysing a patients medical history This can lead to various complications, he said.

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [Cipla inks agreement to set-up manufacturing facility in Iran](#)

Synopsis: Cipla has signed a definitive agreement with its existing Iranian distributor for setting up a manufacturing facility in Iran. The total contribution from the company over the next 3 years will include machinery, equipment, and technical know-how and is expected to be approximately Rs 225 crore for a 75% stake. The proposed investment is subject to completion of certain conditions precedent and applicable regulatory approvals. Cipla is a global healthcare company which uses technology and innovation to meet the healthcare needs of patients in various therapy areas.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [Cocktail of drugs triggers host of health problems for elderly](#)

Synopsis: Maheswaran, 64, has a little star-shaped box in which he stores medicines of different colours and sizes. Each compartment is labelled—'hypertension', 'diabetes', 'cholesterol', 'arthritis' and so on—and he religiously pops the pills six times a day. This may seem like a normal scene in a household with a person of Maheswaran's age, but doctors say there has been a worrying increase in the number of people who depend on a daily cocktail of drugs. Health experts say polypharmacy, or the use of multiple medications often involving unnecessary drug use, is associated with various negative health outcomes, including impaired cognition and an increased risk of falls among the elderly.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: Online

Date: October 4, 2014

Headline: [Working long hours may raise diabetes risk](#)

Synopsis: Working long hours may increase the risk for Type 2 diabetes, a new review has found, but the risk is apparent only in workers of lower socio-economic status. Long working hours are associated with diabetes risk factors - work stress, sleep disturbances, depression and unhealthy lifestyle, and some studies have found long hours associated with increased risk for cardiovascular disease.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 3, 2014

Headline: [Drug sales in rural areas grow at more than 17%, against 11-12% in urban markets](#)

Synopsis: A post on the Congress party's website claiming steep hikes in the prices of life-saving medicines, especially cancer drug Glivec, has led to the social media playing it up and also creating confusion. Novartis, which owns the patent for Glivec globally but excluding India, and Natco Pharma, whose generic version of the drug was also listed on the website, denied any price increases after a section of the media also reported it. The price has shot up to more than Rs 1 lakh from Rs 8,500 for Glivec and to Rs 11,500 from Rs 8,500 for Natco's generic version Veenat, the post said without giving the drug quantity.

Portal: Bloomberg

Edition: Online

Date: October 3, 2014

Headline: [Hedge funds listen in on patient chats for pharma bets](#)

Synopsis: On the Internet, people talk about everything, even their illnesses. Now, Wall Street is listening. In the data age, a handful of companies are packaging conversations on Facebook, Twitter and

online patient forums to sell to drugmakers, insurers and hospitals eager to understand how people manage their health in the real world. One of them has started putting its data-excavating skills to use beyond the health-care industry and selling it to financial companies looking to gain an investment edge. Treato, based near Tel Aviv, sends fund managers weekly or monthly reports with analysis of online chatter that may yield early signals about a drug's side effects or prescription patterns.

Portal: Bloomberg

Edition: Online

Date: October 3, 2014

Headline: [Corporate US healthiest in decades under Obama on debt](#)

Synopsis: Steve Wynn, founder of the Wynn Resorts Ltd. (WYNN) casino empire, once called President Barack Obama's administration "the greatest wet blanket to business and progress and job creation in my lifetime." Barry Sternlicht, chief executive officer of Starwood Property Trust Inc. (STWD), said Obamacare was driving down wage growth and "affecting spending and the desire to buy houses and everything else." They are among a chorus of corporate executives and lobbying groups that regularly assail Obama for policies that they say are stifling investment and hurting companies.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 3, 2014

Headline: [Facebook joins Apple, Google; plots first step into healthcare](#)

Synopsis: Facebook Inc already knows who your friends are and the kind of things that grab your attention. Soon, it could also know the state of your health. On the heels of fellow Silicon Valley technology companies Apple Inc and Google Inc, Facebook is plotting its first steps into the fertile field of healthcare, said three people familiar with the matter. The people requested anonymity as the plans are still in development.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [IT, pharma shares outperform for the fourth straight month](#)

Synopsis: Shares of companies in defensive sectors, primarily export-oriented ones such as information technology (IT) and pharmaceuticals, have outperformed the benchmark indices for the fourth consecutive month, as investors don't expect the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to cut rates in a hurry. In September, the pharma and IT indices on the National Stock Exchange gained six per cent and eight per cent, respectively, against the Nifty's 0.2 per cent fall. Between June and September, the pharma and IT indices, which are at their respective lifetime highs, have rallied 41 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively, against the Nifty's 10.2 per cent rise.

Portal: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Plant-based vaccines challenge big pharma for \\$3bn flu market](#)

Synopsis: Two tiny companies are preparing to challenge some of the world's largest drug makers in the battle for dominance in the \$3bn global market for influenza vaccines, armed with little more than tiny tobacco plants. The use of plants to produce life-saving pharmaceuticals captured global attention when it was revealed that the Ebola drug ZMapp is produced in the leaves of tobacco plants. Even as Ebola cases multiply in West Africa, a far greater market for plant-based biopharmaceuticals will likely be influenza vaccines used to fight pandemics, industry experts said. Making vaccines from plants may turn out to be faster and cheaper than current methods which use chicken eggs to grow the virus needed to make the vaccines. Leading producers such as GlaxoSmithKline Plc and Sanofi SA need six months to

produce flu vaccine once scientists identify the dominant virus expected to circulate during flu season. Vaccine production from tobacco plants by Quebec City-based Medicago or Bryan, Texas-based Caliber Biotherapeutics could do it in weeks.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy launches anti-acne drug in US](#)

Synopsis: Drug major Ranbaxy Laboratories today said it has launched Absorica capsules, used in treating acne, in the US market. Ranbaxy Laboratories Inc (RLI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd (RLL), today announced the launch of Absorica (Isotretinoin) capsules, a product that is licensed from Cipher Pharmaceuticals Inc of Mississauga, Ontario, Ranbaxy said in a statement. According to March 2012 IMS MAT data, sales of Absorica (isotretinoin) capsules stood at \$400 million in the US market. "... Absorica will be the flagship brand of the Ranbaxy dermatology product portfolio in the US," Ranbaxy Laboratories Inc Senior Director Ashish Anvekar said. Absorica, which is indicated for the treatment of severe recalcitrant nodular acne in patients 12 years of age and older, can be given without regards to meals, the company said.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: October 2, 2014

Headline: [Health Canada issues import ban on Apotex India, IPCA](#)

Synopsis: Health Canada has imposed an import ban on the products manufactured by Apotex Pharmachem India Pvt Ltd (APIPL), Apotex Research Pvt. Ltd. (ARPL) and IPCA Laboratories in India, raising concerns over reliability of data on 'safety and quality' issues. According to a statement issued by the Canadian health regulator on Tuesday, the action applies to finished products from ARPL, as well as active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and products made with APIs from APIPL and IPCA. "The department has ordered an import ban after it received new information on Tuesday from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). This latest information puts into question Health Canada's trust in the reliability of data that all three plants are required by law to provide to demonstrate safety and quality of their products," Canadian Health Minister Rona Ambrose said in a separate statement.