



News Updates: October 7, 2014

OPPI – Drug pricing

Publication: Moneylife

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Opinion piece: AK Ramdas (*known for his work with the Engineering Export Promotion Council of the ministry of commerce*)

Headline: [Pricing of essential medicines and discounts](#)

Synopsis: The article talks about the government's sudden move of withdrawing the NPPA's drug capping powers to allegedly appease US drug makers which has been taking up IPR issues. The article mentions IPA and OPPI going to court against NPPA's move and how it will be in the interest of the public to await the final outcome on this issue. Until the matter is resolved, status quo on prices should be assumed. The author has suggested specific action points for the NPPA such as- 1. Mandatory mention of both MRP rates and specially discounted rates for senior citizens on medicines packages. 2. Clearly providing email address of the agency on their official their web site.

NPPA/Drug pricing

Website: Niticentral

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Opinion piece: Salil Kallianpur

Headline: [AAP propaganda – Medicine price hike hoax](#)

Synopsis: The article talks about the #BJPPHarmLoot hashtag erroneously claiming that medicine prices in India have been deregulated. The prices of medicines on the essential list (NLEM) and new 108 non-essential medicines being capped however, it is likely that the court may rule that the cap be removed.

Publication: Moneylife

Edition: Online

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Patients may survive diseases, but will be killed by drug pricing of Big Pharma](#)

Synopsis: The latest 60 Minutes episode on the CBS network takes on extortionist pricing of big-pharma for medicines such as for cancer. Not only does the show attack the exorbitant pricing of the drugs, it also dissects the practise that guides prescriptions by doctors and clinics for patients suffering from Cancer. In a shocking report, CBS showed that a new drug with much the same efficacy and properties as another older drug in the market was being priced twice the amount of money. In treatments for diseases like Cancer, patients often need to take more than one drug or what is often termed a "drug cocktail."

Similar report in-

Forbes- ['60 Minutes' Just Attacked High Drug Prices. Here's What You Should Know.](#)

Modi government – Health, Pharma & IPR

Publication: Business Standard (*sourced from PTI*)

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Modi govt has not yet risen above sloganeering: JD\(U\) chief](#)

Synopsis: The Narendra Modi-led BJP government came to power at the Centre by selling dreams to the people and has still not risen above sloganeering, JD(U) President Sharad Yadav alleged on Monday. Speaking to reporters here, Yadav alleged that the NDA government is still to take any step to deal with raging problems like unemployment among others.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu- [Modi govt. unable to rise above sloganeering: JD\(U\)](#)

The Pioneer- [MODI GOVT HAS NOT YET RISEN ABOVE SLOGANEERING: JD\(U\)](#)

Zee News- [Narendra Modi govt has not yet risen above sloganeering: JD\(U\)](#)

Publication: Business Insider

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [DIPP Dismisses PM Modi's Efforts To Resolve IPR Issues, Says India's IPR Laws TRIPS Compliant](#)

Synopsis: In what could be a dismissal of Prime Minister Modi's efforts to resolve the US concern regarding India's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) laws, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has pointed out that there's already a committee to discuss IPR issues between the US and India. "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 DIPP said in a statement.

Blog: Infojustice (A blog and cooperative resource site hosted by the American University)

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [The Dangers of the Indian Government's Flirtation with U.S. Pharma and the Risks for India's Coherent, Pro-Public Health IP Policy](#)

Synopsis: U.S. business interests and government officials are trying to sell the idea that heightened intellectual property protections in India are essential to foreign investment, innovation, and achievement of public health goals. Instead, heightened intellectual property rights will make India consumers captive to Big Pharma's extortionate pricing. Unfortunately, the joint communiqué issued at the end of Prime Minister Modi's US visit shows deference by the US and Indian governments to Big Pharma's pressure.

Blog: Pilman (A Tapan Ray website on Healthcare)

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [Has Prime Minister Modi Conceded Ground To America On Patents Over Patients?](#)

Synopsis: Unprecedented high profile engagement of the Indian Prime Minister with various interested groups during his recent visit to the United States under equally unprecedented media glare, has invited overwhelmingly more kudos than brickbats, from across the world. However, in the context of upholding patients' health interest in India, a lurking fear did creep in, immediately after his visit to the United States. This was related to whether or not demonstrably tough minded Prime Minister Modi has yielded to enormous pressure created by all powerful American drug lobby against the current Intellectual Property (IP) regime in India.

Website: Mondaq

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [India: Protecting Indian Traditional Knowledge As Intellectual Property](#)

Synopsis: The importance of traditional knowledge of the indigenous communities is now known to the World. With this realised importance comes the need to protect this knowledge and to prevent its misappropriation. But the question is how? In the past few years, ample amount of discussions and debates on the subject of protecting traditional knowledge as intellectual property, have been occurring at the WTO, Conference of Parties at the Convention on Biodiversity, etc. A few national governments in these discussions have embraced the view that traditional knowledge needs to be secured legitimately, and they have condemned the formal IPR framework in its available structure for not just neglecting to give satisfactory protection to traditional knowledge additionally for legitimizing its misappropriation.

Publication: Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Cleanliness drive could fall short of cash by a half](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: The government hopes to mobilise a little over half the estimated investment planned for the prime minister's cleanliness drive, 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', amounting to Rs 100,000 crore in next five years, leaving a shortfall of Rs 96,000 crore. The campaign, launched by prime minister Narendra Modi amid much fanfare on October 2, aims to force Indians to desist from defecating in the open and rid cities and villages of filth and poor sanitation.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [The economy is reviving, foreign investors are favouring India: Nirmala Sitaraman](#)

Synopsis: Minister of State for Commerce and Finance Nirmala Sitaraman, in Mumbai to address election rallies, took time out to talk about the economy, foreign investment and trade facilitation in an interview.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [India's business confidence up sharply after new government](#)

Synopsis: India Inc has shown uptick in business confidence post the formation of Narendra Modi-led government with key industry surveys showing marked improvement in investor perception during the July-September quarter. While the survey by industry body Ficci showed business confidence at a 15-quarter high, the CII poll indicated a sharp improvement in business confidence.

Publication: Deccan Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: October 7, 2014

Opinion piece: Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary

Headline: [Modi's US summit: Dealing with the US always tests our diplomacy](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit presented him with a difficult challenge. At the rhetorical level, projecting the India-US relationship as between two democracies is easy. The US calls its relationship with India a defining one in the 21st century, though actual US policies belie such rhetoric. Our hype about the US being our 'natural partner' is not justified by the record of our relations with it since Independence. And so, the general perception continues to be that the rhetoric is disconnected from reality. America's grouse is that India has not adequately requited Washington's decision to lift

nuclear sanctions on it. American nuclear firms expect to get business in India and want the Indian nuclear liability law amended. They eye a big share of the Indian Defence procurement pie as another reward. On the economic side, US corporations have launched a campaign against India's intellectual property, trade and investment policies, especially in the pharmaceutical sector. On WTO issues, the US government turns differences at a multilateral forum into bilateral pressure points against India.

Website: IBN Live

Edition: Online

Date: October 7, 2014

Blog: Gorur Ramaswamy Iyengar Gopinath, founder of Air Deccan

Headline: [Modi's speech in the US may be a good medicine for CMs too, even if they are from rival parties](#)

Synopsis: A well known economist from the US when asked, "What he thought were the risks India faced in becoming a global economic power and the chances of India joining the ranks of the developed economies of the world", during the recent hi-octane, hi-profile visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, which raised huge hopes on the rise of India as a economic power house, that also grabbed attention of world leaders- he said simply that the bigger risk would be Modi's inability to deliver on his promises and not terrorism, wars, plagues and epidemics or oil crises. He was right on the mark. While Modi baiters, critics and political opponents in India may be waiting for Modi to trip, the common people in India who have long suffered the apathetic bureaucracy or insensitive political class, as well as the business leaders in India and around the world who may have borne the brunt of many obstacles to setting up and running business in India, are eagerly waiting for Modi to stem the rot and usher in the changes necessary for rapid economic growth.

Health Ministry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Delhi

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Dr Harsh Vardhan leads cleanliness drive in Turkman Gate area Orders maintenance of heritage structures, expansion of community hall](#)

Synopsis: Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, today led a cleanliness drive in the historic Turkman Gate area of the walled city of Old Delhi. He was accompanied by civic officials, community leaders and party workers. The drive enthused traders and residents of the area to join. The Minister said, I thought that the auspicious day of Bakri Eid should be the most appropriate day of launching a social movement centred around sanitation and health. The egalitarian principles associated with this day should be celebrated by people brushing aside social position to pick up the broom and implement the Prime Ministers vision of Swachh Bharat.

Similar reports in-

Daily News & Analysis- [People of Old Delhi tired of living in decay, apathy: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Hindustan Times- [Clean India campaign is Delhi's best chance to make waste recycling compulsory](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Hyderabad

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Rural stint may become part of medical curriculum](#)

Synopsis: Medicos in Telangana may be opposing mandatory rural service, however, Medical Council of India (MCI), the apex regulatory body for medical education, is almost certain to introduce rural service in PG curriculum itself. Efforts are on to green light the proposal in next month's MCI annual general body meeting likely to be held in New Delhi, senior doctors in Hyderabad said. The move to make mandatory year-long village posting for doctors pursuing post-graduate medical courses comes in the wake of a letter written by Union Minister for Health (UMH), Dr. Harsh Vardhan to MCI. According to

senior doctors here , UMH in his letter has categorically said that a medical student should spend a year in village. The Health Minister also asked MCI members to accept the proposal and roll out one-year rural service from next year. “Almost all MCI members from different states are in favour of this proposal.

Medical negligence

Publication: The Tribune

Edition: Delhi

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Family to PM: We want regulator for doctors](#)

Synopsis: Family of former Chief Justice of India JS Verma has written to PM Narendra Modi seeking an independent regulator for medical practitioners after the Delhi Medical Council (DMC) gave a clean chit to four top city doctors, who were accused of medical negligence in the death of Verma. Rejecting DMC’s orders as “predetermined”, Justice Verma’s family has urged the PM to establish a new national regulator for health management. It has in a separate letter to Health Minister Harsh Vardhan levelled serious allegations against the DMC’s ethics committee that heard the case saying that “it even allowed fresh evidence from negligent doctors”.

Universal Health Coverage

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: Delhi

Date: October 7, 2014

Opinion piece: K Srinath Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)

Headline: [India's basic services very weak, it's time we promote health equity](#)

Synopsis: Political will is even more important than professional skill for addressing India's health in the next decade. There should be political will to elevate health to the top tier of the national development agenda. Economy, equity and electability together will constitute the will. Recognition that it is necessary to invest in health for accelerating economic growth has finally become an axiom of global development. It is now influencing our national development agenda. The imperative of promoting health equity, to bridge huge gaps in major health indicators across different social, geographic and gender groups, is a call to conscience that politicians recognise and respond to, whether on their own or through pressure exerted by civil society. Health is also now becoming an important electoral issue, with provision of essential health services generating political popularity and electoral gains. The recent election of Joko Widodo as President of Indonesia has been mostly attributed to the popularity of the universal health coverage (UHC) he introduced as Governor of Jakarta. In India, we are seeing the stirrings of a similar response to health policies that please the people.

Drug quality/ Drug regulation

Publication: Deccan Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Computerised drug distribution system from 2015: Karnataka Government](#)

Synopsis: The Karnataka Drug Logistics and Warehousing Department in a report filed before the Karnataka High Court has stated that a comprehensive computerised drug distribution system is being developed for public health institutions and will be implemented from 2015 to plug loopholes in the system. The report was filed after the High Court took up a suo motu petition following newspaper reports that hospitals were storing drugs in toilets and ambulance sheds! The court had issued notices to the state government and other departments concerned. The government submitted 11 documents, including a letter dated September 18, 2014 from the office of the Drugs Controller and the report dated September 18, 2014 to the high court on the corrective steps taken.

Industry news

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Delhi

Date: October 7, 2014

Opinion piece: J. AMALORPAVANATHAN

Headline: [Delving deep into India's fast-growing healthcare industry](#) (book review)

Synopsis: The World Health Organization (WHO) has described the framework of a health care system in terms of its basic building blocks. These include “delivery of effective, safe, quality personal and non-personal interventions; a healthcare workforce that is adequate in numbers , completely trained and fairly distributed; a health information system that produces, analyses and disseminates reliable and timely intervention, medical products and technologies that are safe and efficacious, cost effective and accessible; a financing system that raises adequate funds to ensure the population can use needed services and is protected from financial catastrophe; and governance and oversight of the above.”

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: India may be ranked among top 3 pharma markets by 2020 (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Expansion by local drug makers is expected to help the pharma market grow manifold, according to a sectoral document under the 'Make In India' campaign.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Delhi

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: Local labelling of medical devices a big relief (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Medical Device Forum has welcomed the recent gazette notification of the Central Government that comprehensively deals with a range of concerns sought by the medical device industry.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [India under-reporting dengue cases: study](#)

Synopsis: India may be grossly under reporting dengue cases. A study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on Tuesday has found that in the period 2006-12 there were an average of nearly six million cases annually — 282 times the annual average of 20,474 cases reported by the Ministry of Health. According to the joint study by the INCLIN trust, ICMR, the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare and Brandeis University in Massachusetts, “The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) captures only 0.35 per cent of the clinically diagnosed dengue cases in India”.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: October 6, 2014

Headline: [EMA's new policy on clinical reports to take effect on January 1, 2015](#)

Synopsis: The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has decided to publish the clinical reports that underpin the decision-making on medicines. Following extensive consultations held by the Agency with patients, healthcare professionals, academia, industry and other European entities over the past 18 months, the EMA Management Board unanimously adopted the new policy at its meeting on October 2, 2014. The policy will enter into force on January 1, 2015. It will apply to clinical reports contained in

all applications for centralised marketing authorisations submitted after that date. The reports will be released as soon as a decision on the application has been taken. "The adoption of this policy sets a new standard for transparency in public health and pharmaceutical research and development," said Guido Rasi, EMA executive director. "This unprecedented level of access to clinical reports will benefit patients, healthcare professionals, academia and industry.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Nobel Prize for medicine goes to discoverers of brain's internal GPS](#)

Synopsis: Anglo-American John O'Keefe and Norwegian couple May-Britt and Edvard Moser won the 2014 Nobel Prize for medicine on Monday for discovering the brain's internal positioning system, helping humans find their way and giving clues to how strokes and Alzheimer's affect the brain. The Nobel Assembly, which awarded the prize of 8 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 million) in an announcement at Sweden's Karolinska Institute, said the discovery solved a problem that has occupied philosophers and scientists for centuries: "How does the brain create a map of the space surrounding us and how can we navigate our way through a complex environment?"

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Arun Jaitley is richest minister; PM Narendra Modi has assets of Rs 1.26 crore](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assets worth Rs 1.26 crore, according to details of assets and liabilities of the Union Council of Ministers uploaded on the PMO website on Monday. While finance and defence minister Arun Jaitley turns out to be the richest with assets totalling Rs 72.10 crore, urban development minister Venkaiah Naidu has the least assets totalling Rs 20.45 lakh. Modi's assets include Rs 38,700 in cash, bank balance and deposits worth Rs 1,32,698 and Rs 17,00,927 respectively, Rs 20,000 in bonds, Rs 2,35,000 in NSC, Rs 1,99,031 in insurance policies and jewellery and precious items worth Rs 1,20,980. He owns a house in Gandhinagar worth Rs 1 crore.