



News Updates: October 8, 2014

NPPA/Drug pricing

Publication: The Hindu
Edition: Kochi
Date: October 8, 2014
Headline: [Parishad plea](#)

Synopsis: The Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad has called for restoring the powers of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in deciding the price of medicines. KSSP office-bearers told a press meet here that the government should withdraw from the Indo-US pact which aimed at removing provisions beneficial to the people from the Indian patent law.

Modi government – Health, Pharma & IPR

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: National
Date: October 8, 2014
Columnist: Seema Sirohi, Washington-based analyst (*Letter from Washington*)
Headline: [Not to Worry, Modi didn't Sell Out on IPR](#)

Synopsis: The dizzying visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi now officially over (phew!), it is time to take measure and do some “reference to context” for the things done, not done or thought to have been done. In the last category falls a certain fear that Modi may have succumbed to American pressure on a biggie – affordable medicine. Incidentally, tens of international NGOs, doctors from Medecines Sans Frontieres and nurses on the ground in Africa and elsewhere are on India’s side in this very real battle. They support India’s stand on keeping public health above pharma profits.

Publication: Hindustan Times
Edition: Delhi
Date: October 8, 2014
Headline: [Protecting India’s intellectual property](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

Synopsis: The report delves into the fundamentals of IPR in India, USA’s concerns about the Indian IPR policy, India’s position on IPR, TRIPS and Special 301.

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: National
Date: October 8, 2014
Headline: [Centre clears 19 defence projects, boosts Make in India campaign](#)

Synopsis: Giving a push to the Make in India drive, the government cleared 19 defence proposals of various companies including Punj Lloyd and Bharat Forge that had been pending for the last few years. This is a result of the policy change by the BJP government in August, which allowed more than one Indian company to hold a cumulative 51% share to encourage more domestic players in the sector. Earlier, it was mandatory for a single Indian company to own and control the company. The licensing committee chaired by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) secretary Amitabh Kant last week cleared 19 proposals granting of industrial licences.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Govt clears 33 long pending defence manufacturing projects](#)

Business Standard- [DIPP on a Overdrive to Boost Manufacturing 33 Pending Applications Approved](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Booster dose for ' Make in India' : Govt clears 33 defence proposals](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

The Indian Express- [Centre clears 19 long-pending defence projects to boost local manufacturing](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Few Jobs in Make-in-India](#) (*editorial*)

Synopsis: Make in India is a great political pitch. It cheers industry , gives hope to the unemployed that they would find decent jobs in new factories that will come up across the land. Sadly , the hope of large-scale job creation in manufacturing is delusion. It is true that the countries we call developed made the transition from poor, agrarian economies to the rich, service-dominant economies of today via a phase of energetic industrialisation, which drew millions of farmhands into factories that belched out black smoke, siren blasts and myriad goods that heralded a brave new world of material convenience, prosperity and a virtuous cycle of new discoveries, inventions and technological progress.

Blog: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Edition: Online

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Can Brand India Reach for the Stars Next?](#)

Synopsis: India's place in the world arena has always been undermined by a plethora of credibility challenges which successive governments have failed to correct. Prime Minister Modi has the unique opportunity to correct this and deliver on the high expectations that the country eagerly awaits.

Website: First Post

Edition: Online

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Why did Modi agree to give away India's patent sovereignty to Americans?](#)

Synopsis: With the hype of his Madison Square Garden show overshadowing everything else, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit was dubbed as a great bilateral victory for India. As the popular consensus went, Modi wowed both the Indian Americans and American politicians and even managed to get a joint op-ed article with President Barack Obama in the Washington Post stressing the importance of the partnership between the two countries. Was it really a huge socio-economic and political success for India? There can be two opinions about it, however at least in one extraordinarily crucial sector, India is going to terribly lose. The agreement with the US in the sector will affect India's sovereignty and the lives of its present and future generations.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Modi's model village project to merge multiple welfare schemes](#)

Synopsis: The central government's Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (Parliamentarian's Model Village Scheme) will primarily be a remixed serving of existing development schemes, focusing on select villages in each constituency and under the close scrutiny of Members of Parliament (MP). However, the new model village scheme is unlikely to see any large additional funds being provided by the Centre. A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Business Standard that the scheme will dovetail funding from existing rural development, health, sanitation, nutrition and other schemes and bring focus to the delivery aspect. The MPs will also be asked to utilise their existing MPLAD scheme grants towards the scheme. A small amount of additional funding may be made available later, though

the details are not yet finalised, sources said. More granular guidelines for the scheme are expected after the formal announcement on October 11, the birth anniversary of Jayaprakash Narayan.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Bill Gates lauds Modi for talking about toilets](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done more than any other leader since India's independence to create awareness about the need for toilets, Microsoft founder Bill Gates said on Tuesday. "It may seem surprising when you think about all the innovation coming out of India, but 630 million people there defecate in the open because they don't have access to a commode. Worldwide, the number is 2.5 billion people," Gates said in his blog which he also tweeted and tagged Modi. Modi later retweeted Bill Gates' tweet.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: October 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Vandana Shiva, executive director, Navdanya Trust

Headline: [Of food, farmers and WTO's doublespeak](#)

Synopsis: The conflict between "free trade" and food rights came to the fore again at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations in September, when India did not back down from its stance that a permanent solution be found for food security issues before signing the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The TFA is designed to push free trade further, with heavy losses to India's food security. The US had challenged India at the WTO's Bali Ministerial in 2013, on the ground that the Food Security Act adopted by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime would increase India's food subsidies beyond levels allowed by the WTO.

Clinical trials

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: October 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, Chairman of the Expert Committee to formulate policy, Guidelines, SOPs for approval of new drugs and clinical trials and banning of drugs. Arghya Sengupta is Research Director, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

Headline: [A steel frame for clinical trials](#)

Synopsis: The regulatory framework on clinical trials needs a coherent set of stand-alone rules. This will not only ensure adherence to the principles laid down by the Supreme Court but also give impetus to the clinical trials industry in India, currently languishing due to an uncertain regulatory environment. In recent months, the quest for a safer, more transparent clinical trials regime has found new momentum. Fourteen notifications in July 2014, governing various aspects pertaining to a clinical trial — ranging from placebo-controlled trials to compensation awards — have been notified. Further, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has proposed a forward-looking IT-enabled information system that will ensure transparency and protect the interests of trial subjects.

Health Ministry

Publication: Business Standard (sourced from PIB news release)

Edition: Online

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Dr Harsh Vardhan promises nation's first mental health policy Asks Agra Medical College doctors to give 'shram daan' for cleanliness](#)

Synopsis: Government is preparing the first ever national policy on mental health and the Universal Health Assurance Mission (UHAM) will also include psychiatric well-being of the citizens. Citing a World Health Organisation (WHO) report which predicted that about 20 per cent of India's population would suffer from some form of mental illness by 2020, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said government might open more institutions like National Institute for Mental Health and Neurological Sciences, Bangalore.

Similar report in-

The Economic Times- [Government preparing national policy on mental health: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Govt bans polyethylene terephthalate for primary packaging of drugs for paediatric & geriatric use](#)

Synopsis: The Union health ministry has banned the use of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or plastic containers in liquid oral formulations for primary packaging of drug formulations for paediatric use, geriatric use and for use in case of pregnant women and women of reproductive age group. In a draft notification (G.S.R. 701(E)), the ministry said, "No manufacturer shall use the polyethylene terephthalate or plastic containers in liquid oral formulations for primary packaging of drug formulations for paediatric use, geriatric use and for use in case of pregnant women and women of reproductive age group".

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Agra

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Trained quacks could serve where docs won't go, says NGO](#)

Synopsis: A city-based NGO appealed to Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Tuesday to make provision for special training of quacks, so they can fill the need for medical practitioners in rural areas. Members of the Indian Medical Association, however, have opposed the proposal tooth and nail. At best, quacks could serve as healthcare workers, IMA members say, adding that they should not be allowed to prescribe medicines.

Universal Health Coverage/ Healthcare affordability

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Medical costs at private hospitals higher than most households' annual income: report](#)

Synopsis: The cost of key surgeries and medical procedures in many private hospitals is higher than the annual household income of between 60% and 90% of India's population, according to a report by audit and consulting firm EY. The EY report, which was released in the last week of September, analyses the affordability of quality healthcare in India and the need of healthcare innovation in the context of government's proposed universal healthcare coverage.

Drug quality/ Drug regulation

Publication: Business Standard (B2B Connect)

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Need for innovative cold chain transport solutions in pharma industry](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in an attempt to catch the industrial revolution which we

bypassed and boost the economic turnaround of the country, recently launched the 'Make in India' initiative. If the industry were to lap it up, a certain vertical (read pharmaceutical industry) of the manufacturing industry would grow up rapidly and India would occupy the dominant position of being one of the largest producers of generic drugs in Asia. Having said that, there are serious loopholes in the system which could potentially still persist and pose as a serious threat to this pharmaceutical produce. This is because, a big chunk of this medicinal produce would lay to waste due to exposure to inappropriate temperatures during transport.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: ['Need to amend SEZ rules to boost pharma exports'](#)

Synopsis: The finance ministry has suggested that certain rules governing special economic zones (SEZs) should be amended in the forthcoming foreign trade policy (FTP). The move will ensure expeditious processing of customs and quality clearances to help hassle-free exports of drugs and pharmaceuticals from the country. Revenue secretary Shaktikanta Das has written to commerce secretary Rajeev Kher reminding that the rules enforced by the government in 2010 for processing of pharma exports need to be amended as demanded by the SEZ-based pharma companies to help streamline exports of their produce. In 2010, the government had made it compulsory for drugs exporters to obtain no objection certificates (NOCs) from assistant drug controllers deputed at the SEZs and also a 'Let Export Order' from the customs officials following which they would be allowed to export their produce.

Industry news

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [REGULATORY CONTROL ON DEVICES](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Last week the Union health ministry came out with a notification making labelling of medical devices mandatory in the country by amending the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. Although labels of some of these critical products do contain a few details, many key information is not printed on the packs. With this notification, the labels on the devices should carry proper name of the medical device, the details necessary for the user to identify the device and its use and the name and address of the manufacturer. The label should disclose the net quantity in terms of weight, measure, volume, number of units and the dates of manufacture and expiry. In case of sterile devices the date of sterilisation and details of materials used for the making such devices should be printed on the label. The label should also mention a distinctive batch number or lot number of the product besides the manufacturing license number.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: Jaipur

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [CM slams free drug scheme, but govt study says it's good](#)

Synopsis: The Chief Minister Free Medicine Scheme, the ambitious scheme launched by the previous dispensation, may have come under criticism from Vasundhara Raje on several occasions, but it has got the thumbs up from her planning department. While Raje slammed the scheme several times during the election campaign - she went to the extent of calling medicines doled out under the initiative as 'poison', an evaluation study by the state's planning department has, on the contrary, found it quite good, and only lacking in implementation.

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [India's dengue cases 282 times higher than official data: study](#)

Synopsis: The annual number of dengue fever cases in India was around 6 million between 2006 and 2012, about 282 times higher than average of 20,474 cases reported by ministry of health, according to a study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. The study, led by researchers at Brandeis University's Schneider Institute for Health Policy in Waltham, Massachusetts, the INCLIN Trust International in New Delhi, and the Indian Council of Medical Research's Centre for Research in Medical Entomology (CRME) in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, is the first to use systematic empirical data to estimate both the disease burden and the direct and indirect costs of dengue in India.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Pharma stocks to outperform benchmarks for 5th year in a row](#)

Synopsis: Healthcare stocks are set to outperform benchmark indices for the fifth straight year as pharmaceutical companies continue to remain the winning bet for investors. This is despite sharp gains in financial and high-beta stocks. BSE Healthcare index has given nearly 41% returns so far this year compared with 25% gains by the Sensex. This will be the fifth year when the healthcare stocks have outperformed the benchmark index. Pharmaceutical companies Sun Pharmaceuticals and Lupin feature in the list of top-five performers in the Sensex so far this year, data show.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Indian innovators win 2 Grand Challenges awards](#)

Synopsis: Ten years ago, two researchers working in Uttar Pradesh tweaked the ancient practice of mothers holding their newborn baby close to their bodies. In the process, scientists from Community Empowerment Lab (CEL) helped cut neo-natal mortality—death before the age of 28 days—by a massive 54% across a cluster of 300 villages in Rae Bareilly district. This week in Seattle, US, the two scientists—husband and wife Vishwajeet and Aarti Kumar—won the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Grand Challenges award for the innovation, which is known as Kangaroo care. The award gives the researchers an initial grant of \$100,000. Winners can receive up to \$1 million in additional funding if they are able to demonstrate scalability of their projects.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: October 7, 2014

Headline: [Fight against Ebola "top national security priority": Obama](#)

Synopsis: US President Barack Obama has declared fight against Ebola "a top national security priority" and said that authorities would increase screening for the virus at airports both in America and in West Africa. Obama made the announcement on Monday after being briefed by Dr Thomas Frieden, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, Obama did not specify how screening would be changed.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [More cases of Ebola spreading in Europe 'unavoidable': WHO](#)

Synopsis: More cases of the deadly Ebola virus will almost inevitably spread in Europe but the continent is well prepared to control the disease, the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional director said on Tuesday. Speaking to Reuters just hours after Europe's first local case of Ebola infection was confirmed

in a nurse in Spain, the WHO's European director, Zsuzsanna Jakab, said further such events were "unavoidable".

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Pharmacy profession needs facelift for better healthcare delivery: Dr R S Thakur](#)

Synopsis: The healthcare services undertaken by the central and state governments may remain futile unless the governments try for a facelift to the pharmacy profession for a perfect healthcare delivery. Establishment of a Directorate of Pharmacy will provide appropriate solution to all the issues in the area of pharmacy services, opined Dr R S Thakur, president of the Federation of Indian Pharmacists Organisations (FIPO).

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Tired doctors prescribe more antibiotics](#)

Synopsis: Exhausted by morning and afternoon clinic sessions, physicians are more likely to prescribe antibiotics for respiratory infections later in the day, says a study. Researchers found that doctors appeared to "wear down" and the rate of prescribing antibiotics increased as the day passed.