



News Updates: October 9, 2014

Drug pricing- Rahul Gandhi's allegation

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Drug prices shot up after 'deal' with US companies, says Rahul Gandhi](#)

Synopsis: Hitting the campaign ground in Maharashtra for the first time in this election season, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi alleged at a rally on Wednesday that PM Narendra Modi's recent deals with American pharmaceutical companies have resulted in prices of essential medicines skyrocketing in Indian markets. "In the coming days, life saving drugs will become even more expensive because PM Modi has allowed American companies to sell pharmaceuticals in India and has decontrolled crucial drugs. The poor will not be able to afford medicines or medical treatment," Rahul said at his first rally in Mahad in Konkan region.

Similar reports in-

Hindustan Times- [Why is PM soft on Pak, China: Rahul](#)

The Indian Express- [Now, Rahul invokes Shivaji, refers to Modi as 'vipaksh ka neta'](#)

The Pioneer- [MODI DID NOTHING DESPITE PROVOCATIONS: CONG VP](#)

The Asian Age- [Rahul Gandhi picks on PM Modi inaction](#)

The Telegraph- [Rahul and Sena open border fire at Modi](#)

US Congress drug pricing probe

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Sun, Dr Reddy's, Cadila named in US Congress price probe](#)

Synopsis: The report talks about the US Congress conducting an investigation against 14 generic drug manufacturers following an abnormal rise in prices of 10 generic medicines. The Congress initiated a probe, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's return from America. Indian officials see this move as a deliberate one taken to get back at India, against the backdrop of the ongoing tussle between India and the US over issues such as intellectual property rights (IPR), Compulsory Licensing (CL), drug quality issues and the increased scrutiny of Indian firms by American regulators.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [A bitter pill in the US?](#)

The Times of India- [DRL, Sun Pharma among 14 companies facing price probe in US](#)

The Indian Express- [Dr Reddy's, Sun among 14 firms probed by US Congress over drug price](#)

The Financial Express- [Dr Reddy's, Sun Pharma among 14 firms probed by US Congress over generic drug price](#)

Business Today- [Dr Reddy's, Sun Pharma among 14 firms being probed by US Congress over drug price](#)

Financial Chronicle- [DRL, Sun among 14 firms probed by US Congress](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

Deccan Herald- [Dr Reddy's, Sun among 14 firms probed by US Cong over drug price](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

The New Indian Express- [US Congress Lists 3 Desi Pharma Cos in Drug Pricing Probe](#)

Moneycontrol- [US Cong probe unusual, may add more drug players: PharmAsia](#)

NPPA/ Medical devices pricing

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Maha FDA recommends NPPA to bring five categories of medical devices under DPCO](#)

Synopsis: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recommended to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) and National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to bring five categories of medical devices like Neuro Coils, Cochlear Implants, Cardiac Stents, Ortho Implants and Bone Cement under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 to make it affordable to the patients. The state FDA has recommended the same based on the studies carried out in the past several years and is awaiting a response on the same. Medical devices including drug eluting stents (DES) are notified as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 but is not included under the DPCO. Therefore, the prices of medical devices cannot be monitored and controlled as of today.

Drug Pricing/ NPPA

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Thiruvananthapuram

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [All panchayats in Kerala to have high-speed internet](#)

Synopsis: Drug prices: The Chief Minister said the Central government should take strong steps to control drug prices. Health Minister V.S. Sivakumar had already written to the Centre and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in that regard. He would be personally taking up the issue with the Centre when he visits Delhi. He noted that the drug prices had gone up several times. Hence, the government was examining expansion of Kerala State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited to improve supply of medicines at lower prices. Industries Minister P. K. Kunhalikutty would be holding a meeting with officials concerned to discuss the proposal.

Modi government – IPR

Blog: Pharmalot- The Wall Street Journal

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Blogger: ED SILVERMAN

Headline: [Will a U.S.-India Working Group do the Bidding of the Pharma Industry?](#)

Synopsis: After a meeting last week between President Barack Obama and the recently elected Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the White House issued a statement that included a brief passage saying a new “high level” working group on intellectual property was being created. The statement prompted concern from advocacy groups that closely track the contentious interplay between access to affordable medicines and pharmaceutical patents. In their view, the initiative may become a tool for pressuring India to change its approach to patent law. Why? India is something of a pharmacy to the world, because so many generic drug makers are based there. Moreover, India has also irked brand-name drug makers with laws and court rulings that have made it easier for their generic rivals to sell lower-cost, copycat versions of their medicines.

Publication: The Pioneer

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [RESOLVING IPR DISPUTES](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Given how disputes over intellectual property rights have become a major irritant in India's economic engagement with the rest of the world, the Modi Government has done well to begin

tackling the issue head-on. Especially since the new administration is placing trade and commerce at the heart of India's foreign policy, an effective IPR regime that is in keeping with international standards and also conscious of domestic interests, is the need of the hour. The Union Government has already promised such a regime within the next couple of months, and, additionally, is also working on a one-on-one basis with partner countries to iron out long-standing differences. At the top of the list is the US which has repeatedly complained that India's existing IP laws are regressive and, in some cases, violative of international laws. In fact, ever since the Office of the US Trade Representative began publishing its annual Special 301 Report — which assesses the state of IP protection in countries with which the US does business — India has been on its priority watch-list. This year, the USTR threatened to downgrade India's rating and also announced an out-of-turn review, which could be a prelude to unilateral sanctions. Hopefully, the new bilateral mechanism to look into these contentious issues, announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent US trip should stave off a crisis, and also allow enough time and space to resolve the issues for the long term.

Publication: The Daily Star

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Columnist: Praful Bidwai, Indian journalist, political analyst and activist

Headline: [An Indian-American circus](#)

Synopsis: Mr. Modi's visit failed to rekindle a closer, qualitatively new relationship with the US -- or as some wide-eyed admirers of America put it, "romance." Two major thorny issues remain unaddressed: actualisation of the US-India nuclear deal through reactor imports, and India's position on trade-related and intellectual property rights (IPR) issues in World Trade Organisation negotiations.

Modi government – General

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Opinion piece: Shankar Acharya, honorary professor at ICRIER and former chief economic adviser to the government

Headline: [Where is Team Modi?](#)

Synopsis: The past few weeks have witnessed an extraordinary demonstration of energy, oratory, skillful projection of personal authority, high diplomacy and popular showmanship by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At the end of August, he launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) for financial inclusion to extend bank accounts to every Indian household. Early last month, he was in Japan engaging with his counterpart, Shinzo Abe, promising a special fast-track for all Japanese investors, playing jugalbandhi on drums and generally deepening the Indo-Japanese partnership. Back in India, the prime minister delivered an exhortatory Teachers' Day speech to millions of teachers and students. He then hosted Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbot and finalised an agreement to import uranium for India's nuclear programme. Within days he was off to flood-ravaged Jammu and Kashmir to review the devastation and promise full support for reconstruction and rehabilitation. By mid-month, Mr Modi was welcoming President Xi Jinping of China in Ahmedabad and Delhi, holding summit talks against the tense background of an untimely military stand-off on the border and emphasising the importance of delineating the Line of Actual Control and solving the long-standing boundary issue.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Gandhinagar

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Govt claims achievement of 139 pc target in 100 days](#)

Synopsis: The Gujarat government on Wednesday claimed that it had achieved 139 per cent of the target set by Chief Minister Anandiben Patel under the 'Gatisheel Gujarat' drive during her first 100 days in power. Riding high on this achievement, the Patel government announced the second phase of

this flagship programme for next 150 days, by March 31, 2015. The first phase of 100-day drive was launched on June 2, at the end of first 30 days in power by state's first woman chief minister Patel. The government claimed to have achieved 139 per cent success by completing 48 developmental projects under 11 major subjects within 100 days. The Gujarat government had announced its 100 day target along with similar announcement by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government in New Delhi.

Clinical trials

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: ['No compensation paid to people adversely affected by clinical trials'](#)

Synopsis: The government has not furnished details of the 17,778 people adversely affected by clinical trials on drugs, conducted over a period of eight years (2005-2013), with no compensation being paid to those who suffered serious adverse events. Health activist group, Swasthya Adhikar Manch told the Supreme Court on Wednesday in its affidavit filed in response to the health ministry's reply. In a reply filed with the court in July (and made public today), the health ministry had said that it did not have details of the cases, and compensation had not been paid as there were no provision for it before January 2013. The health ministry said that compensation had been paid only in 89 cases, but did not disclose the names of persons who have died, and to whom compensation has been paid.

Health Ministry

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Union health ministry to frame India's first mental health policy](#)

Synopsis: The Union health ministry has decided to frame India's first mental health policy to overcome the growing burden of mental illness in the country. At present India is following the Mental Health Act of 1987 which is an upgradation of the Indian Lunacy Act of 1912. This was enacted in the year 1993. This policy outlines only the procedures and legal property matters relating to the detention of the one with a mental illness rather than to outlining the rights or treatments available to a person in need.

Similar report in-

The Wall Street Journal- [India to Get First Ever Mental Health Policy](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Chandigarh

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Nothing new in national policy on mental health](#)

Synopsis: In a bid to announce the country's first national policy on mental health on October 10 (World Mental Health Day), the Union ministry of health has come up with a plan plucked out entirely from its predecessor. The issues that raised objections then still figure in the National Mental Health Policy 2014. Experts from public institutes, including premier institutes like AIIMS and PGI, were called on September 29 in New Delhi by the Union ministry of health and family welfare to start working on the means of adopting it. However, sources in the Union ministry said the draft was prepared by a task force in 2011 by the previous government.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Narendra Modi misled on AIIMS CVO Sanjiv Chaturvedi's removal?](#)

Synopsis: Has the Union health ministry misled Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the AIIMS CVO matter? On August 23, health secretary Lov Verma sent a detailed note to the PMO on why Sanjiv Chaturvedi, an Indian Forest Service officer who had uncovered several scams while posted in Haryana, had been removed from the post of Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi. The note, which followed Modi's phone conversation with health minister Harsh Vardhan on the matter, adds fuel to the controversy surrounding Chaturvedi's abrupt removal because it contains apparent contradictions in the ministry's own position and is silent about a BJP Member of Parliament who had sought his dismissal.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Health min gives PMO half story on AIIMS anti-graft official's transfer](#)

The Hindu- [Report on AIIMS whistleblower omits key letters](#)

Universal Health Coverage/ Public Health

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: ['Risk of dying from diseases covered under insurance falls'](#)

Synopsis: The risk of dying from diseases covered under government's free insurance scheme dropped by a significant 64 per cent in Karnataka, a World Bank study said today. The Vajpayee Arogyashree Scheme (VAS) is implemented by Karnataka government with support from the World Bank Group. "The risk of dying from conditions covered by insurance dropped by 64 per cent for residents with insurance. Out of pocket health expenditure for hospitalisation due to covered conditions dropped by 60 per cent," a World Bank release said. The utilisation of healthcare facilities for the covered conditions may have risen, it said. "The results of this study are important to India as it makes choices on how to make progress towards universal health coverage," said Onno Ruhl, World Bank Group Country Director for India.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Health insurance scheme led to significant fall in mortality among poor: study](#)

The Financial Express- [Karnataka health insurance scheme could be model for whole India: WB](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Opinion piece: Zakiya Kurrien, former co-director of Centre for Learning Resources, Pune, and member, Alliance for the Right to Early Childhood Development

Headline: [Ensuring a healthy start to life](#)

Synopsis: The Human Development Report (HDR) released in July 2014 made an important revelation: that India continues to be positioned at 135 in the ranking of 187 countries based on the Human Development Index, and has not moved from where it was positioned the previous year. This raises urgent questions regarding the efficacy of our development policies and programmes. In a departure from previous HDRs, this year's document introduces an important concept, vulnerability, and considers it through a human development lens. In the case of life cycle vulnerabilities which are defined as threats that individuals face at different stages of their lives, the HDR lays great emphasis on early childhood as the most sensitive phase in the formation of life capabilities.

Drug quality/ Drug regulation

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Regulators lack valid data on extractables and leachables in injectables: West Pharma](#)

Synopsis: Regulatory authorities are lacking valid data on extractables and leachables, particularly for injectable drugs and medicine products, because of which there is a lot of ambiguity and confusion prevailing among the drug manufacturers and regulatory authorities, says representatives of West Pharma in a recent seminar held in Hyderabad. Not just the domestic regulators in India, even the international regulators at United States Food and Drugs Administration (US FDA) are also lacking proper documented data on extractables and leachables for the injectable products. The recent cases of drug adverse reactions in government hospitals in Rajasthan, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh evidently prove that pre filled syringes, vials and bottles are being contaminated either by manual mishandling or because of improper material used for packaging these drugs which get leached and extracted into the actual medicine.

Industry news

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Labour Ministry to revamp health scheme](#)

Synopsis: The Labour ministry is considering a revamp of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) by including wellness checks and OPD facilities to beneficiaries and creating a uniform IT application for all the facilities offered under the scheme. It may also waive Rs 30 the beneficiaries pay for smartcard. "The revamping is being done to make the scheme transparent and more beneficial to the beneficiaries," a Labour Ministry official said.

Website: Moneycontrol (*appeared in Mint*)

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Compliance, quality control vital for success: Sun Pharma](#)

Synopsis: Dilip Shanghvi, founder and managing director, Sun Pharma, says the company has realized that compliance and maintaining good manufacturing practices (GMPs) will ultimately determine a company's success. Speaking to CNBC-TV18 after he won Entrepreneur of the Year by Forbes India, Shanghvi says Cipla is poised to be the number two company in a few years time. Furthermore, Shanghvi expressed his optimism on the US market saying the US congress is attempting to create the same level of inspection and audit for Indian companies that a typical US company needs to go through.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [GSK picks Zubair Ahmed for global role in proposed JV with Novartis](#)

Synopsis: UK-based pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline Plc. has appointed Zubair Ahmed, senior vice-president for the Indian subcontinent (India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh), to head its proposed joint venture with Novartis AG in the Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa. Ahmed, who joined the company in 2007, will assume his new role in the first half of 2015, following the closure of the deal. GlaxoSmithKline and Novartis announced an exchange of assets in April to boost their consumer healthcare businesses.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: October 8, 2014

Headline: [Number of people affected with dengue in India maybe 300 times higher than what is officially reported: ICMR study](#)

Synopsis: The number of people getting affected with dengue in India could actually be almost 300 times higher than what is officially reported by the country's ministry of health.

The conclusion has been made by none other than the Indian Council of Medical Research - the government's primary body for all medical and scientific research. The new study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene says that there are nearly 6 million more dengue cases in India than the official annual tally.

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: Chandigarh

Date: October 9, 2014

Headline: [Docs body flay Act on clinical establishments](#)

Synopsis: The Medicos Legal Action Group (MLAG) has opposed the Clinical Establishment Act (CEA) and said the law, if implemented, will raise the cost of treatment in small and medium healthcare establishments. The union health ministry, on its website, has asked for feedback from stakeholders regarding minimum standards under the CEA to be sent by October 9. Dr Neeraj Nagpal, convener of MLAG, said that the idea of 26 licences for a small 10-bed nursing home was absurd and was being brought with ulterior motive of helping hospitals in the private sector.