



News Updates: September 10, 2014

NPPA/ Drug pricing

Publication: Millennium Post

Edition: National

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Lives over prices](#)

Synopsis: Serum Albumin, the critical life saving drug has vanished from the medicine markets of the nation. What is interesting is, that this is not the first time a life saving drug has suddenly disappeared leaving patients lodged in critical care units on the brink of death. Last year, India faced a similar situation when supplies of the HIV-AIDS treating antiretroviral drugs were halted after the procuring agency National Aids Control Organisation failed to clear payments of pharmaceutical companies.

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: September 10, 2014

Contributor: John R. Graham, Senior Fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis and the Independent Institute

Headline: [Indian Patients Suffer from India's Weak Pharmaceutical Patents](#)

Synopsis: India's recently elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will visit the U.S. later this month. One of the sticking points in the U.S.-India relationship is weakness in India's laws governing intellectual property (IP). The Global Intellectual Property Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranks 25 countries in its Global IP Index, and India comes in last place. Indian growth will continue to lag as long as this persists: Researchers have demonstrated the positive relationship between IP protection and a country's prosperity.

Publication: Business Today

Edition: Hyderabad

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [IPR policy in the pipeline, says Nirmala Sitharaman](#)

Synopsis: The government will soon formulate a new policy on intellectual property rights (IPR) that will help in dealing with issues being raised by developed nations and protect India's interests. At a press conference held here on Monday to highlight the government's performance in the first 100 days, commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the ministry will soon have a think tank that will enable it to handle IPR issues more firmly.

Similar report in-

Niti Central- [India USA Patents dispute – IPR policy recast ahead of Modi visit](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Novartis files lawsuit against Zydus](#)

Synopsis: Ahmedabad-based Cadila Healthcare Ltd (Zydus Cadila) is facing lawsuits in various US courts, including one filed by global pharma major Novartis Pharmaceuticals, for infringement of patents. Novartis has filed two suits against Cadila Healthcare's US subsidiaries Zydus Noveltech and Zydus Pharmaceuticals (USA), accusing them of infringing patents relating to a drug that treats Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. A similar suit has been filed by Roxane Laboratories Inc in a New Jersey court against Zydus Cadila for infringement of patent for a drug used to treat patients with end-stage renal failure.

Health Ministry

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: September 9, 2014

Opinion piece: Monica Das Gupta, research professor, University of Maryland, US and V R Muraleedharan, professor of economics, IIT-Madras

Headline: [Insurance can be bad for health](#)

Synopsis: Last month, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan offered a glimpse into the new government's universal health assurance scheme, of which insurance will be an important component. Health insurance is also part of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the NDA government's financial inclusion programme. But international experience does not support the government's push towards universal health insurance. India has a "single-payer" health system, at least in principle, which was intended to be financed by tax revenues and available free for all at government facilities. In large parts of the country, due to underfunding and poor management, this system has functioned poorly, as indicated by low facility utilisation rates. Meanwhile, private spending on health has soared.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 9, 2014

Headline: [Bangladesh visit: Harsh Vardhan calls for packing in "power of belief" in war on diseases](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has urged governments to manifest "power of belief" while strategising against the disease burden. Often, self-determination outweighs the resource crunch and logistical difficulties. Addressing the opening session of the 67th General Meeting of WHO Regional Committee here today, he said, "Power of belief has also given us new hope, new energy, new enthusiasm and new vision to take on even greater health challenges."

Similar reports in-

First Post- [Turn health issues into a social and community movement: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Zee News- [India, Bangladesh sign MoU on traditional medicine, homeopathy](#)

IBN Live- [Harsh Vardhan seeks Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's support in taming vector-borne diseases](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Smokers likely to face heavy fine for puffing in public](#)

Synopsis: The government is considering a proposal to ban the sale of loose cigarettes, a move that will hit ITCBSE -1.20 % and other cigarette makers hard as 70 per cent of retail takes place in this form. This is one of the many measures proposed by an expert panel set up by the health ministry. Other suggestions include raising the age limit for consumption and increasing the fine for smoking in public spaces to Rs 20,000 from Rs 200, apart from making this a cognizable offence.

Modi government

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [HIV patients sue Centre for drug shortage](#)

Synopsis: A patient group has sued the government for shortage of HIV drugs at anti-retroviral therapy (ART) centres nationwide and has held the Union health ministry responsible for it. The missing medicines and kits--commonly referred to as stock-outs--are a result of complex factors, including supply bottlenecks and poorly managed bidding processes. TOI had first reported the issue on August 27.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Prime Minister urges FAO to take the lead in protecting interests of poor and farmers at WTO DG, FAO calls on PM](#)

Synopsis: The Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva, called on the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today. The Prime Minister described Dr. da Silva as one of the champions of the "No Hunger Project" in Brazil, and called upon the FAO to take the lead in protecting the interests of the poor and farmers at the World Trade Organization. The Prime Minister asserted that India does not stand in the way of a rule-based global trade agreement, but India cannot sacrifice the interests and food security of the poor and the farmers.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Chronicle- [PM urges FAO to back Indian cause at WTO](#)

The Indian Express- [India not blocking rule-based global trade: Narendra Modi](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Centre to bring all paramedical studies in the country under a single regulatory body](#)

Synopsis: In order to streamline and standardise the allied medical education in the country, the Union health ministry will soon take initiatives under which all paramedical studies in the country will be brought under a single regulatory body. In this direction, the ministry will form a National Board of Allied Health Services by the year-end as a facilitator. This was announced recently by Vishwas Mehta, joint secretary in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, while addressing a two-day conference on Allied Health Professionals and their importance in the role of healthcare services at the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), Kochi.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 9, 2014

Headline: [Gujarat invites US industry to join in India's transformation](#)

Synopsis: A delegation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat has invited US industry to be part of India's growth story as the new Indian government is focused on industry, business and investments. "With Modi's firm belief in minimum government and maximum governance, India is bound to rise, opening up tremendous opportunities for everyone," said Bharat Lal, resident commissioner of Gujarat, leading a "Vibrant Gujarat" delegation at an investor event here Monday.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [Gujarat walks the business ramp in US ahead of PM Modi's visit](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [PM Narendra Modi means business on maiden US trip; 26 meetings in 3 days lined up](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi promises to pack more than a diplomatic punch in his upcoming visit to the US, where he is expected to reach out to the global community through a series of meetings and extensive use of technology while seeking to maximise the impact on investors and policy-makers. Modi's three-day visit from September 27 is expected to be chock-full with as many as 26 different meetings, in addition to his working lunch with US President Barack Obama at the White House and address to the United Nations, people familiar with the preparations said, adding that the schedule is yet to be finalised. The PM will be in New York on September 27 and 28, and in Washington for a day thereafter for the trip, which experts say could elevate his stature further on the global stage and infuse fresh energy and sense of purpose into relations between the world's two largest democracies.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [Obama administration turns on charm offensive to welcome Modi](#)

The Asian Age- [Barack Obama and PM Narendra Modi to meet over 2 days](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: September 9, 2014

Headline: [National interest first in foreign trade policy: Sitharaman](#)

Synopsis: The Government is anxious to dispel the impression that it is a global "deal breaker", a tag that seems to have stuck after India took a hard line on agricultural stockpiling and farm subsidies at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Speaking to BusinessLine on Tuesday, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman cited the signing of the free trade pact with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an instance of the government's "rational" foreign trade policy. The Commerce Minister felt the new Government's approach tends to get misinterpreted. "We had genuine issues to flag at the WTO. But so far as the ASEAN agreement was concerned, we had agreed to sign it without any pre-condition," she said. Commenting on her absence from the ASEAN meet, she said: "I could not be in Myanmar on the day the agreement had to be signed because the Jan Dhan Yojana was to be launched. The whole issue was blown out of proportion." . She said it had been agreed that individual countries will ink the agreement and the deal will come into effect after each of the 10 member-states have signed it. "Accordingly, I received the agreement last Thursday and signed it the same day. But the buzz was that we had refused to sign it," the Minister added.

Drug regulation

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Hyderabad

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Banned, But Not in India](#)

Synopsis: In 1996, when the Indian government banned the combination of the drug Analgin with other drugs, countless young women were still merrily popping Baralgin (a combination of Analgin and two other drugs) to get relief from menstrual cramps. Though last year, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) did ban the drug, it again reversed the decision earlier this year. Though other countries like the United States of America, France and Australia continued with their ban. Analgin to this day, continues to be in circulation.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Pharmexcil to organise 10th annual meet from September 18-19 in Hyderabad](#)

Synopsis: The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) is planning to organize its 10th annual meet on September 18-19, 2014 in Hyderabad. As part of its annual conglomeration, this time the council is also organizing a technical conference and seminar on the regulatory and orphan drugs. Eminent speakers from US FDA, UK MHRA, WHO, UNICEF, GMP consultants and representatives from industry are expected to deliberate on various aspects concerning the pharmaceutical industry.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [UK drug regulator inspects Wockhardt Chikalthana unit](#)

Synopsis: Drug maker Wockhardt's manufacturing facility in Chikalthana, near Aurangabad in Maharashtra, was inspected earlier this week by the British drug regulator, Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), it is learnt. The facility, banned from the American market, is currently under tight scrutiny of the UK regulator.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [TROUBLE WORSENING FOR EXPORTERS](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Pharmaceutical export from India continues to be in trouble with the growing global competition and recurrent regulatory actions against some of the top Indian companies. India's total pharmaceutical exports registered slowest growth rate of just 2 per cent at \$14.84 billion during the financial year ended March 2014. The growth of Indian pharmaceutical exports during 2012-13 came down to 10.55 per cent over previous year with export of \$14.6 billion. Whereas during 2011-12, the exports stood at \$13.2 billion registering a growth of 23.7 per cent over 2010-11. The declining trend in pharmaceutical export from the country, in fact, started following stringent regulatory scrutiny of manufacturing plants of top Indian pharma companies by the US FDA and European drug authorities. The restrictions imposed on the export of Ranbaxy and Wockhardt by US authorities were mainly responsible for the dismal export performance of the country during 2013-14. And the prospects do not seem to be that promising for the current year as well indicating that the export target of 25 billion dollars set for 2014-15 is unlikely to be achieved in the near future.

Public health

Website: Scroll

Edition: Online

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Four reasons why Modi's toilet obsession is good for India](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat scheme aims to eliminate open defecation by constructing toilets in every household by 2019. No one doubts the need for the programme. Close to 48% of India's urban population has no access to toilets. In rural areas, the number stands at 60%. "It is an ambitious plan and definitely the need of the hour," said Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of the sanitation organisation Sulabh International. "However, the government will have to do it right, which will require comprehensive planning."

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 10, 2014

Headline: [Sun Plans New Field Exercise to Pep Up Productivity of Ranbaxy Reps](#)

Synopsis: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, India's biggest drug maker, is planning to firm up a series of measures soon with the aim to improve field-force productivity in domestic operations of Ranbaxy Laboratories, the company it is in the process of acquiring from its Japanese parent Daiichi Sankyo. The drug maker also plans to draw up detailed cross-selling plans for each state, as per industry consultants familiar with the matter.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 9, 2014

Headline: [GSK China consumer healthcare unit linked to Department of Justice probe in 2012](#)

Synopsis: Allegations of a widespread network of bribery in China to promote sales surfaced last year against GSK, which now faces corruption probes by British, US and Chinese investigators. Chinese authorities have laid charges against three GSK executives over allegations the firm funnelled up to 3 billion yuan (\$482 million) to travel agencies to facilitate bribes to doctors and officials.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Express- [GSK China consumer healthcare unit linked to US probe in 2012](#)

Reuters- [GSK China consumer healthcare unit linked to DOJ probe in 2012](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 9, 2014

Headline: [Sweden launches life science and healthcare platform in India](#)

Synopsis: Sweden today launched a life science and healthcare platform in India with an aim to promote sustainable best practises in the sector. The platform will be an amalgamation of ideas within the Swedish model of healthcare - Symbiocare, Health by Sweden and best practises in India. "It is a start, and we will engage all the stakeholders to meet the challenges of healthcare in India. We will act as a facilitator," Ambassador of Sweden in India Harald Sandberg told PTI.

Publication: India Today

Edition: Online

Date: September 9, 2014

Headline: [Ebola spreading 'exponentially' in Liberia and other developments](#)

Synopsis: The Ebola virus is spreading "exponentially" in Liberia, reports have said quoting the World Health Organisation (WHO) even as patients filling up taxis are frantically searching for medical care. Meanwhile, a new vaccine regimen offers new hope as the world health community battles an Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa that has killed over 2,000 people so far. According to media reports, with skeletal medical system structure in West Africa, the three patients evacuated to the United States began recovering after getting good supportive care.

