



News Updates: September 13-15, 2014

NPPA/ DPCO/ Drug Pricing

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Patients pay three times import price for stents](#)

Synopsis: The government has a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to regulate prices of telephony, an electricity regulator to control power prices and so on. But India has no body to ensure that medical device companies do not overcharge patients. The result is loot. Most patients are forced to pay anything between Rs 60,000 and Rs 1 lakh or more for cardiac drug eluting stents (DES) though the same stents cost Rs 28,000-Rs 48,000 even in rich European countries and the UK, where there is price control or a fair pricing mechanism for medical devices.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [Malaria drugs, antivenom short as govt rushes relief to J&K](#)

Synopsis: Relief operations in the flood-affected areas of Jammu & Kashmir could be hurt by a nationwide shortage of essential medicines, including malaria drugs and antivenom. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has asked drug companies to immediately bridge the gap and submit compliance reports within 96 hours. Malaria drugs and antivenom are vital during the monsoon, especially in coastal regions. Scarcity of rabies vaccine, rabies immunoglobulin and albumin injections has also been reported to the NPPA, which keeps tabs on the availability of medicines in the country. Albumin injections are used after surgery. "Many states have reported shortage of these medicines during the past few months. We have also checked through our network and found scarcity," an official told Business Standard. "There could be two reasons for the shortage. One, demand has gone up and, second, supply has reduced. The second reason is more likely," he added.

Publication: Mint

Edition:

National

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Indian companies to sign generic licensing deal for Hepatitis C drug Sovaldi](#)

Synopsis: Cipla Ltd, Strides Arcolab Ltd, Mylan Laboratories Ltd and Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd are among six generic drug makers that are likely to sign licensing deals with Gilead Sciences Inc. to sell a low-cost version of its \$1000-a-day Hepatitis C drug Sovaldi. The licensing agreements, expected to be announced on Monday, will allow the generic drug companies to make and sell copies of the expensive pill for low- and middle-income countries at lower prices, according to three people familiar with the development.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [Gilead to allow 5 Indian firms to sell hepatitis generics in 90 countries](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Industry urges NPPA to keep differentiated/modified dosage forms out of DPCO 2013](#)

Synopsis: The pharmaceutical industry in the country has urged the NPPA to keep the differentiated/modified dosage forms out of the ambit of DPCO 2013, as these dosage forms are patient-friendly and involve huge investments in R&D to develop them. According to experts, the pharmaceutical industry is a differentiated/modified technology driven industry, wherein new technology is introduced for administration of drugs to the patient, with an objective of providing patient-friendly dosages along with therapeutic dosage compliance, anti-counterfeiting measures to provide patients with a genuine product, better therapeutic value, superior quality dosage forms combined with benefit of better safety profile.

Website: BTVin

Edition: Online

Date: September 12, 2014

Headline: [NPPA Summons Stakeholders](#)

Synopsis: Even as the drug pricing tussle has taken legal recourse, sources tell Bloomberg TV India that the pricing regulator National Pharmacy Pricing Association has called for a meeting to be held with stakeholders on 17th of September to convince them on the price caps imposed under Para 19 of the drug pricing control order. Priya Sheth takes you through the agenda of the meeting.

OPPI

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [DRL, Ranbaxy yet to reduce drug prices after July10 order, many other cos cut prices](#)

Synopsis: Following Ranbaxy's refusal to cut prices in anti-diabetic and cardio-vascular segments in compliance with the July 10 NPPA order, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd (DRL) has also refused to cut prices of the 13 specific products covered as per the NPPA notification. Both the companies are supplying drugs at the old prices citing the High Court stay granted to them till the next hearing on February 24, 2015. DRL and Ranbaxy in their letters to all the stockists have made it amply clear that the stay granted by the High Court continues to be in effect till the next hearing. As per sources, Cipla, Pfizer, Abbott and Sanofi have started supplying drugs capped in the anti-diabetic and cardio-vascular segments as per the July 10 NPPA notification.

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Website: NCPA (reproduced from Forbes)

Edition: Online

Date: September 12, 2014

Headline: [Indian Patients Lose under Indian Patent Regime](#)

Synopsis: According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center, India ranks last in its list of 25 countries when it comes to intellectual property laws. NCPA Senior Fellow John Graham explains how the country's patent laws hurt Indian patients: because few drugs receive strong patent protection, drug-makers are loath to sell their medicines in India.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [Increasing patent expiration may brighten India's export prospects: CARE Ratings](#)

Synopsis: CARE Ratings has pointed out that the drug patent expiry in the USA will create new opportunity for Indian pharmaceutical industry in the coming years and the pharma industry will gain a larger foothold in the world's generic market. In the long term, semi-regulated markets like Latin America, Africa and Asia may offer the next growth avenues for Indian pharma companies as these markets have high demand for drugs and relatively less stringent regulatory compliance resulting in lower cost of servicing these markets. However, CARE said that higher number of import alerts issued by the US FDA may hamper the image of Indian pharma companies and there marketing efforts. If this continues in the long term, it may hurt the profitability of Indian generic drug producers. Thus, the need of the hour is that Indian firm should make sure the quality standards are adequately met.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Govt to hear out US pharma companies' patent fears](#)

Synopsis: After months of skirmishes, the government is finally going to sit down with American pharma giants this week to hear out their concerns, a move that comes weeks before Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaves for the US. Sources told TOI that commerce secretary Rajeev Kher will hold discussions with the drug companies that have been critical of India's intellectual property rights regime, especially over the use of compulsory licensing provisions that resulted in patent rights waiver for a cancer medicine. The other area of concern is the use of provisions to deny patents to medicines on the grounds that they lack innovation.

Similar report in-

The Economic Times- [Government to hear out US pharma companies' patent fears](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [Pfizer, Ranbaxy win dismissal of antitrust lawsuit over generic Lipitor](#)

Synopsis: Pfizer Inc and Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd on Friday won dismissal of an antitrust lawsuit accusing them of conspiring to delay sales of generic versions of the cholesterol drug Lipitor, the best-selling drug in history. US District Judge Peter Sheridan in Trenton, New Jersey ruled that the plaintiffs, retailers and distribution companies that bought Lipitor directly from Pfizer, failed to plead their case with enough detail.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Pfizer, Ranbaxy win dismissal of lawsuit over generic Lipitor](#)

Business Standard- [Pfizer, Ranbaxy win dismissal of lawsuit over generic Lipitor](#)

The Times of India- [Pfizer, Ranbaxy win dismissal of lawsuit over generic Lipitor](#)

The Financial Express- [Pfizer and Ranbaxy win dismissal of lawsuit over generic Lipitor](#)

Deccan Herald- [Pfizer, Ranbaxy win lawsuit over generic Lipitor](#)

Publication: Jagran Josh

Edition: Online

Date: September 12, 2014

Headline: [Union Government launched New Payment Gateway Integrated to e-Filing System](#)

Synopsis: Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 8 September 2014 launched a New Payment Gateway Integrated to e-Filing System of the Intellectual Property Office of India (IPOI). It was launched

by Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). The new facility will enable payment using internet banking, credit cards or debit cards of more than 70 Banks as against internet banking of 2 banks earlier. This will lead to increase in online filing of forms for patent and trademarks by 25 to 75 percent. Earlier all Forms was made available by Intellectual Property Office (IPO).

Health Ministry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in Jammu and Kashmir to oversee medical relief efforts](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan is visiting Jammu and Kashmir to take stock of medical relief operations in the flood-hit state. Officials said that the Health Minister will reach Jammu today and oversee the on site relief operations there. He will visit Srinagar tomorrow to review the relief work there. The Health Ministry has earlier sent over 100 tonnes of medicines and other supplies besides teams of doctors and experts to flood-ravaged Jammu and Kashmir. A 20-member clinical team comprising physicians, pediatricians and reproductive health specialists have been deployed in Srinagar.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Additional emergency medicines for Kashmir: Harsh Vardhan](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Health minister to oversee relief operations in J&K](#)

The Times of India- [Jammu & Kashmir floods: Centre to send doctors, paramedics to prevent outbreak of diseases](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Central govt closely monitoring JK situation: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 12, 2014

Headline: [India has healthcare vision for the world: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: India has a healthcare vision for the world supported by its ancient system of holistic medication and is committed to extending cooperation and expertise to its neighbours, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said here on Friday. "We have a (healthcare) vision not only for India but for the entire world...while we will work for the people of the region," Vardhan told PTI on the sidelines of a four-day conference of World Health Organisation (WHO).

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Health issues should find place in diplomacy: Harsh Vardhan](#)

The Indian Express- [India has healthcare vision for the world: Harsh Vardhan](#)

IANS- [Health issues should find place in diplomacy: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Publication: The Pioneer

Edition: Delhi

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Health across borders](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan has rightly noted that in today's globalised world, no country can exist in isolation. Clichéd as it may sound, we do live in a global village, although we often fail to comprehend the extent to which our destinies are connected. For example, we know that disturbances on Wall Street can send ripples through Dalal Street. But rarely do

we consider the implications of the rise of polio in Pakistan on this country's public health.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Jaipur

Date: September 14, 2014

Headline: [Ban scented, flavoured tobacco: Union health minister to Rajasthan](#)

Synopsis: At a time when Rajasthan is finding it difficult to prevent people from consuming 'gutkha' even after imposing ban on it, a letter from Union health minister Harshvardhan suggesting a ban on flavoured and scented tobacco put the state government in a fix. In July 2012, Rajasthan government took the decision to ban gutkha. After the ban, ready to eat gutkha packets are not available in the market. But companies are selling it by segregating tobacco and other ingredients in different pouches. Tobacco users buy the pouches, mix them and consume the 'gutkha' mixture.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Patna

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [Hold CBI probe: Modi to Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Apropos what former CM Nitish Kumar asked BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi on Thursday regarding drug purchase scam case, the former deputy CM has come up with an idea. He has suggested his former boss to collect information about the drugs and equipment purchase scam in Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) through RTI. Nitish had sent a letter to Sushil Kumar Modi on Thursday asking him to furnish information about the scam. He also wrote to the chief secretary seeking information about the scam. Modi, apart from giving suggestion to Nitish, also dashed off a letter to Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Friday seeking a CBI probe into what he claimed a Rs100-crore scam by the corporation. In his letter, he said that there had been largescale loot of the money sent by the Centre under the National Rural Health Mission. The corporation purchased substandard and expired drugs from six blacklisted drug manufacturing companies, he said.

Website: First Post

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Delhi govt to fast-track cases against Harsh Vardhan, others](#)

Synopsis: The Delhi government wants cases fast-tracked against nine lawmakers, including Health Minister Hardh Vardhan, after the central government demanded speedy trials of elected leaders. "There are 11 criminal cases in which charges were framed against nine MPs and MLAs," a government official told IANS, referring to members of parliament and state legislatures.

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 14, 2014

Headline: [No stops for Narendra Modi in US](#)

Synopsis: Not long ago, Narendra Modi was not welcome in the US. But the US is now pulling out all stops to woo him when he comes calling at the White House as India's prime minister at the end of this month. President Barack Obama will host a dinner for him September 29 before bilateral talks at the White House the next day and this will be followed by a lunch hosted by Vice President Joe Biden at the State Department.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 12, 2014

Headline: [PM Modi's US Visit: India, US discuss WTO, visa, IPR related issues](#)

Synopsis: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US, a senior American official today met Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman and discussed various issues including India's stand in the WTO on the food security issue. During the the meeting between Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Caroline Atkinson and Sitharaman, India reiterated its position on the public stock holding for food security purposes at the World Trade organisation (WTO), sources said.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [Hamid Ansari lauds Narendra Modi's policy of engaging the world](#)

Synopsis: Observing that nations cannot live in isolation and interaction and cooperation are a dire necessity, Vice President Hamid Ansari Saturday lauded the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party government's foreign policy. "Nations cannot live in isolation and interaction and cooperation is a dire necessity. The new government has taken wise steps and is continuing the process of engaging with the world," Ansari said during an event here on emerging trends and challenges in India.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 15, 2014

Opinion piece: Devesh Kapur, director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania

Headline: [Devesh Kapur: Summitry over substance?](#)

Synopsis: Expectations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States later this month need to be modulated with stiff doses of reality. Structural weakness in the United States means that it cannot offer much; and what can be offered is further limited by India's inability to leverage it to advantage. In contrast to the last few years, there is a perceptible shift in the dynamics of the relationship between the two countries. Although President Barack Obama had developed a warm and personal relationship with former prime minister Manmohan Singh, the latter's manifest political weakness meant that this personal chemistry yielded few tangible results.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: September 14, 2014

Headline: [Before leaving for US, Modi to pitch Make in India to world](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil his signature 'Make in India' initiative on September 25 with a raft of proposals designed to get foreign companies to set up shop and make the country a manufacturing powerhouse. Modi will announce the plan at an event in Vigyan Bhawan that will be beamed live not just across the country but to gatherings of industrialists across the world. Modi, who leaves for the United States the following day, will also personally reach out to thousands of global CEOs and corporate influencers in a grand sales pitch, sources familiar with the matter said. The Make in India programme, first mooted by the PM in his Independence Day speech last month, will lay emphasis on 25 sectors with focus on job creation and skill enhancement.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Ensuring real food security for the poor](#)

Synopsis: When India halted a global agreement on trade facilitation in late July to protect its poor consumers and farmers, its stand was widely criticized. Accusations of bad faith flowed freely. Some commentators even foresaw the end of global trade liberalization in India's quest for food security. All that may have been premature. Last week, India took the first step in getting back to the negotiating table. It has notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) the amount of agricultural subsidies it dished out to its farmers, and implicitly its poor consumers of food in the seven years from 2004-05 to 2010-11. India spent \$56.1 billion in the last year alone of this period in supporting its agriculture.

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Unctad backs India on WTO trade deal](#)

Synopsis: India's argument that a trade facilitation agreement (TFA) is not of immediate benefit to global trade nor fulfils the World Trade Organisation's development agenda has been backed by a UN body that says modernising customs procedures will not address the main constraints to trade today. The United Nations conference on trade and development (Unctad) in its 2014 trade and development report reminded the 160-member WTO, in particular the industrialised nations, that global trade has neither slowed down nor remained quasi-stagnant because of higher trade barriers or supply-side difficulties; its slow growth is the result of weak global demand.

Website: One India

Edition: Online

Date: September 14, 2014

Headline: [How Narendra Modi's 'Swacch Bharat Mission' will boost the Indian economy: Explained](#)

Synopsis: To tackle the sanitation and waste management issues in India and to ensure proper hygiene across the nation, the Narendra Modi Government will soon launch 'Swacch Bharat' movement to make India a spic and span country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently emphasised on 'Clean India' and said it should be linked with economic activity of the country.

Medical corruption

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Profits from medical devices used to bribe doctors?](#)

Synopsis: A detailed investigation by the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had exposed how drug eluting stents are sold at triple the price at which they are imported. A complaint sent to one of the largest medical device companies, Medtronic USA, revealed how local distributors for major medical device companies were allowed to charge huge margins on devices and how the cash thus generated was used to bribe doctors to persuade them to use their company's devices. One of the examples cited in the Maharashtra FDA report is of drug eluting stents manufactured by Medtronic Inc, imported into India by Medtronic Pvt Ltd (IMPL) at Rs 30,848 and sold to the distributor Bhalani Biomedicals Pvt Ltd for Rs 67,000. Bhalani then sold the DES to hospitals for one lakh plus against the marked maximum retail price (MRP) of Rs 1.62 lakh.

FDA

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [FDA inspection finds incomplete records at Sun Pharma's Halol plant](#)

Synopsis: Inspectors of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have seized some incomplete records during a surprise check this week at Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd's formulation factory at Halol in Gujarat, people familiar with the development said. "The inspectors have got some material evidence, which include records that are not properly maintained, among others that may or may not lead to negative observations by the US regulator," said one of the people who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [Sun, Ranbaxy fall on surprise inspection by USFDA](#)

Universal Immunisation Programme

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: September 14, 2014

Opinion piece: NK Ganguly is former director general, ICMR, and currently the visiting professor of eminence, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute

Headline: [The universal immunisation plan needs a booster dose](#)

Synopsis: India continues to face challenges despite making progress in the health sector. There has been a significant fall in maternal deaths, but the country still has the highest number of newborn deaths. To reduce child mortality, the NDA has introduced four new vaccines against rubella, inactivated polio, rotavirus and Japanese encephalitis as part of the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). According to Unicef's review of child rights in South Asia, released on Thursday, India's neighbours, except Afghanistan and Pakistan, have done better on all key social and health indicators. An important point to note in their success is the utilisation of new and improved diagnostics, drugs and vaccines. These are some critical tools that can go a long way towards improving health outcomes. Though India has taken steps to expand access to these tools, a lot needs to be done especially when it comes to vaccination. India has the capability to manufacture vaccines. Rubella and meningococcal vaccines, made in India, have saved many lives in South America and Africa. But many life-saving vaccines are still unavailable to the people who need them in India. The fact that India has been declared polio-free, after decades of tireless campaign, shows that the success can be replicated to eradicate other childhood diseases.

FDI Insurance

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [LIC favours raising FDI cap in insurance sector to 49 per cent](#)

Synopsis: Public sector insurer LIC has lent its support to government's proposal of raising the FDI limit in the sector to 49 per cent, a move criticised by a section of the select committee that is evaluating amendments to a Bill pending for four years in Rajya Sabha. Sources said LIC Chairman S K Roy, while presenting the view of the country's largest insurer at a recent meeting of the select committee, was in favour of raising the cap from 26 per cent now, which according to some members is "politically motivated."

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Pharma: Go with the globe-trotters](#)

Synopsis: After an eight-month hiatus, pharma stocks are back in action. The BSE Healthcare Index has been the top sector performer since the Narendra Modi Government took over, gaining over 35 per cent since May. Stock prices were propelled by robust financials in the June quarter — aggregate revenue and profit of the 17 companies in the BSE Healthcare Index grew 28 and 31 per cent, respectively. The index has, in fact, jumped three-fold in the last five years, even as the Sensex gained 70 per cent in this period. The aggregate profits of companies constituting the BSE Healthcare Index have risen at 23 per cent annually since 2008-09, faster than the 14 per cent profit growth for Sensex companies. Given the stellar rally in the last five years, is there more steam left in pharma stocks? Certainly. But given the challenges on the regulatory, pricing and business fronts, here's how you should go about selecting the stocks for your portfolio.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Bhopal

Date: September 14, 2014

Headline: [Ananth Kumar wants MP to have chapter on lifestyle diseases in school curriculum](#)

Synopsis: Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Ananth Kumar on Sunday asked Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to introduce a chapter on lifestyle diseases in school curriculum. With this move, Madhya Pradesh would become the first state in the country to have such a topic discussed at the school level. Addressing a workshop on echocardiography, Kumar said, "Cardiac diseases have become an epidemic in our country. Therefore, the only answer to this is prevention and cure. For prevention we need to create awareness among students by including a chapter on lifestyle: from diabetes to blood pressure to cardiovascular diseases.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [MP to teach lifestyle lessons in schools from next year](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Patna

Date: September 13, 2014

Headline: [No drug buy from firms under scanner](#)

Synopsis: Doing a second course correction, health minister Ramdhani Singh on Friday instructed Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) to stop procurement of drugs from 20 pharma firms from whom procurement was made at inflated rates. This move comes in the light of Dr K K Singh report, which cited irregularities in the purchase of drugs and equipments. As many as 35 types of drugs were purchased by the corporation from them. Some of these firms are Alpa Laboratories, Arvind Remedies Limited, Biogenetic Drugs Pvt Limited, Ciron Drugs and Pharma Limited, Embark Lifesciences, Lyca Labs Ltd, Micron Pharmaceuticals, DJ Laboratories, Scott Edill Pharmaceuticals, Cyper Pharma, Serum Lab, Geneica Healthcare Private Limited, Zim Laboratories Limited, Ravian Lifesciences Private Limited, Nion Laboratories Limited and Embark Lifesciences.

