



News Updates: September 16, 2014

OPPI HR Summit

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: Mumbai, Bangalore
Date: September 16, 2014
Headline: [EVENT REPORT](#) (scan attached as well)

Synopsis: The annual HR summit on 'Attracting, developing & retaining talent' by The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) was a lively mix of HR challenges common to all industries and those specific to the Indian pharmaceutical industry. Prabhir Jha, president and group CHRO, Reliance Industries Ltd spoke about what the pharma industry needs to do to make itself a destination of choice rather than chance, in his keynote address.

OPPI- J&K floods

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: Online
Date: September 16, 2014
Headline: [Pharma companies face problems in distribution of drugs in Jammu and Kashmir](#)

Synopsis: Pharmaceutical companies, which are sending across medical aid for flood affected people in Jammu and Kashmir, claim to be facing difficulties in distribution of drugs. M Srinivas Reddy, Director (marketing) of Hetero Drugs Limited, a leading private pharma company, said that many pharmaceutical manufacturers are willing to donate medicines and the government needs to bring in doctors from outside to the submerged region immediately, besides setting up make-shift hospitals to avert a 'medical disaster'. When contacted, a spokesperson of **Organisation of Pharmaceuticals Producers of India** said they received a letter from the government seeking support from its members in terms of supplying drugs free of cost. "The same has been forwarded to our members requesting support on individual basis," the spokesperson said.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Pharma companies face problems in distribution of drugs in J&K](#)
First Post- [Pharma firms face difficulties in distribution of drugs in J&K: Reddy](#)

NPPA/ DPCO/ Drug Pricing

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: National
Date: September 16, 2014
Headline: [The Most Expensive Drugs Sold in India](#)

Synopsis: In 2006, US drug maker Gilead Sciences Inc introduced the concept of voluntary licences in India, where it gave permission to some Indian companies to manufacture and sell its anti-HIV drug Viread. Now, Gilead has applied the same strategy for Sovaldi, considered to be a path-breaking treatment to cure Hepatitis C infection. Gilead has signed non-exclusive licensing agreements with Cadila Healthcare, Hetero Labs, Mylan Laboratories, Ranbaxy Laboratories, SeQuent Scientific, Strides Arcolab and Cipla to manufacture and sell Sovaldi in 91 developing countries in return for royalty payments. Gilead has left it to these drug makers to fix the price.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Hepatitis C drug in India to cost 49 lakh less than in US](#)

Synopsis: Sofosbuvir, the wonder medicine for Hepatitis C that costs \$84,000 or Rs 50.4 lakh for a 24-week treatment regimen in the US, will soon be available in India for about \$1,800 or roughly Rs 1.1 lakh for the same regimen. The patent holder, pharma major Gilead, announced on Monday that it would be selling the drug at this price in India and also giving voluntary licences to seven Indian pharma companies to produce it.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Gilead licenses hepatitis C drug to Cipla, Ranbaxy, five others](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Gilead allows 7 companies to make Hepatitis C medicine](#)

The Hindu- [7 Indian firms to make Hepatitis C drug](#)

The Wall Street Journal (Blog)- [Gilead Deal to Sell Sovaldi in Poor Countries Meets Criticism](#)

The Telegraph- [Hope for 'cheap' hepatitis drug](#)

Pharmabiz- [Gilead partners with 7 Indian pharma cos to expand its access to hep C drugs in developing countries](#)

Reuters- [Gilead licenses hepatitis C drug to Cipla, Ranbaxy, five others](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Many cos cut prices of diabetic, cardiovascular drugs as per July 10 NPPA order](#)

Synopsis: Anti-diabetic and cardiovascular drugs which have been capped as per the July 10 NPPA order are available across the country at the revised prices. Pharmacist Associations in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Chattisgarh say that 108 new drugs covered under ceiling prices as per the NPPA order are available now at retail pharmacies. Majority of the companies across the country, except a few, have decided to fall in line after waiting for two months. Regulatory authorities, however, say that violation of the same may attract penalties under the Essential Commodities Act and Drug Price Control Order (DPCO). A senior Maharashtra FDA official informs that no case of violation has been detected as yet. The NPPA July 10 order is specific and prospective in nature.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line (BUSINESSLINE TWENTY YEARS AGO - TODAY)

Edition: National

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [More drugs off price control](#)

Synopsis: The Hindu Business Line in its column, 20 years ago- Today, has done a brief analysis of the developments taken place across industries. With regards to pharma sector, they have highlighted the drug price control issue: The Government has abolished industrial licensing for all bulk drugs, their formulations and their intermediates, except for five bulk drugs reserved for the public sector. The New Drug Policy, which was announced here by the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, on Thursday, also said that drugs having an annual turnover limit of Rs. 4 crore or more would remain under price controls imposed by the Government. The policy also allows foreign equity participation of 51 per cent, automatic approval for foreign technology agreements, a uniform maximum allowable post-manufacturing expenses (MAPE) of 100 per cent for all drugs under price controls. Moreover, two new authorities — the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and the National Drugs Authority (NDA) - would be set up to monitor the various aspects of the industry.

Publication: International Business Times (India)

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Indian Medical Device Companies Charge Thrice the Import Price for Stents](#)

Synopsis: In the absence of a regulatory body in India to check if patients are charged appropriate fees for medical devices, several hospitals loot them by charging thrice the import price for the equipments. After an investigation, Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revealed that medical device companies sell cardiac drug eluting stents (DES) to patients at three times the cost of import price and cited an example to explain how the price reaches to whooping lakhs from a few thousands. The extra money that the distributors get are later used to bribe doctors so that the medicos only use their companies' devices in the future, The Times of India reported.

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 16, 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. Big Pharma had got the US government to put pressure on Indian authorities but New Delhi has refused to budge so far.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 16, 2014

Opinion piece: Vaibhav Choukse, a competition lawyer working with Vaish Associates Advocates, New Delhi

Headline: [Vaibhav Choukse: Sweetheart deals that hurt consumers](#)

Synopsis: India is among the world's fastest-growing pharma markets, accounting for 25 per cent of the world's generic drug market. The issues of delivering affordable quality health care and stimulating the existing infrastructure have received special attention in the Union Budget of 2014-15. In spite of globalisation, our health care sector is prey to underfunding, bad governance and lack of implementation of policies. Owing to these irregularities, the entire sector is prone to anti-competitive practices. The recent penalties on top Indian generic drug makers (or generics) such as Ranbaxy, Unichem, Matrix (now part of Mylan) and Lupin by the European Competition Commission (EC) for executing "pay for delay" deals with patent-holder drug makers (or originators) has attracted the attention of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Media reports say the CCI is considering investigating patent settlement deals including the one between Hoffmann-La Roche and Cipla on the lung cancer drug erlotinib.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Draft Guidelines could lead to unnecessary bias against pharma patent applications: USIBC](#)

Synopsis: The US-India Business Council (USIBC) has stated that the Draft 'Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications in the Field of Pharmaceuticals' issued recently by the Indian Patent Controller could lead to an unnecessary bias against pharmaceutical patent applications. In its response to the draft

Guidelines, the USIBC, a business advocacy organization comprising of America's and India's top-tier companies to deepen two way TRADE and strengthen commercial ties, pointed out that provisions of the Draft Guidelines may suggest to examiners that, unlike other technologies, pharmaceutical patents are presumptively disfavored or even "bad."

Health Ministry

Website: Niticentral

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [J&K Flood fury: Harsh Vardhan uses floating clinics to get medicines to people](#)

Synopsis: Fearing spread of epidemic after a deluge in Kashmir Valley, with hundreds of dead chickens found floating in and around Srinagar, the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan immediately jumped into action by visiting the ravaged State. He assured Jammu & Kashmir Government of every possible assistance to tackle any kind of disease outbreak. The Minister in fact, suggested 'floating clinics', meaning that boats can reach people cut off from the areas which are marooned.

Similar report in-

First Post- [Harsh Vardhan assures flood-hit Jammu and Kashmir of help to prevent diseases](#)

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: Chandigarh

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Health ministry cancels PGI governing body meeting](#)

Synopsis: Without having any member of Parliament as a member of the governing body, the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) administration tried to conduct a meeting of its top body but got a blank from the health ministry.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [National AYUSH Mission to plug gaps in health services](#)

Synopsis: The Union Cabinet, at its meeting on Monday, gave its nod for launching the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) with "core and flexible components." It is aimed at addressing the gaps in health services by supporting AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) care and education, particularly in vulnerable and far-flung areas.

Similar reports in-

India Today- [Modi government approves non-allopathic AYUSH health mission](#)

Outlook- [Govt Launches National Ayush Mission for Healthcare](#)

NDTV- [Government Approves Launching of National Ayush Mission](#)

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Former Chief Vigilance Officer gets BJP MP support](#)

Synopsis: BJP Lok Sabha MP Udit Raj has come out in support of the former chief vigilance officer (CVO) of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mr Sanjiv Chaturvedi, whose removal was justified by Union

health minister Harsh Vardhan. Both Mr Raj and Dr Vardhan are BJP MPs from Delhi.

Modi government

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: ['Make in India' gets Rs 1,000-cr boost](#)

Synopsis: In the first of a planned series of initiatives under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Make in India", the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Monday cleared a Rs 931-crore scheme to raise competitiveness in the capital goods sector. The aim of the project, to cost Rs 20,000 crore ultimately, is to boost manufacturing on a sustainable basis and through it, overall economic growth.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Omar Abdullah thanks Narendra Modi government for support during Jammu and Kashmir flood rescue ops](#)

Synopsis: Jammu and Kashmir Government today expressed sincere thanks to the Centre for its support during rescue and relief operations in the flood ravaged state. During a cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah thanked the Narendra Modi Government for the support given to the state and help rendered in this hour of crises, an official spokesman said. The efforts of the Army, Air Force, NDRF, Civil Society Organisations, NGOs, individuals and all other stakeholders were deeply appreciated, he said.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Opinion piece: NR Narayana Murthy, executive chairman, Infosys

Headline: [PM Modi's US visit: Why this trip is so important to India](#)

Synopsis: I believe our Prime Minister's visit to the US will be one of his most important foreign trips, if not the most important foreign trip he will make during his tenure as PM. There are several reasons for it. First, he will have to show that he does not carry any biases from prior transactions. He has already shown that he is a graceful leader even though the US was very discourteous to him when he was the chief minister of Gujarat. Second, at this stage in India's economic development, we have to build close relations with the US, the No. 1 country in higher education and innovation. The only way we can secure our future is through our focus on becoming increasingly better in higher education, research and innovation. That cannot happen unless we work closely with the US. We have to enhance interactions between students, researchers and academicians of both countries.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Raghunath Mashelkar to chair expert panel on Narendra Modi's 'Swachh Bharat'](#)

Synopsis: Scientist Raghunath Anant Mashelkar, former director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been named the chair of an expert panel to recommend best technologies for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Swachh Bharat" national sanitation campaign. The 19-member expert committee has been asked to examine best technologies on sanitation and water so that they can be scaled up on a sustainable basis in various states -- with affordability, sustainability, scalability and quality as the main criteria.

Drug quality

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [No quality control for life-saving generic drugs](#)

Synopsis: While the Indian government is pushing generic drugs as they are cheaper, there seems inadequate attention on following quality protocol. A case in point is a lifesaving drug, Liposomal Amphotericin B, which is used to treat fungal infections in critically-ill patients. Doctors say while the need for the drug is obvious, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has failed to ensure that pharmaceutical companies manufacturing the generic version of this drug carry out proper tests. A June 4 letter from V M Katoch, the director general of Indian Council of Medical Research, to the DCGI, a copy of which is in possession of TOI, calls for action against companies manufacturing and marketing untested liposomal Amphotericin B.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Delhi

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [India-made drugs for poorer nations inferior, says US think tank study](#)

Synopsis: The report quotes a study by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) which alleges that India-made drug samples (of anti-TB drugs and antibiotics) taken from various cities across Africa, India and 5 other middle-income countries were found to be of differing levels of quality. The paper by Roger Bate, an economist and a visiting scholar with AEI claims that a significantly higher fraction of these Indian-made drugs are of poorer quality if they were purchased from Africa than from India or from Non-African mid-income countries such as China, Brazil, Turkey, Thailand and Russia. These patterns persist even after they have controlled for manufacturer fixed effects, suggesting that they are driven by variations within the same manufacturer as labeled on the package. The story quotes DG Shah of IPA, who countered the study's claims by questioning the real intent/process of the researchers and citing logistical issues in Africa.

Universal health care

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Insurers want rich to pay more for universal health cover](#)

Synopsis: Insurers and other health insurance industry stakeholders feel that the proposed universal health cover (UHC) must be underwritten in a variable way, so that the rich pay higher premium to help fully subsidise health insurance cover for the really poor. "Personally, I feel that the government should pay full premium for health cover for the below poverty line (BPL) segment and it should be subsidised for the middle class. "However, the rich must be asked to pay the full premium for getting health insurance cover," New India Assurance Chairman-cum-Managing Director G Srinivasan told PTI today. The idea is that people may freely go for add-on or top-up health insurance cover on their own.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [JIPMER could be a role model for univ health care: official](#)

Synopsis: Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), which is celebrating its golden jubilee, could be a role model for universal health care as envisaged by Union Health Ministry under its proposed Universal Health Assurance (UHA) Programme. JIPMER, an

autonomous government institution, provides a whopping 99.5 per cent of treatment and other medical care free of cost to patients and could be a role model for universal health care, according to JIPMER director T S Ravikumar.

FDI Insurance

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Trade unions to oppose labour law reforms, FDI clearances](#)

Synopsis: Throwing what could be a stiff challenge to the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance, trade unions on Monday said they will oppose the government's economic reforms programme to liberalize labour laws, open up the railways to foreign direct investment (FDI) and raise the cap on FDI in insurance and defence. All national trade unions including the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-affiliated Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), which met at a convention, decided to mobilize their workforce and launch a country-wide movement against the planned reforms culminating in December. "This government seems to have turned anti-labour. All of us have decided to fight it jointly," said B.N. Rai, president of the BMS.

Similar report in-

The Hindu Business Line- [Unions call for 'protest day' against labour law reforms, FDI on Dec 5](#)

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Health care companies' scrips canter along](#)

Synopsis: Stocks of Indian pharmaceutical companies seem to be in the pink of health, as investor interest in these has been rising on the back of a weakening currency, the expiry of generic-drug patents later this year and a host of US drug regulatory approvals. So far this year, the defensive sector stocks have risen by about 38 per cent. Aurobindo Pharma, Ranbaxy Labs, Cipla and Lupin are among the top performers, where prices have risen over 50 per cent since the beginning of this financial year.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 16, 2014

Interview: Denis Broun, Global Director for Access and Public Affairs, Cipla Global

Headline: [We're not always at loggerheads with innovator companies: Denis Broun](#)

Synopsis: Mumbai-headquartered Cipla Global, known for its patent challenges worldwide to bring low-priced generics to the table, is opting for a change in strategy. It is joining hands with Gilead, a multinational corporation, to sell generic versions of innovator drugs in various countries. Denis Broun, its global director for access and public affairs, explains why.

Blog: Tapan Ray

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014

Headline: [Ringside View Of A Key Pharma Job Missing 'The X Factor'](#)

Synopsis: According to a survey conducted among both specialists and General Practitioners (GP), published in Express Pharma some years ago, out of total 30 doctors interviewed, 23 reported that

quality of medical representatives visiting them has deteriorated. Only three doctors reported that the quality has not really changed, while four reported quality has improved. It was claimed by the authors that this survey result is statistically significant both on 't test and z test'. The study concluded that pharma companies are responsible for this decline, as majority of them are focusing just on the end results without bothering much about the means to the end. This indicates, disproportionately more weightage is being given on the total quantum of sales rather than its quality, during performance measurement. My above personal experience on the subject, though very short, is not much different from the above survey results, either.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Epirus, Ranbaxy win India approval for arthritis drug copy](#)

Synopsis: Epirus Biopharmaceuticals Inc said India's drug regulator has approved its copy of a top-selling arthritis treatment, paving the way for its launch in the country early next year. The company's Indian partner, Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, will sell a copycat version of Johnson & Johnson's and Merck & Co Inc's infliximab, an anti-inflammatory drug with annual sales of about \$6 billion.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [Epirus, Ranbaxy win India approval for arthritis drug copy](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Ahmedabad

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Indian drug cos hopeful of Peru relaxing norms](#)

Synopsis: After Argentina allowed import of Indian finished drugs last month, thus opening the gates to a \$6 billion potential pharma market for Indian formulation makers, according to officials at the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) senior officials from Peru are likely to visit soon to gather details about the loan-licensing system of manufacturing here. P V Appaji, director general of Pharmexcil informed that a delegation led by Sudhanshu Pandey, joint secretary, department of commerce, ministry of commerce and industry, had been to Latin American countries recently, which included Peru and Argentina among others like Brazil. "Peru had put all applications from Indian pharma companies using the loan-licensing system. They had some doubts related to this process and we have explained to them even regulated markets like the US and the European Union (EU) allow such contract manufacturing and that the Indian government permits it," Appaji said.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Hyderabad

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [India Ranks First in Cervical Cancer Deaths](#)

Synopsis: "Cancer is a disease that does not spare people of any age or nation," former director of NIMS Kakarla Subba Rao said while speaking at a conference on 'Recent Advances in Cancer Diagnosis and Therapy' organised by OMICS, publisher of online open-access journals, here on Monday.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: National

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Pharmexcil to celebrate 10 years of success on Sept 18 & 19 in Hyderabad](#)

Synopsis: The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) is set to celebrate 10 years of success by focusing on two important issues affecting the industry during its annual meet that is going to be held from 18 to 19th September in Hyderabad. With a view to tap the issue of the exporters, the Pharmexcil has planned to organise two important seminars on the sidelines of its 10 years celebration that aims to touch base with the problems and challenges of the exporters. The Council will be hosting two dedicated seminars based on the requirements and the latest trends in the industry. The first of which is on the best practice pharmaceutical quality system the way forward for quality culture and compliance, through which they plan to open up the podium for discussing important aspects on creating and implementing a sustainable quality culture.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Mumbai

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Clinical Act set to be modified](#)

Synopsis: Suggestions for modification in the Clinical Establishment Act that will lay down the framework of guidelines for practicing doctors in Maharashtra are ready for consideration. They have been sent to the state government and according to the Indian Medical Association (IMA), most of the demands have been agreed upon. IMA president Dr Anil Pachnekar said that they were positive about the outcome and the act would most likely be enacted in the state by January 2015. The suggestions that ran into 130 pages had been made after welcoming advice from doctors, experts and common people across the state. IMA secretary Dr Jayesh Lele described the new set of regulations as “doctor-patient friendly suggestions” that would benefit both doctors and patients.

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: September 16, 2014

Headline: [Give the public a role in Clean Ganga project, says Rajendra Pachauri](#)

Synopsis: India’s holiest river is due for a clean-up, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking personal responsibility for restoring the Ganga and ridding the 2,500 km long river of industrial effluents and untreated sewage. Uma Bharti, Modi’s minister for water resources and Ganges rejuvenation, has said the river would be clean in three years. Earlier this month, India’s Supreme Court asked the government for a roadmap on the project so that the court could monitor it. Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), spoke to Reuters on the Ganga project, the need for transparency and how the public could help.