



**News Updates: September 17, 2014**

#### NPPA/ OPPI/ Drug Pricing

**Website:** BTVin

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 16, 2014

**Headline:** [Information Asymmetry In Healthcare: NPPA To Delhi HC](#)

**Synopsis:** As the hearing in the Delhi HC inches closer, the pricing regulator NPPA has filed a reply to the OPPI in the raging drug pricing tussle. NPPA pointed out that there is information asymmetry in the healthcare sector. The higher prices of branded generics are due to aggressive promotional strategies and not added therapeutic gain. Priya Sheth gets you the exclusive details.

#### Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

**Publication:** The Financial Express

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Opinion piece:** Patrick Kilbride, executive director, International IP, at the Global, Intellectual Property Center, US Chamber of Commerce

**Headline:** [A strong IPR regime benefits India](#)

**Synopsis:** India's growing population, at 1.3 billion citizens now, represents the second-largest consumer market in the world, and may soon be the largest. Its productive capacity is also growing. In nominal terms, India's nearly \$2 trillion GDP makes it the 10th-largest global economy—third in terms of purchasing power—and it is likely to enjoy respectable 5.5% and 6% growth, in 2014 and 2015, respectively, as per estimates by the Asian Development Bank. India has already proven its competitive advantages in cutting-edge, high-value technology and services industries that are shaping 21st century economies.

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Headline:** [Cipla teams up with Gilead Lifesciences to make Hepatitis drug for MNC](#)

**Synopsis:** In an interview to ET in 2013, YK Hamied, the founder chairman of Cipla, and some say the scourge of multinational drug companies, prophesied that the Indian drug industry will witness a sea change around the year 2020. "The momentum of 1972 to 1995 (pre-patent era) can't stop. It will last till 2015, but not after that. So to protect myself for 2020 I have to make radical changes." On Monday, the world got a glimpse of the kind of change that Hamied had in mind when Cipla teamed up with California-based Gilead Lifesciences to make and sell its path-breaking Hepatitis C drug Sofosbuvir under voluntary licence.

**Publication:** Business Today

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 16, 2014

**Headline:** [Epirus Biopharma, Ranbaxy get nod to sell arthritis drug copy in India](#)

**Synopsis:** Ranbaxy Laboratories, domestic partner for Epirus Biopharmaceuticals Inc, will sell a copycat version of Johnson & Johnson's and Merck & Co Inc's infliximab, an anti-inflammatory drug for arthritis with annual sales of about \$6 billion. Epirus Biopharmaceuticals said that the domestic drug regulator

has approved its copy of a top-selling arthritis treatment, paving the way for its launch in the country early next year.

#### Clinical trials/ Vaccines

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Headline:** [Soon, vaccines will not need needles & syringes](#)

**Synopsis:** In a step towards finding alternatives to administering drugs using needles and syringes, the World Health Organization on Tuesday announced the launch of clinical trials for polio vaccine using a Nanopatch — a chip comprising thousands of microscopic bumps. While the traditional needle and syringe delivers the vaccine to the muscle, the Nanopatch targets the abundant immune cells under the skin, increasing its effectiveness. It can be removed after a few hours. WHO has tied up with Vaxxas, a biotechnology startup firm spun out by the University of Queensland, to undertake first stage clinical trials on the Nanopatch, which is smaller than the size of a postage stamp.

#### Health Ministry

**Publication:** Business Standard

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 16, 2014

**Headline:** [Health ministry to strengthen basic health care](#)

**Synopsis:** The health ministry will rope in private and semi-government firms to improve basic health care, union Health Secretary Lov Verma said here Tuesday. "The role of private and semi government firms has become very important to reach out to people in far off places and provide them health care services. The health ministry will approach the private and semi government firms for funding," he said. Verma was speaking at a discussion on Universal Health Assurance for India organised by Public health Foundation of India (PHFI).

**Publication:** The Telegraph

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Headline:** [Promise of 50 drugs free for all](#)

**Synopsis:** The Centre plans to provide about 50 medicines free to all Indian citizens, whenever required, from birth to death, a senior health ministry official said today. The Union health ministry is also working to expand the range of diagnostic and treatment services offered free through government health clinics and tertiary-level hospitals, said Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, an adviser to health minister Harsh Vardhan. "We hope these two mechanisms will help reduce personal out-of-pocket expenses people currently pay for health care," Chaudhury said, speaking at a meeting organised by the Public Health Foundation of India to discuss strategies to introduce universal health care.

**Website:** ANI

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 16, 2014

**Headline:** [Harsh Vardhan flags off relief material for Jammu and Kashmir by BJYM](#)

**Synopsis:** Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Tuesday flagged off vehicles carrying relief material provided by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha for the flood affected people in Jammu and Kashmir. Vardhan welcomed the move by the Yuva Morcha and said that the entire nation is with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this natural calamity. He also said that food and medicines are being provided in sufficient quantities to the rescued people and coordination is being with the State government for relief work.

**Publication: The Hindu**  
**Edition: Delhi**  
**Date: September 17, 2014**  
**Headline: [Politicians bat for former AIIMS CVO](#)**

**Synopsis:** In what is becoming a stand-off between the country's premier medical hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), and the Union Health Ministry, politicians across party lines have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan seeking revocation of the order passed by the Ministry to remove Sanjiv Chaturvedi from the post of AIIMS Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) recently.

**Publication: The Asian Age**  
**Edition: Delhi**  
**Date: September 17, 2014**  
**Headline: [Physical activity must in schools](#)**

**Synopsis:** To give boost to physical activities for school going children, Union health minister Harsh Vardhan has proposed the human resource development (HRD) ministry to make sports activity compulsory in school with every student being required to take part in at least one activity. "Physical activity is a must. The view of the minister is to promote physical activities and make it a part of school curriculum so that children are mandatorily taking part in it. The health minister is active on the issue. According to the minister, games and sports should be made compulsory as part of school curriculum in schools at all levels both in Centre and States. Also, the proposal is to that one period each day should be allocated for physical activities in all schools," said a senior official in the ministry.

**Publication: The Times of India**  
**Edition: Delhi**  
**Date: September 17, 2014**  
**Headline: [Vardhan suggests road safety measures](#)**

**Synopsis:** Union health minister Harsh Vardhan has sent a slew of suggestions on the proposed new law for road safety to the ministry of road, transport and highways. These include non-dispensing of fuel to those not wearing helmets or seat belts and psychiatric evaluation of heavy vehicle drivers. The health minister has also suggested incorporating the provision of voluntary pledge for organ donation in the application forms for obtaining a driving licence. He has sought heavy penalty for use of cellphone while driving.

**Similar report in-**

**The Hindu- [Minister moots mandatory rest for long distance drivers](#)**

#### Modi government

**Publication: The Financial Express**  
**Edition: Online**  
**Date: September 16, 2014**  
**Headline: [China should open up to Indian generic drugs, says experts ahead of Xi Jinping's visit](#)**

**Synopsis:** China should open up to and remove all barriers to internationally accepted Indian generic drugs, Indian pharmaceutical experts said ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's maiden visit to India tomorrow. The Indian government should ask China to deliver on its assurance of reducing the trade imbalance and promote greater imports from India, representatives of a few Indian Pharma firms told PTI.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 16, 2014**

**Headline: [Public sector drug cos prepared to supply drugs to J&K: Govt](#)**

**Synopsis:** State-owned pharmaceutical companies are in a position to supply all drugs required to deal with any emergency situation in flood ravaged Jammu & Kashmir, the government today said. The Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers are in a position to supply all drugs as required to deal with any emergency situation in Jammu & Kashmir, a release said. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had identified 23 drugs to deal with emergency situation in Jammu & Kashmir and 12 of these drugs are readily available in stocks, it added.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Seema Sirohi, Washington based analyst**

**Headline: [Letter from Washington - INDIA-US PARTNERSHIP: \\$1 TRILLION BY 2030?](#)**

**Synopsis:** For India and the United States, it's the "vision thing" in the famous words of George Bush Sr. It was a visionary breakthrough that brought the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement, demolishing a huge wall of restrictions and denials around India. For a thousand flowers of the economic partnership to bloom, an equally expansive vision must takeover. Prime Minister Narendra Modi says he wants to unleash India's inner economic beast and serve his restless young voters. President Barack Obama, too, came in with a promise of "nation building" at home. The two projects can mesh but the private sectors in both countries need to pick up the ball. When Obama and Modi sit down for a private dinner later this month, unhindered by celebrity invitees and ball gowns, they should discuss the how to tap this potential.

**Website: Reuters**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Andy Mukherjee, Reuters 'Breakingviews' columnist**

**Headline: [India in depth: How not to get swamped by capital](#)**

**Synopsis:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" campaign has won some early backers. Japan has committed \$34 billion of infrastructure and manufacturing investment over the next five years. Beijing could pledge another \$100 billion over a similar timeframe, the Times of India reported ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's India visit this week. Assume that the United States, Britain and Germany come up with another \$100 billion of investment proposals, and the Indian economy may have to soak up about 12 percent of last year's GDP in overseas capital in the next five years. This will present two challenges. One, the country has never had to deal with foreign direct investment (FDI) of this magnitude on a sustained basis. Two, the FDI won't come alone. More fickle - and potentially destabilizing - foreign financial capital will follow close behind.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 16, 2014**

**Headline: [Modi gets president's kudos for improving economy, India's global image](#)**

**Synopsis:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday got a welcome boost from President Pranab Mukherjee, who unexpectedly largely abandoned his prepared speech to a gathering of the Indian community in Vietnam and instead extolled the NDA government's steps to improve the economy and burnish India's global image. "After the new government (led by Modi) came out with a massive mandate they also worked out... of course, it is too early to formulate cogent policies for the full five years and get it reflected in the plan document and other documents but the first budget presented by the new government outlines some of the crucial policies and there is substantially continuity and there is change (in policy) where it has been found necessary to do it," Mukherjee said in a sudden extempore

address at the Indian community reception here on the penultimate day of his four-day state visit to Vietnam.

**Similar reports in-**

**The Hindu-** [Pranab praises Modi govt.'s 'bold' steps](#)

**Outlook-** [Modi Govt Created Favourable Atmosphere for India in the World: Prez](#)

**Publication: The Telegraph**

**Edition: National**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Headline: [Miffed Modi to skip UN climate summit](#)**

**Synopsis:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will stay away from a UN Climate Summit for heads of states on September 23 amid India's displeasure at what it considers a parallel effort during international negotiations to avert dangerous global warming. Modi will not attend the summit that is expected to be attended by about 120 heads of states, but India will be represented by a delegation led by the Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, sources in the ministry said. UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon has invited world leaders from government, finance, business and civil society to "galvanise and catalyse" action on climate change.

**Similar report in-**

**Outlook-** [Really Wanted Modi to Attend UN Climate Summit: Ban](#)

**FDA**

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Pune**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Headline: [FDA initiates survey to gauge shortage of chicken pox vaccine](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) officials on Tuesday initiated a three-day long market survey to find out the exact shortage of chicken pox vaccine in the city. TOI in its report on Tuesday had highlighted the severe shortage of chicken pox vaccine in the city for the last one month. The infection causes red spots and rashes all over the body, fever in many cases and is highly contagious. Children above one year are administered two doses of vaccine for complete protection. The vaccine lends significant immunity against the disease and reduces the chances and severity of the infection.

**Medical technology/ Access**

**Publication: Business World**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 16, 2014**

**Headline: [Smart Healthcare](#)**

**Synopsis:** Mobile phones and smart devices will have a large role to play in improving access to healthcare and involving patients more in their own treatment, a leading Oxford University academic has said in a lecture in New Delhi. Solving the challenges facing healthcare systems around the world will require a huge shift in the way care for patients is provided, Professor Robyn Norton said in the first Oxford India Lecture on Monday 15 September. Professor Norton is Principal Director of The George Institute for Global Health and James Martin Professorial Fellow at the University of Oxford.

**General Industry**

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: National**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Headline: [‘Gilead’s deal with Indian generic drug companies will help earn goodwill for the industry’](#)**

**Synopsis:** The signing of agreements by U.S. pharmaceutical giant Gilead with seven Indian generic drug manufacturers, licensing them to make its blockbuster drug sofosbuvir for treatment of killer disease Hepatitis C could be a show-case of how innovative and generic companies could work together for access to affordable medicines, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) Secretary-General D. G. Shah said here on Tuesday. “I welcome this change, and believe that together generic and innovative industry can make wonders and earn goodwill for the much maligned pharmaceutical industry,” he added. Sofosbuvir is considered a revolutionary treatment for Hepatitis C as it has a high cure rate. Gilead’s deal allows the generic manufacturers to sell in 91 countries.

**Website: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Headline: [Australian delegates meet Indian healthcare experts for partnerships in research through academia](#)**

**Synopsis:** A 12-member Australian life sciences and healthcare delegation interacted with the pharma industry professionals in Mumbai recently to explore opportunities for partnership available in oncology, neurosciences, tropical medicines, medical devices, clinical trials and development research. An initiative of the Australian Trade Commission and the Australian government to promote Australia’s world class research capability and innovative technologies, the business delegation is a flagship activity of the Australian Innovation Showcase in India 2014.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Headline: [Lupin ties up with Merck Serono for expansion in emerging markets](#)**

**Synopsis:** Pharma major Lupin Tuesday entered into a long-term strategic partnership with Germany-based biopharmaceutical firm Merck Serono for expansion of its portfolio initiative in emerging markets. "This strategic partnership builds on the existing close collaboration between our two companies," said Vinod Dhawan, group president, Asia Pacific, Africa, Middle East and Latin America (AAMLA) for Lupin.

**Similar reports in-**

**Mint- [Lupin inks pact with Merck Serono to expand in emerging markets](#)**

**Business Standard- [Lupin, Merck Serono join hands to tap emerging markets](#)**

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 16, 2014**

**Headline: [AstraZeneca gets up to \\$500 million from Lilly for Alzheimer's drug](#)**

**Synopsis:** AstraZeneca has signed a partnership deal with U.S. rival Eli Lilly that could earn the British company up to \$500 million if a promising – but risky – experimental Alzheimer’s drug proves successful. AstraZeneca said in May that it was looking to find a partner for its so-called BACE inhibitor drug called AZD3293, which is set to enter late-stage Phase III clinical testing against Alzheimer’s.

**Website: Reuters**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 16, 2014**

**Headline: [Switzerland takes on its top drugmakers in price row](#)**

**Synopsis:** Switzerland, home to the world's two biggest drugmakers, might be expected to give them an easy ride. But Roche and Novartis are finding no immunity in their home market from a European-wide price squeeze. Governments and healthcare authorities around the world are questioning whether they are getting the best value for money as they struggle to find space in their budgets to care for an ever older and sicker population. Their demands that medicine prices be cut is a growing challenge for drugmakers.

**Publication:** The Hindu

**Edition:** Delhi

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Headline:** [MCI pulled up for failing in its social responsibility](#)

**Synopsis:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has come down heavily on the Medical Council of India (MCI) for not fulfilling its social responsibility towards differently-abled persons who avail of medical services and for not educating doctors on how to provide them treatment with dignity. The Commission has recently issued a notice to the Council based on complaint by Dr. Satendra Singh, a differently-abled doctor at University College of Medical Sciences. He had earlier written to the MCI to include 'disability education' in medical curriculum.

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Headline:** [FSSAI head K Chandramouli unlikely to get extension](#)

**Synopsis:** K Chandramouli, chairman of the country's food regulator, is unlikely to continue at the helm of the controversy-ridden Food Safety and Standards Authority of India despite seeking an extension of his term that ends in January, two officials said. "He (Chandramouli) is unlikely to be given a term extension. It has been denied by health minister Harsh Vardhan," said an official in direct knowledge of the development.

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** Aurangabad

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Headline:** [Chemists, pharma students roped in to tackle dengue](#)

**Synopsis:** The Aurangabad Municipal Corporation's (AMC) health department on Monday roped in local pharmacists in its fight against rising cases of dengue. The civic body has intensified its fogging and spraying activities, targeting sensitive areas and conducting a door-to-door survey with the help of pharmacy students. Jayshree Kulkarni, health officer in the AMC, had appealed to the Indian Pharmaceutical Association's (IPA) Aurangabad branch to extend assistance in controlling the menace. She said, "During a meeting with the IPA members at a workshop on TB organized for chemists on Sunday, I had appealed to pharmacists to also extend help in controlling dengue, which has been on the rise in the city since the last few months."

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** Aurangabad

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Headline:** [30 Aurangabad pharmas to provide free TB drugs now](#)

**Synopsis:** More than 30 chemists in the city on Sunday signed up to be DOTS (Directly Observed TB Short Course) providers. They will also help the state government to identify patients with Tuberculosis (TB)'s symptoms. As part of a public-private partnership by the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), the district TB office and the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA), the 30 city chemists were being trained

**Publication: The Asian Age**

**Edition: National**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Headline: [100m people saved from hunger in last decade: UN](#)**

**Synopsis:** The number of hungry people in the world has dropped by 100 million over the last 10 years, though one in nine are still undernourished, with Asia home to the majority of the underfed, the UN said on Tuesday. The UN's food agencies said the global number was down over 200 million since the early 1990s, but warned that despite the progress made, "about 805 million people in the world, or one in nine, suffer from hunger."

**Publication: The Indian Express (Mumbai Newslines)**

**Edition: Mumbai**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Headline: [City's shame in slums](#)**

**Synopsis:** While data from the Centre's Integrated Child Development Services Scheme till May 2014 reveals that 41,520 children in Mumbai were moderately underweight and 3,125 severely underweight, a September 15 report by Observer Research Foundation shows that on an average, 55% of the children surveyed in two city slums were undernourished and 42.5% had stunted growth. The Indian Express looks at the reasons behind malnutrition in the city's slums.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 16, 2014**

**Headline: [India may be among top exporters by 2030: HSBC](#)**

**Synopsis:** India has the potential to become the world's fifth largest exporter of goods by 2030 in value terms, says HSBC Trade Forecast. The country has the potential to become an export hub for autos and it is well-placed to further develop its textile industry, the HSBC report said. This is despite the fact that India's near-term growth prospects remain lacklustre, with the economy likely to expand by 5.3 per cent in 2014 and 6.3 per cent in 2015 -- well below the rapid growth rate of around 8 per cent a year in 2001-11.

**Similar report in-**

**Business Standard- [India expected to be world's fastest growing exporter between 2014 and 2030: HSBC Trade Forecast](#)**

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Hyderabad**

**Date: September 17, 2014**

**Headline: ['Namaste' hygiene, bye handshake?](#)**

**Synopsis:** Now, the traditional Indian 'namaste' seems to be the choice of customary greeting for the city's top doctors to maintain hand hygiene, after taking a cue from an international study that held western style 'handshakes', 'high-fives' and 'fist-bumps' responsible for transmitting diseases. It is scientifically proven that poor hand hygiene may transmit diseases. Germs responsible for diarrhoea, typhoid, common cold, upper respiratory tract infection and gastro problems could be transmitted by doctors to healthy people after coming in physical hand contact with patients affected with them.

