



News Updates: September 18, 2014

OPPI

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [India sends substandard generic drugs to Africa, say researchers](#)

Synopsis: The report highlights the findings of the research paper 'National Bureau of Economic Research' which stated that Indian drug makers send low-quality drugs to poorer countries. According to the paper, two widely used antibiotics and two TB treatments allegedly made in India, do not have active ingredients when sold in Africa, compared with the same pills sold in countries such as Russia and China.

NPPA/DPCO/ Drug Pricing

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [MONITORING CELLS OF NPPA](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: The editorial explains the hardships faced by NPPA in tracking price violations and recovering overcharged amounts from pharma companies because it does not have a network of offices and also on account of existing judicial process in the country.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Mumbai

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [Prices of medicines for heart disease, diabetes reduced](#)

Synopsis: More than 108 anti-diabetic and the cardiovascular drugs and its combinations are now available with revised prices at the retail pharmacies. The prices of the drugs were capped as per the order of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) which stated that the prices of 'essential and life-saving drugs' should be affordable to the people. NPPA says that the price of the drugs has been fixed after observing 'extreme inter-brand price differences'. The price has been regulated according to the single ingredient formulation in 'eight therapeutic groups' anti cancer, HIV/AIDS, anti-TB, anti-malaria, anti-asthmatic, and immunological medicines. According to it, the NPPA, the practice of different pricing by different brands is unjustified and puts unreasonable burden on the consumers without sufficient justification.

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [US seeks to establish secretary-level group to address IPR concerns](#)

Synopsis: Indian and US officials on Wednesday discussed the agenda for the upcoming ministerial-level Trade Policy Forum meeting between the two countries scheduled to be held before the end of the year. While India raised the issues of the totalization agreement, high visa costs, the US side sought to establish a working group to address its concerns about India's intellectual property rights (IPR) laws. Commerce secretary Rajeev Kher met acting deputy US trade representative Wendy Cutler as part of an inter-ministerial discussion to set the agenda, modalities and dates for the meeting, to be held in New Delhi.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [High visa fee, other issues raised with US: Government](#)

Business Standard- [Indian workers' social security issue raised with US](#)

Clinical trials

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [Clinical trials of cochlear implant to begin soon](#)

Synopsis: The indigenously-designed and developed low-cost implant is expected to be ready for commercial production in a year. A host of DRDO labs are involved in the project-NSTL, NMRL, Anurag, RCI and DIPAS, besides the Armed Forces Medical College and Andhra University. An indigenously-designed and developed low-cost cochlear implant is expected to be ready for commercial production in a year with clinical trials set to begin in the next few months. An application seeking permission for clinical trials has already been filed with the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on behalf of the Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and clearance is expected in a couple of months, said V. Bhujanga Rao, Director-General (Naval Systems & Materials), Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [New Ebola vaccine to be tested](#)

Synopsis: A healthy Briton is all set to become the first person to receive a potential new vaccine for the Ebola virus. Safety trials of the experimental drug at University of Oxford target the Zaire species of Ebola, one of the strains circulating in West Africa which has killed 53% of the people it has infected. The volunteer will be given the inoculation in a safety trial making him the first of 60 to receive the experimental drug in the UK trial.

Health Ministry

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [Health ministry to conduct all India survey on extent of availability of spurious drugs](#)

Synopsis: The Union health ministry will soon conduct an all India survey on the extent of availability of spurious and not-of-standard quality drugs in the country. It will be a broad-based survey in which around 42,000 samples would be drawn from across the country which would include 15 therapeutic categories of drugs which is listed in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011. According to ministry sources, funds to the tune of Rs. 8.5 crore have been sanctioned and the survey is required to be completed by February, 2015. Dr. Surinder Singh, director, NIB, Noida, will be the convener of the Survey for which the exact quantity of drugs to be sampled will be finalised after discussion with Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad and National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Delhi.

Website: IBN Live

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: [Government to launch its most ambitious scheme to reduce infant mortality rate tomorrow](#)

Synopsis: The Health Ministry will launch its most ambitious plan to reduce child mortality rate in India on Thursday. According to sources, the government plans to reduce the mortality rate from 29/1000 to single digits. Under the plan, the government plans to provide Vitamin K injection to all new borns free of cost. Kangaroo mother care - which is a skin-to-skin contact with infants - will be provided in all hospitals across the country.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: Delhi

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [Minority Affairs Ministry to give Rs. 120 cr relief to J-K](#)

Synopsis: Minority affairs ministry will provide Rs. 120 crore for relief and rehabilitation of flood-hit people of Jammu and Kashmir and all officers and staff including the minister will donate a day's salary for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Making this announcement at a press conference here on Wednesday, minority affairs minister Najma Heptulla said the special package will be utilised under various schemes and programmes being executed by the ministry.

Similar report in-

The Indian Express- [Najma pledges funds for relief and rehab](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [State firms may not meet J&K drug need: Sources](#)

Synopsis: Public-sector units (PSUs) may not be able to meet the demand for some essential medicines needed in the government's relief work at flood-hit Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), sources said. There have been reports from across the country of drug shortage in treating snake bites and malaria. According to the health ministry, the J&K chief secretary has asked the Centre for 23 types of medicine. Of these, 14 have been supplied in full; six in part.

Publication: Business Today

Edition: Online

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [US to press India on WTO trade pact during Modi's Washington visit](#)

Synopsis: The United States said on Wednesday it will press Prime Minister Narendra Modi to end his blockage of a global trade pact when he visits Washington this month, something that could dampen the mood of a trip aimed at revitalising strategic ties. US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Biswal said India "does itself a discredit" by blocking the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) reached in Bali last year, rekindling a dispute that overshadowed an August 1 meeting between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Modi in the national capital.

Publication: The Telegraph

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Opinion piece: Krishnan Srinivasan, former foreign secretary of India

Headline: [BEFORE THE VISIT- Modi's extraordinary sure-footedness in foreign policy, so far](#)

Synopsis: The visit to the White House of the prime minister, Narendra Modi, at the end of this month has occasioned considerable interest, mainly, it appears, because of the ridiculous visa ban imposed on him by the United States of America since 2005, which the Americans have now recanted. The prime minister has the advantage of knowing that few will expect any great break-through from the visit, unlike his encounters with other major powers like Japan and China. Expectations from Washington are probably higher than they are in New Delhi, despite the less-than-successful visit to India of the secretary of state, John Kerry, who was taken to task by his counterpart for his country's electronic spying and was rebuffed in his efforts to persuade India to accede to the World Trade Organization's trade facilitation package.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: [Narendra Modi launches Swavalamban programme of Gujarat government](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the "Swavalamban" programme of the Gujarat government, a welfare scheme aimed at benefitting the poor. "This programme is aimed at making the poor self dependent," Modi said at Gandhi Mandir here. The scheme, which was launched on Modi's birthday, will focus on various sectors such as dairy, health and agriculture.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Narendra Modi launches 11 pro-poor policies of Gujarat](#)

The Times of India- [Modi launches 11 welfare schemes for poor](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: [Adil Zainulbhai appointed head of Quality Council of India](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed former McKinsey India chairman Adil Zainulbhai as the chairman of the Quality Council of India. An autonomous body under the department of industrial policy and promotion, the Quality Council of India operates the national accreditation structure for conformity assessment bodies and provide accreditation in the field of education, health and quality promotion. It runs its accreditation programmes through two boards. The National Accreditation Board for Education and Training runs accreditation of schools, while the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers runs accreditation of hospitals, nursing homes, blood banks, and primary health centres based on respective accreditation standards.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [5 things to know about Adil Zainulbhai, Modi's latest team member](#)

The Financial Express- [To push Make in India, Modi govt reaches out to pvt sector, hires ex-McKinsey chief](#)

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: Patna

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [New AIIMS lack basic equipment, staff: Report](#)

Synopsis: In March this year, the union health ministry sent CK Mishra, one of its senior-most officers to inspect the medical facilities at AIIMS, Patna. His report was a devastating expose on the mess the institute was in. "The overall experience at AIIMS, Patna was disheartening and did not inspire confidence," Mishra wrote on his return to Delhi. AIIMS, Patna was one of the six new institutes set up to spread top quality medical services and education to regions beyond Delhi. First proposed by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in 2003, the six institutes were set up by the UPA between 2009 and 2012.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Opinion piece: Ramgopal Agarwala, former senior adviser, World Bank

Headline: [Developing model village clusters](#)

Synopsis: Creating central towns with urban facilities for 100 or so villages in each tehsil will prevent wastage of national resources on 'model villages' and 'smart cities'. The Narendra Modi government has launched an ambitious programme for both rural and urban development. In his budget speech, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said, "The Prime Minister has a vision of developing 'one hundred smart cities' as satellite towns of

larger cities by modernising the existing mid-sized cities. To provide the necessary focus to this critical activity, I have provided a sum of [Rs.] 7,060 crore in the current fiscal.” For rural areas, Mr. Modi in his Independence Day speech urged each Member of Parliament to make one village of his or her constituency a ‘model village’ by 2016. After 2016, two more villages should be selected and after 2019, at least five model villages must be established by each MP in his/her area.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [Govt looks to streamline slew of social welfare schemes](#)

Synopsis: The government is planning a revamp of some social sector schemes. It has been proposed state-sponsored insurance and pension schemes be merged, the scope of skill development widened and gaps in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme plugged. According to a draft Cabinet note circulated, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) and the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) were sought to be merged. “This will reduce administrative costs. The revamped scheme will provide improved social security benefits in terms of life cover and health insurance,” said a government official, requesting anonymity. “Some schemes with allocations of less than Rs 100 crore might also be merged for effective delivery.”

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Opinion piece: Nitin Desai

Headline: [Planning Commission Mark II](#)

Synopsis: The government's decision to wind up the Planning Commission and replace it with another institution has led to a spate of suggestions in this paper and elsewhere. So many and so diverse are these suggestions that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will probably end up ignoring most of them and doing what the prime minister has had in mind for years. Despite this apprehension of futility, let me, as a veteran of the old Planning Commission, add my bucketful to this flood. A change in the structure of the Planning Commission is not possible without a change in the process and content of the Plan. If in 2017 yet another five-year Plan has to be formulated on the same lines as earlier Plans, then the new institution will not be very different from the present Planning Commission, with perhaps some operational entities like the Aadhaar authority being shifted out. Hence, a radical restructuring of the Planning Commission will require an equally radical restructuring of what it does.

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Opinion piece: M S Swaminathan, agricultural scientist who led India's green revolution

Headline: [Scientific and field level know-how](#)

Synopsis: Recently addressing the scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), prime minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need to initiate on a large scale a ‘lab to land’ programme on the lines I had organised in the 1970s. The reason for this exhortation is the growing gap between laboratory discoveries and their field application, resulting in the low productivity of major crops. One area where we are observing a wide gap between knowledge and its field application is in the area of biotechnology. For example, many farmers do not grow the old traditional variety along with new Bt cotton hybrids, although scientists recommend the creation of a refuge to avoid the origin of more virulent races of pests. To effectively accomplish the goal of bridging the know-how-do-how gap, we need to pay attention to the following four kinds of linkages.

Website: First Post

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: [Centre launches initiative to address malnutrition, improve sex ratio](#)

Synopsis: The Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry will soon launch a 'National Mission to Address Malnutrition' in order to reduce under-nutrition among young children, girls and women. The mission will have focus on pregnant and lactating mothers, children under 3 and adolescent girls, WCD Secretary VS Oberoi said today. Addressing reporters on the 100-day achievements of her ministry, WCD Minister Maneka Gandhi also unveiled the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign logo.

FDA

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [Natco Pharma, Orchid Chemicals get a strong dose of US FDA medicine](#)

Synopsis: Natco Pharma and Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals have received an adverse observation report, commonly known as Form 483, after inspections conducted in their manufacturing units earlier this year by the US Food and Drug Administration. Natco, which was in news for battling Teva Pharmaceutical Industries over the patent of the latter's multiple sclerosis drug Copaxone, was issued the Form 483 dated May 23 after a five-day inspection of its finished dosage facility located in Mahabubnagar district in Telangana.

Medical technology/ Access

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: ['Mobile devices can improve India's health care'](#)

Synopsis: The increasing penetration of mobile phones and smart devices in the country can play a major role in improving access to health care and involving patients more in their own treatment, a leading Oxford University academic said. In a lecture delivered in the national capital Sep 15, Robyn Norton, principal director of the George Institute for Global Health and James Martin professorial fellow at the University of Oxford, spoke on the possibility of mobile technologies improving the country's health care sector.

General Industry

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [Generic drugs help US save \\$239 bn in healthcare spend in 2013](#)

Synopsis: The US healthcare system saved a record \$239 billion in cost of medicines in 2013, helped by key patent expiries and increased generic entry. This savings in healthcare spending was the largest till date and was 14% up over the similar cost reduction in 2012, according to a report released by Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA) last week. GPhA, an industry lobby that represents global manufacturers and distributors of finished generic pharmaceuticals, also calculates that generic medications saved nearly \$1.5 trillion for US over the last one decade between 2004 and 2013.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: [Indian pharmaceutical exports to cross Rs 1 lakh crore mark](#)

Synopsis: Export of pharmaceutical products from India are set to cross Rs 1 lakh crore mark this fiscal from Rs 90,000 crore during fiscal to March 2014, said director general of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council

(Pharmexcil) PV Appaji. "Pharmaceutical exports have recorded a growth of 15% this year (2013-14). The problems faced earlier by the industry are now under control. Majority of the export revenues will come from formulations," he said.

Similar report in-

The Hindu Business Line- [Pharma exports to cross ₹1 lakh cr](#)

The New Indian Express- [Indian Pharma Exports to Cross Rs 1 Lakh Crore Mark](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd says US authorities seek information on pricing data](#)

Synopsis: Ranbaxy Laboratories today said the US Department of Justice has demanded information relating to the manner in which the company reports pricing data for certain products eligible for reimbursement under the Medicaid program. The company has received a Civil Investigative Demand (CID) from the US Department of Justice, Ranbaxy Laboratories said in a filing to the BSE.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Ranbaxy gets civil investigative demand from US on pricing issues](#)

Business Standard- [US Justice Dept demands drug pricing information from Ranbaxy](#)

The Times of India- [Ranbaxy told to give pricing data info in US](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [US demands pricing data from Ranbaxy](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: [Sun Pharma, Merck & Co Inc enter into pact for Tildrakizumab](#)

Synopsis: Pharma major Sun Pharmaceutical Industries today entered into a licensing agreement with Merck & Co Inc for investigational therapeutic antibody candidate, Tildrakizumab to be used for treatment of plaque psoriasis. Under terms of the agreement, Sun PharmaBSE 2.25 % will acquire worldwide rights to Tildrakizumab for use in all human indications from Merck in exchange for an upfront payment of \$ 80 million, the companies said in a joint statement.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Merck licenses experimental psoriasis drug to Sun Pharma](#)

The Times of India- [Merck, Sun in licence pact for skin drug](#)

Business Standard- [Sun Pharma, Merck & Co enter agreement for Tildrakizumab](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Chennai, Hyderabad

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [We want to be like oxygen to AstraZeneca and then we can focus on innovation: David Smoley](#)

Synopsis: UK-based AstraZeneca, the seventh largest global pharma player, has been focusing on the drug discovery research and using Information Technology to speed up the processes, as its model to fight the challenges faced by the large multinational pharmaceutical companies in the recent past. The company, which started a restructuring last year, has appointed David Smoley from Flextronics as Chief Information Officer to lead the IT plans. It is currently reducing IT outsourcing and consolidating the works by setting up three global technology centres, starting from one in Chennai, which was launched on Tuesday. The IT division, which is working on reducing the time and cost for drug discovery, wants to become the oxygen of the company in future, says Smoley.

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy may lose exclusivity on Nexium generic](#)

Synopsis: Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd is likely to miss out on a windfall from the launch of the first generic copy of AstraZeneca Plc's blockbuster heartburn drug Nexium in the US market. The Indian drug maker may lose the six-month market exclusivity for the Nexium copy in the US as there is pressure mounting on the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to look at other generic applicants on account of a five-month delay in Ranbaxy's launch of its version of Nexium.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: Launch of Glargine trial presents a very large global opportunity *(link unavailable, scan attached)*

Synopsis: Drug maker Biocon has announced phase-3 global trials of Glargine, a slow-release insulin, in partnership with Mylan Inc., the US-based drug maker. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson and managing director of Biocon, said the launch of the trial presents "a very large global opportunity" for the two partners.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 18, 2014

Headline: [IPC enters into MoU with NACO to monitor ADRs of drugs covered under NACP](#)

Synopsis: The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in Delhi for setting up systems and processes for reporting, analysis and monitoring of adverse drug reactions arising due to use of anti-retroviral (ARV) medicines in the programme. This decision was taken following high level preliminary meetings to bring the ARV drugs covered under the national AIDS control programme (NACP) into the focus of the pharmacovigilance programme of the country. With this initiative, IPC, which is the national coordinating centre for the pharmacovigilance programme of India (PvPI) and NACO have agreed upon to work in a phased manner by first identifying the ARV units within its 150 established ADR centres and later scaling up the activities further.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 17, 2014

Headline: [Roche's \\$8 billion InterMune buy not a signal for more big deals](#)

Synopsis: Roche's decision to buy US biotech company InterMune for \$8.3 billion last month was "exceptional" and not a sign of more ambitious plans for major acquisitions, the Swiss drugmaker's chief executive said on Tuesday. Damping down expectations that Roche could embark on a series of such multibillion-dollar deals to bolster its presence in the treatment of rare diseases, Severin Schwan told Reuters there was no change in the company's M&A strategy or its likely pace of deal-making. "A transaction of this size is really an exceptional thing," he said during a visit to London. "The last one we had was Ventana, which was in 2007, so you might have to wait another seven years until you have a similar type of transaction."