

OPPI**Publication: The Times of India****Edition: National****Date: September 24, 2014****Headline: [Govt withdraws powers of regulator to cap drug prices](#)**

Synopsis: In a move that will disappoint many patients, the government has withdrawn certain powers of the drug pricing regulator that allowed it to cap prices of widely-prescribed anti-diabetes, cancer, tuberculosis, HIV and cardiac medicines. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said it is withdrawing "with immediate effect" a May 29 guideline that had allowed it to put price caps on crucial drugs, to comply with a government "direction". The industry welcomed the move. "We have always contended that the guidelines for Para 19 were erroneous. Para 19 is not the right provision for extension of price control as there is no public health concern which could have prompted the NPPA to invoke the provision," D G Shah, secretary general of Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, said. Though it is still trying to figure out its implication on companies, the industry body representing multinational firms, the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, said: "We appreciate the government's decision to withdraw the guidelines on fixation revision of prices of scheduled and non-scheduled formulations under Para 19 of the DPCO 2013. This welcome move tells us we are being heard and we look forward to working with the government toward a common goal." The next hearing of the OPPI court case against NPPA is slated for September 29.

Similar reports in-**Mint- [NPPA withdraws May drug price control guideline](#)****The Financial Times- [India scraps generic drug price controls](#)****The Financial Chronicle- [Price caps on non-essential drugs revoked](#)****NPPA/ Drug Pricing****Publication: The Economic Times****Edition: National****Date: September 24, 2014****Headline: [Drug watchdog NPPA stripped of some of its key powers](#)**

Synopsis: The National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA) has withdrawn a controversial guideline it had invoked to cut prices of drugs outside of a government-drawn list of essential medicines after receiving directions from the ministry of pharmaceuticals, a development that will cheer pharma companies but may face opposition from activists. The directive from the ministry was on the basis of an opinion from Solicitor-General Ranjit Kumar, which said NPPA had over-reached its powers by cutting prices of medicines outside the essential list by citing public interest. The restrictions on NPPA's powers are with prospective effect and will not impact its decision to cut prices of 108 drugs in July, an order that had angered the industry, drawing denunciations from CEOs such as Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.

Similar reports in-**Business Standard- [Govt strips NPPA of powers to cap non-essential drug prices](#)****The Hindustan Times- [Cancer, HIV drugs likely to cost more](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)****The Hindu Business Line- [Govt clips NPPA's sweeping powers to control drug prices](#)****The Hindu- [Industry hails move](#)****The Financial Express- [Narendra Modi govt gets NPPA to back off, controls on 7% of market to go](#)****The Indian Express- [NPPA stripped of powers to cap non-essential drug prices](#)****Daily News & Analysis- [Drug price decontrol will hit cardiac, diabetic patients hard](#)**

Publication: Mint
Edition: National
Date: September 24, 2014
Headline: [Drugs on the cheap](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: In recent years, fixing of drug prices by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had become another form of populism. On Monday, the government ordered it to withdraw an internal guideline that allowed the regulator to fix prices. The rule made it easy for the authority to price a wide variety of formulations, irrespective of whether they were on the essential medicines list or not. The step is in the right direction. Pricing controls, when extended beyond a point, can turn counterproductive. The benefits of lower prices may prove illusory if the producer cuts back on production. This has been seen in many cases. The next step can only be nationalization.

Patents/ IPR/ Modi government

Publication: The Times of India
Edition: National
Date: September 24, 2014
Headline: [Will Modi bow to US pressure to modify India's pro-people patent law?](#)

Synopsis: A large number of civil society groups and public intellectuals have issued a public statement expressing concern over the government's decision to review India's positions on intellectual property rights (IPRs) on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US which has been pressurizing India to adopt more stringent patent protection norms. The civil society members said they were concerned about the timing that has been chosen to undertake a Ministry-level exercise on India's IPR policy and apprehend the proposed exercise could become a hostage to the pressures of the US government and companies. On September 8, Commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman has stated that since India does not have an IPR policy, her government was coming out with an IPR policy for the first time. The civil society statement said that it was not true that India had no IPR policy and pointed out, that "the current Indian IP legal regime represents the policy framework on IPRs which was adopted after considerable debate inside and outside Parliament".

Website: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Date: September 24, 2014
Headline: [NGOs call upon Modi not to commit flexibilities in Indian Patents Act during his US visit](#)

Synopsis: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the United States next week, experts and NGOs in the pharma sector have called upon the Prime Minister not to make any legal or political commitment that compromises flexibilities in the Indian Patents Act for facilitating access to medicines and safeguarding public health, which is based on policies and principles approved by Indian Parliament and is fully consistent with international laws. NGOs and experts cautioned the Indian government that there will be tremendous pressure on Modi to modify India's Patents Act by diluting patentability criteria, including those enshrined in Section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act; limiting the use of compulsory licensing for access to patented medicines through generic production; prohibition of the use of pre and post-grant oppositions that are currently being used to challenge fraudulent patent claims by foreign MNCs; strengthening of IP enforcement, so that the Indian judicial system would police and secure the patent rights of foreign entities; and introduction of 'data exclusivity', thus extending patent monopolies and delaying the entry of generics.

Publication: Business World
Edition: Online
Date: September 23, 2014
Headline: [Gilead Partnership & Its Significance On India's IPR Laws](#)

Synopsis: Ever wondered why Gilead Sciences, the US pharmaceutical company, chose seven India-based

drugmakers last month to sign non-exclusive licensing agreements to produce low cost versions of its new hepatitis C drug sofosbuvir? The obvious reason could be that Gilead, as part of its humanitarian programme, desires to make "its chronic hepatitis C medicines accessible to as many patients, in as many places, as quickly as possible" and Indian companies - Cadila Healthcare, Cipla, Hetero Labs, Mylan Laboratories, Ranbaxy Laboratories, Sequent Scientific and Strides Arcolab - with their large-volume generic manufacturing and distribution capabilities -- are the preferred choice.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Hello America - Modi's American Dream to have No Business Knights](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will woo American businessmen on his maiden trip to that country that starts in a few days but he's unlikely to be accompanied by Indian 'business' delegation. The annual meeting of US-India CEO Forum, often CEO Forum, often organised to coincide with summits of heads of the two governments, is not taking place this year. With no alternative business programme planned, there is no occasion for a delegation to go to the US.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 23, 2014

Headline: [Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold talks with over 15 top US corporate honchos](#)

Synopsis: In a power-packed business meeting schedule in the US, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold talks with over 15 top American corporate honchos, including top executives of Google, Boeing and General Electric, as India looks to attract more overseas investments. Modi, who will be on a five-day visit to the US from September 26, would be meeting as many as 11 top corporate honchos over breakfast on September 29 apart from one-on-one meetings with six more business captains same day in New York.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Packed agenda for Modi in U.S.](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave for the United States on Friday with plans to pack in 50 engagements in five days. In a briefing ahead of Mr. Modi's visit, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said the engagements would include the summit with U.S. President Barack Obama, his administration and politicians, heads of State, leading industrialists and fund managers and the Indian diaspora.

Website: Brookings.edu

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Opinion piece: Subir Gokarn, director, research for Brookings India

Headline: [Intellectual Property Rights: An Eminent Domain Approach for India and the U.S.](#)

Synopsis: Intellectual property rights (IPR) are a significant point of contention between India and the United States. India is on the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) IPR priority watch list, indicated in the Special 301 Report for 2014, which signals heightened scrutiny and, from India's perspective, the threat of sanctions. The USTR has announced an Out-of-Cycle Review of India's IPR regime in the fall of 2014; this could be a prelude to specific actions. The Special 301 Report lists a number of areas in which the U.S. is concerned about either the absence of explicit legal protections for IPR or inadequate enforcement of such provisions. Five domains are specified: copyright and piracy, patents and regulatory data protection, trademarks and counterfeit, trade secrets, and localization trends. Concerns are articulated in all of them, but efforts by India, either in the form of existing mechanisms or new initiatives, are recognized.

Health Ministry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Harsh Vardhan reviews extent of damage in J-K; assures support from Centre](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has assured the Jammu and Kashmir government of Central support in reconstructing the damage to the health infrastructure of the state. On his second visit to flood-hit Srinagar in nine days, Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Army and civilian doctors both from Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi, we have been able to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases. This is a rare achievement for which I thank the medical and paramedical personnel who have given their all for the people of Srinagar."

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Experts express concern over process of drafting new healthcare policy, demands more transparency](#)

Synopsis: Policy experts strongly feel that the government needs to broaden its scope and change its approach while drafting its new healthcare policy for the country, by including all stakeholders in the whole process rather than just the bureaucrats for inclusive growth. They fear that failing which the new healthcare policy will turn out to be just a mere imitation of the already existing healthcare policy.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [AIIMS whistle-blower removed at BJP leader Nadda's behest](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan removed the officer and whistle-blower Sanjiv Chaturvedi, acting specifically upon the request of Bharatiya Janata Party national general secretary and Member of Parliament J P Nadda. The Central Vigilance Commission did not ask him or the health ministry to do so, new set of official documents reveal. Nadda also demanded that investigations of corruption cases that Chaturvedi had unearthed and processed be put on hold and personally reviewed by the health minister.

Drug quality

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Pharma industry must learn from mistakes and give fitting reply to regulators: Sudhanshu Pandey](#)

Synopsis: The Indian pharma industry needs to learn from mistakes and develop innovative solutions for a foolproof quality standard mechanism to give a fitting reply to the regulators. According to Shudhanshu Pandey, Joint secretary, Department of commerce, Government of India, the Indian pharma industry needs to inculcate a culture of openness and give space to commit mistakes and learn from them to give fitting reply to the regulators. With western regulators eyeing high on the Indian pharma industry, the global generic maker is facing stiff challenges in terms of regulatory blockade for Indian pharma exports abroad. Particularly, the recent warnings from the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and export hurdles from EU have become stumbling blocks in the way of India's smooth drug exports to the western world.

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Country running out of anti-HIV drug stock](#)

Synopsis: Members of HIV-positive people's networks in the country are warning of an impending shortage of the anti-retroviral drugs that keep the virus in check. Any break in consumption of the drugs could lead to the virus gaining higher resistance to them and, thereby, to a resurgence of the AIDS epidemic in the country. Over the past two years, people living with HIV/AIDS have sounded the alarm on frequent disruptions or delays in disbursing the drugs. "Nearly every State in the country has been affected. Maybe, the States such as Tamil Nadu managed to tide over the crisis by funding the [supply of] drugs during the shortage, but others suffered. The worse is yet to come, however," P. Kousalya, president, Positive Women Network, says. The community of positive people says that unless emergency steps are taken within two weeks, patients may have to go without the drugs in October.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Omar meets Modi, seeks rehab package for J&K](#)

Synopsis: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sought a special rehabilitation package for the flood-ravaged State. Such a package was necessary to help the State to be back on its feet, he said. "We look to you [the Centre] in this hour of grave crisis for all the required support in the second phase of calamity management in terms of rehabilitation of affected families both in terms of housing and livelihood, besides permanent restoration of public assets," an official release quoting the Chief Minister said.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Indian pharma companies should shed jugaad attitude: G V Prasad, CEO \(Dr Reddy's Laboratories\)](#)

Synopsis: Dr Reddy's Laboratories may not be making news for big pharma deals. The Hyderabad-based company remains focused on unique product launches in key markets. In the past year, the market capitalisation of Dr Reddy's increased to about Rs 55,000 crore on the back of a 35% gain in the stock price, making it one of India's most valuable pharmaceutical companies. In an exclusive interview to ET, Chief Executive Officer G V Prasad opens up about how "jugaad" attitude caused lapses among few Indian drug makers, leading US Food & Drug Administration to impose curbs on some plants.

Website: Zee News

Edition: Online

Date: September 23, 2014

Headline: [New vaccines can change India's health battles: Melinda Gates](#)

Synopsis: Introduction of four new vaccines in India's national immunisation programme by the new government can bring immense change in the country's major health battles and reduce the child mortality rate, Melinda Gates said Thursday. On a visit to the capital, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda, who represent the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, were in conversation with celebrated author Chetan Bhagat on the topic "All Lives Have Equal Value". Replying to a question what their expectations were from the Narendra Modi government, Melinda Gates said: "We are very enthused with the government that has come to power.