



News Updates: September 25, 2014

OPPI

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [Pharma cos have to comply with NPPA's July 10 order although guidelines stands withdrawn](#)

Synopsis: Pharma companies will have to cut prices of 108 formulations of diabetic and cardiovascular drugs as per the July 10 notification issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) although contentious internal guideline issued on May 29 stands withdrawn. Many companies have already cut prices as per July 10 order but some large companies are yet to effect the changes in prices as they are expecting a favourable Court order. In an official statement emailed to Pharmabiz, **Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)** 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 move tells us we are being heard and we look forward to working with the Government toward a common goal. We are still trying to understand the precise impact of this order on our member companies."

Publication: Millennium Post

Edition: National

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [Long goodbye to cheap healthcare](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: Even though the move makes null and void NPPA's hitherto right to bring drugs extraneous to India's list of essential medicines under price control, it will mostly benefit foreign drugs companies on OPPI panel. Compelling the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to withdraw its power to cap the prices of non-essential drugs is a huge setback for dreams of affordable and inclusive healthcare for all in this country. The union government's move to unfetter the predatory limbs of pharmaceutical retail sector, some domestic but mostly Western, particularly American, is a blow to millions of poor Indians who breathed a sigh of relief when the 29 May guideline expanded NPPA's hold through an interpretation of a provision in the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013.

NPPA/ Drug Pricing

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [NPPA powers not withdrawn, says government](#)

Synopsis: The government on Wednesday said it has not withdrawn powers delegated to NPPA, but only internal guidelines issued by the drug price regulator to cap prices of non-scheduled drugs have been rolled back. In a statement, the government said the internal guidelines issued by NPPA on May 29, 2014, and its orders on July 10 to fix prices of 108 formulation packs of anti-diabetic and cardiovascular drugs have been challenged in Bombay and Delhi high courts. The statement said it had been "decided to convey to the Hon'ble Courts that the guidelines dated 29.05.2014 are to be withdrawn."

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [NPPA powers not withdrawn, says Government](#)

Business Standard- [NPPA Powers Not Withdrawn Press Note](#)

Business Today- [Indian drug makers rejoice NPPA's pricing policy rollback](#)

Pharmabiz- [NPPA withdraws controversial guideline it had invoked to bring non-scheduled drugs under](#)

[price control](#)

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [Legal vs humanitarian](#) (editorial)

Synopsis: The pharma price-control order drew a fine balance between interests of industry and patients. Withdrawing it is a blow to the incipient fair-pricing mechanism. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's (NPPA) withdrawal of its guidelines assuming powers to revise the maximum retail prices (MRP) of scheduled and non-scheduled drugs is an unfortunate development. The guidelines, issued in May, reiterated the NPPA's authority under Paragraph 19 of the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO)-2013 allowing the Government to regulate drug prices in "extraordinary circumstances, if necessary in public interest". Subsequently, the NPPA cut the prices of 108 single-formulation drugs used for cancer, HIV, cardiovascular, and diabetes treatment, in July. This angered the pharmaceutical industry, which moved the courts alleging overreach of NPPA's powers. Asked for his opinion, Solicitor-General Ranjit Kumar told the Department of Pharmaceuticals that this power must be reserved for truly extraordinary circumstances such as epidemics, financial crisis, or a restricted supply of lifesaving drugs for a fixed time period. Kumar noted that this power to fix prices was delegated to the NPPA by the government, and the former could be asked to modify the guidelines and change its stand.

Website: Quartz

Edition: Online

Date: September 25, 2014

Opinion piece: Gauri Kamath, commentator on pharmaceuticals and healthcare

Headline: [India's drug price control regime just pulled off a logic defying move](#)

Synopsis: India's drug price control agency is jumping through hoops to make a bad decision look good. In the process it is sending terrible signals to the industry and to the broader world about fairness and efficacy of India's regulatory regime. Well-designed bulk purchases by government that ensure a fair margin to industry while creating access to affordable medicine will be more welcome than indiscriminate price cuts. While much has been spoken of making this a part of India's universal healthcare agenda, little has been done. Affordability—of not just drugs but healthcare as a whole—is a serious issue. Paying for healthcare pushes a significant percentage of Indian families below the poverty line. But the latest episode has made drug pricing look like a game of bluff between the government and the drug industry where the consumer, a mere spectator, is still trying to comprehend the rules. Given what's at stake, this is indeed a dangerous game.

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [PM Modi's 'Make in India' campaign launch to harness efforts of 25 government departments](#)

Synopsis: The high-profile launch of 'Make in India' campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 25 before he leaves for his landmark visit to the United States will see ministers heading 25 central departments line up to give a collective thrust to manufacturing and seek greater foreign investment. "The prime minister has involved all ministries related to manufacturing. Each will carry out back-end work related to ease of doing business. The focus will be on 25 sectors and the respective ministries - heavy industries, telecom, power and others - have been involved. It will be a holistic integration of perspective on manufacturing," said an official of the department of industrial policy and promotion.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [PM Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' pitch to extend red carpet for investors](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Modi's 'Make in India' launch today: All about the ambitious investment campaign](#)

The Financial Express- ['Make in India' uphill task for PM Narendra Modi](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [PM Narendra Modi to launch 'Make in India' initiative today; top industrialists present](#)

The Wall Street Journal (blog)- [How Can Modi Persuade More U.S. Companies to 'Make in India'?](#)

Business World- [Modi's Navratri Fast Is No Problem For White House](#)

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 25, 2014

Columnist: Sunil Jain, opinion editor

Headline: [The Narendra Modi-Barack Obama show](#)

Synopsis: There are many contenders for what should get top billing in the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama during Modi's US visit later this week. They range from the most immediate Indian stand on WTO issues, to revisiting the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act of 2010, enlarging defence cooperation/production between the two countries, getting the US to reconsider its hostility towards Indian IPR laws—the results of an out-of-cycle review of India's IPR regime will be out after Modi's visit and could even result in specific sanctions—as well as review its protectionist immigration law that is hurting Indian IT firms. And somewhere in between, there are the issues of greater cooperation in the energy sector, more access for US universities and financial institutions such as insurance firms to Indian markets, and signing a Bilateral Investment Treaty which will protect US investments from appropriation as well as a more agreeable tax protocol—while Indo-US tax ties had plunged to an all-time low last year, there are more meetings today, but there hasn't been much movement on the tax issues US firms face in India.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Cabinet nod to 5-year-long Swachh Bharat mission](#)

Synopsis: A week before the nationwide launch of complete cleanliness and sanitation drive, Cabinet on Wednesday cleared the plan for Swachh Bharat Mission that will cover all rural and urban areas. While the urban development ministry will be the nodal agency responsible for monitoring and supervision of the mission in across all the 4,041 statutory towns, the drinking water and sanitation ministry will have the same responsibility for rural areas. The mission has been divided into two sub categories - gramian (rural) and urban.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Restructuring of the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan into Swachh Bharat Mission](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Rs. 62,000 crore to be spent on Clean India Mission](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Swachh Panchayat Saptah to be a part of the national sanitation campaign to held from Sept 25 to October 23](#)

Website: BBC News

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Will Narendra Modi's visit boost India-US ties?](#)

Synopsis: When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes the stage at New York's Madison Square Garden on Sunday to address an audience of more than 20,000 people, it will be the highlight of his maiden visit to the US. While the underpinnings for the relationship are too strong for either side to ignore, Mr Modi is still a big unknown to the Americans. Experts say he is the kind of assertive leader who can rebuild this flagging partnership - but Washington will have to cover a lot of ground to win his trust.

Health Ministry

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [Improve public health to save newborn lives](#)

Synopsis: The India Newborn Action Plan (INAP) announced by the Union health ministry last week is aimed at reducing newborn deaths in the country. At present, India accounts for most newborn deaths in the world; a quarter of the 2.8 million newborn deaths are that of Indians. Indeed, India leads the world with the highest number of newborns dying within the first 24 hours of birth. Infant mortality in the country stands at 29 per 1,000 live births. With INAP, the government hopes to bring this down to 24 by 2017, 21 by 2020 and under 10 by 2030. To achieve these goals in the targeted time-frame, the plan envisages intervention through pre-conception and antenatal care, care during labour and childbirth, immediate care of the newborn, care of the healthy newborn, care of the small and sick newborn, and care beyond newborn survival.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Nothing malafide in decision to strip Sanjeev Chaturvedi of AIIMS CVO post: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today said there was nothing malafide in the government's decision to strip Sanjeev Chaturvedi of the post of chief vigilance officer of AIIMS. "There was nothing malafide in the government's decision to reprofile the job role of ex chief vigilance officer Sanjeev Chaturvedi," he said adding that transparency is the key to good governance at AIIMS. Reacting to media reports in this regard, Vardhan said "selective representation often leads to obfuscation of facts as has happened in this case."

Similar report in-

The Times of India- ['Order on AIIMS CVO above board'](#)

Public health

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [India will miss its MDGs by significant margins: IIR report](#)

Synopsis: India will miss its Millennium Development Goals by a "significant" margin as the initiatives for improvement in health sector taken by the country over the last decade were not enough to achieve the targets, a report released here said today. India's MDGs, which have been fixed for 2015, for Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) are 42 and 28 respectively while 109 for Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [India's healthcare in dismal condition: Report](#)

Synopsis: India ranks the lowest in the world on several health indicators and a large part of the country's population has little or no access to good quality healthcare, according to a report released here Wednesday. The health crisis is aggravated by a rising incidence of chronic and non-infectious diseases,

the India Infrastructure Report 2013-14: The Road to Universal Health Coverage, released here said. The report was released by Rajiv Lall, executive chairman, IDFC, a leading finance company.

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [When It Comes To Its Reputation, The Pharmaceutical Industry Continues To Mess Up](#)

Synopsis: Once among the most admired industries, biopharmaceutical companies have fallen on tough times. This is the industry that does a lot of great work and brings new medicines to patients in need. Yet, despite its noble calling, the industry has been justifiably beaten up over a host of issues including drug pricing, illegal detailing of drugs, direct-to-consumer advertising, and transparency in its dealings. The challenges of drug discovery and development are as high as ever. However, the industry faces an even bigger issue – restoring its reputation.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [Synthetic biology: India should not miss the boat](#)

Synopsis: Synthetic Biology in simple terms is the application of engineering principles to biology. Knowledge of the Human genome sequence led to the evolution of 'omics' sciences (genomics, proteomics, metabolomics etc). This resulted in the analysis of almost every conceivable metabolite within the cell, permitting a global reductionist view of the living cell. By the turn of the new millennium a small group of engineers, physicists, computer scientists and biologists came together and wondered whether engineering principles can be applied to study and manipulate living cells for productive purposes.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [BIRAC invites applications from Indian biotech cos for funding R&D](#)

Synopsis: The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), under its Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) scheme, has invited proposals from Indian biotech companies for funding of research and development in the field of biotechnology. Under this SBIRI scheme, the BIRAC will provide support for innovation research in biotech companies including start-ups, small and medium enterprises and other 'for-profit' private companies. Under this flagship public-private partnership programme, the BIRAC will support early stage & proof-of-concept for innovations based on valid hypothesis, R&D aimed at affordable product development, lab-scale technology refinement, validation of a technology at pilot scale, platform technologies/prototypes development etc.

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: September 24, 2014

Headline: [Top 100 Richest Indians: India's Pharma Sector Mints Billionaires](#)

Synopsis: Pharma is on a roll. More than a fifth of the 100 richest billionaires in India have pharma and health care riches, among them half of the eight newcomers, such as Hasmukh Chudgar, whose Intas Pharmaceuticals was recently valued by Temasek at close to \$1.4 billion. Entrepreneur P. V. Ramaprasad Reddy, one of three returnees to the list, came back after four years on a threefold jump in shares of his Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: September 25, 2014

Headline: [Bombay high court notice to Maharashtra government over antibiotic drug scam](#)

Synopsis: The Bombay high court on Monday issued a notice to the Maharashtra government on a public interest litigation. The litigation has sought a probe by the Crime Investigating Department (CID) into an alleged antibiotic drug scam that endangered the lives of patients in civic hospitals last month. A division bench of justices PV Hardas and Anuja Prabhudessai issued the notice while hearing the PIL filed by former journalist Ketan Tirodkar, highlighting the severe reaction of the drug suffered by patients. This has resulted in the death of one person.