

**NPPA/ Drug Pricing****Publication: The Financial Express****Edition: National****Date: September 26, 2014****Headline: [Curbing drug abuse](#) (editorial)**

**Synopsis:** Given how the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been spreading its wings, the government has done well to ask NPPA to withdraw its May 29 guidelines that sought to bring a huge swathe of the industry under its draconian controls. Around a fifth of production already falls under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) where margins are wafer-thin. There is then the rule that puts a 10% cap on the annual price rise for all other drugs. If this wasn't enough, on May 29, the NPPA came up with a guideline which said that 'in the public interest' it could regulate 'inter-brand price differences' as well. That is, if the price of any brand was over 25% the simple average price of all brands in a group, its price would be brought down. For an industry already reeling under all manner of controls, this was probably the last straw, and is the reason why the government asked the NPPA to withdraw this notification. The problem here, and this has been confounded by a government clarification, is that there is no clarity on what happens to the 108 medicines brought under price control by the NPPA on July 10 using this very circular. A ministry clarification says the May 29 order has been withdrawn but the NPPA has not 'been directed to withdraw the orders dated 10.07.2014'. You'd think that, if the basic order of May 29 has been withdrawn, so would the price control orders based on it, but bureaucrats think differently from most of us—presumably this means the producers of this medicine will have to petition the courts separately on this.

**Website: Pharmabiz****Edition: Online****Date: September 26, 2014****Headline: [Human albumin serum not available across India post NPPA price cut](#)**

**Synopsis:** The entire country, including major metropolis, is reeling under an acute shortage of a life saving drug human albumin serum. Even as the paucity of the emergency drug has been persisting for the past three months in retail and hospital pharmacies, it is still not available with most wholesalers, distributors or retailers. Families of patients are having a tough time procuring the drug. Human albumin serum is a protein in human plasma of the blood which is produced in liver. It maintains levels of calcium in the body and transports nutrients or drugs effectively in the blood stream. The body can suffer a shortage of albumin if a patient is affected by liver disease, kidney failure, burns, malnourishment. In kidney transplants, when the blood group of the donor and the recipient does not match, plasma content in the recipient's blood has to be drained and albumin has to be transfused so that the donated kidney may not be rejected.

**Website: First Post****Edition: Online****Date: September 26, 2014****Headline: [Why the Modi government's rollback of drug price control is worryingly anti-people](#) (editorial)**

**Synopsis:** Following the Drug Price Control Order in 2012, which brought 348 drugs under essential list of medicines, when the Narendra Modi government capped the prices of another 108 medicines in July 2014, it was considered a bold step indeed. The decision, despite stiff resistance from the pharmaceutical industry, brought down the prices by at least 25 per cent because the logic employed

was to cap the drug-prices if they exceeded the average market price by 25 per cent. With the new move, the government had brought 58 per cent of cardiac medicines and 21 per cent of anti-diabetic drugs under price control. Now with a retrograde decision, the union government seems to be giving it all away. While civil society and access-to-medicine activists demand for more such price controls, the government has removed the price controlling powers of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), which had capped the prices of 108 drugs. The Department of Pharmaceuticals of the union government has instructed the NPPA to revoke the guidelines issued on 29 May that gave it the power to fix prices of drugs that are not on the national list of essential medicines.

### Unethical medical practices

**Publication:** Millennium Post

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Opinion piece:** Keshav Niranjana, assistant professor, Deshbandhu College, University of Delhi

**Headline:** [The unholy health harvest](#)

**Synopsis:** Indian healthcare industry is ailing due to corruption and malpractices in the system. Helpless and prolonged tolerance to corruption has rendered the society to live with these corrupt practices. Government and people, in general, are not bothered anymore as they have become habituated to live in these conditions. Real condition of India's health, as described in the WHO report, is quite disturbing. It shows that India's health parameters are worse than many other developing countries like Sri Lanka and Iraq. According to the UN Human Development Index 2014, a child born in India today has less probability of survival than in Sri Lanka or Iraq, due to lack of health awareness in public, poverty, illiteracy, and malpractices in the healthcare system.

### Patent/ IPR/ Modi government

**Publication:** Business Standard

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Headline:** [Intellectual property rights issues could get a resolution system](#)

**Synopsis:** One of the main outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US is going to be the launch of a dialogue mechanism on issues related to intellectual property rights (IPR), a major irritant in India-US ties. The dialogue mechanism, likely to get a mention in the joint statement after the much-touted meeting between Modi and US President Barack Obama, will subsequently commence under the India-US Trade Policy Forum likely in November, a top official told Business Standard.

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Headline:** [Make in India: Words are not enough, needs decisive action](#)

**Synopsis:** Words are powerful things. They can motivate and inspire, encourage and enthuse. But words alone cannot make India a manufacturing powerhouse. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of his commitment to making India a centre of manufacturing excellence, and set a goal of elevating India's ranking in global 'ease of doing business' surveys by 85 rungs. This is welcome. But these pronouncements of purpose need to be backed up by decisive action. Instead, we see a decision on revision of gas prices being postponed yet again, several key posts within the government still waiting to be filled and many public sector banks going headless. The Goods and Services Tax had been stalled these last five years because of opposition from BJP-ruled states. But even now, that great fillip to manufacturing success remains elusive.

**Similar reports in-**

**Mint-** [Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' campaign promises effective, easy governance](#)

**Business Standard-** [Industry captains hail PM's 'Make in India' project](#)

The Times of India- [Modi's 'Make In India' casts web world over](#)  
The Hindustan Times- [Look East, Link West, says PM Modi at Make in India launch](#)  
The Indian Express- [With India Inc standing behind him, PM Modi hard-sells 'Make in India'](#)  
NDTV- ['This is the Step of a Lion': PM Modi on his Make-in-India Campaign](#)

**Publication:** Business Standard

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Headline:** [Coalition for Affordable Care website launched](#)

**Synopsis:** Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival here, a coalition of US healthcare stakeholders have launched a website to kick-off a sustained campaign to inform American people on Indian pharmaceutical industry's contribution to their healthcare system. The Coalition for Affordable Care comprises healthcare providers and life sciences companies, thinktanks and policy experts, academic and research institutions, US insurance companies and pension funds, NGOs and Trade Associations.

**Publication:** Mint

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Headline:** [WTO deal deadlock hangs over Narendra Modi's business push with Obama](#)

**Synopsis:** India and the US will look to impart fresh momentum to bilateral economic ties during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit and talks with President Barack Obama, but a lingering deadlock over the Bali agreement under the World Trade Organization (WTO) may prove to be a stumbling block. After reaching the high-water mark in 2008 with the signing of the civilian nuclear cooperation deal, the relationship between India and the US has seen a downward spiral, with widening differences on trade and economic issues, including India's patent regime.

**Website:** Scroll

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 25, 2014

**Headline:** [India's generic drug makers likely to be major talking point during Modi's US visit](#)

**Synopsis:** When Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks to business leaders in the United States this week, he is expected to invite them to 'make in India'. But US pharmaceutical companies will be hoping for more than an assurance of "red carpet, not red tape". Drug makers are hoping that India will overhaul its intellectual property regime to allow them to make profits off the great Indian market. US business interests were miffed at an Indian Supreme Court ruling against pharma giant Novartis last year. The court rejected the company's attempt to patent its cancer drug Glivec, a verdict that was a huge victory for local makers of generic versions of the drug and for consumers for whom the drug is available at a much lower price.

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Opinion piece:** Swaminathan S Anklesaria Aiyar

**Headline:** [PM Modi's US Visit: India has to look like a superpower to get US investors interested again](#)

**Synopsis:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit is a damage repair job, not a triumphal clinching of a strategic relationship. Indo-US relations resemble a broken-down car covered with dust. Modi must do more than wipe off the dust. He must convert India into an economic powerhouse that is globally relevant again, and has strategic value for others. In the 2000s, India's GDP grew rapidly, making it a potential superpower and the only plausible strategic counter to China in Asia. India was also an attractive destination for US business, which became the strongest lobby India ever had in Washington

DC. This facilitated the Bush-Singh nuclear deal and Obama's backing for a UN Security Council seat.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: September 26, 2014**

**Headline: [Will Modi, Obama strike the right note in US meet?](#)**

**Synopsis:** The summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama gives both countries an opportunity to break away from the past and give a fresh start to what were once seen as promising relations between the world's oldest and largest democracies. In recent years, a raft of differences across the expanse of ties have stressed the relationship that had warmed considerably since the year 2000—the latest being in July over the trade facilitation agreement (TFA) under the World Trade Organization (WTO) when India demanded that the TFA be accompanied by a parallel agreement giving it more leeway to subsidise and stockpile food than allowed by the WTO.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: September 26, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Neelam Deo, director at Gateway House, a Mumbai-based foreign policy think tank.**

**Headline: [Transforming India-US relations](#)**

**Synopsis:** During Narendra Modi's first visit to the US as Prime Minister, both governments propose to focus on economic issues. Although Modi as well as American leaders have emphasised the value of a strategic alliance and invoked their countries' shared democratic cultures, these commonalities are not adequate to enable Modi and US President Barack Obama to transform stagnating India-US relations into "the most important relationship of the 21st century". To reach that milestone will require new approaches to emerging global trends in trade and economic affairs, including on issues that India and the US have traditionally bickered over.

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: September 26, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Chandrajit Banerjee, director general, CII**

**Headline: [Striking a balance in business ties](#)**

**Synopsis:** In a recent column, John Kerry, US Secretary of State, and Penny Pritzker, US Secretary of Commerce, rightly observed that India and the US can forge a new era of shared prosperity and security for hundreds of millions of people in India, across Asia and the world. This is possible as India enjoys a strong, warm and friendly relationship with the US, founded on common commitment to democratic institutions, peace and prosperity, a robust and expanding economic cooperation agenda, and close people-to-people links.

## Universal health coverage

**Website: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 25, 2014**

**Headline: [IDFC releases 12th India Infrastructure Report: The Road to Universal Health Coverage](#)**

**Synopsis:** A large part of the Indian population today has little or no access to good quality healthcare at affordable prices. The public health system is in jeopardy, due to decades of appallingly low public investments; inadequate and antiquated infrastructure; severe shortage of human resources; and inadequacies in government policies. The Road to Universal Health Coverage, released by Dr Rajiv Lall, executive chairman, IDFC in New Delhi recently touches upon the various issues Indian Healthcare system suffers from along with suggestions for improvement. Report which is the outcome of a collaborative effort led by the IDFC Foundation provides a forum for free, frank and open exchange of

views necessary to arrive at innovative and workable solutions across various infrastructure sectors that would find acceptance among various stakeholders.

## General Industry

**Website:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Headline:** [Commerce ministry to set up healthcare trust to rev up brand India globally](#)

**Synopsis:** Commerce ministry is planning to set up a dedicated healthcare trust to promote and generate awareness about the generic prowess of the Indian pharma industry globally. The main aim behind this initiative is to build up a strong image of brand India by boosting the confidence of the stakeholders by annihilating any doubts relating to the quality parameters effectively, by clarifying the same through an government accredited body. The commerce ministry has already assigned the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) and Indian Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) to jointly go ahead with this plan and actively invite all the national level association to be a member of this trust. It is understood that the IBEF and Pharmexcil will in consultation with the government jointly review and plan major campaigning for the Indian pharma industry.

**Publication:** Mint

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Headline:** [Medicines Patent Pool sub-licenses Gilead's HIV drug to Indian pharma firms](#)

**Synopsis:** Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), a United Nations-backed agency that works to increase access to HIV treatment and spur new innovations, sub-licensed on Thursday US drug researcher Gilead Sciences Inc.'s new investigational medicine to five Indian generic drug makers. Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, Cipla Ltd, Emcure Pharma Ltd, Hetero Labs Ltd and Laurus Labs Ltd will be allowed to make and sell tenofovir alafenamide fumarate (TAF) for HIV treatment in some 112 developing countries. MPP had signed an agreement for development rights for this new HIV drug with Gilead in July.

**Similar reports in-**

**Business Standard-** [UN-backed body sub-licenses new HIV product to 5 Indian firms](#)

**The Hindu-** [5 firms get sub-licence to make new AIDS drug](#)

**Publication:** Deccan Chronicle

**Edition:** National

**Date:** September 26, 2014

**Headline:** [India to contribute USD 12 million to UN to fight Ebola](#)

**Synopsis:** India on Thursday announced USD 12 million contribution to the United Nations to help it fight the deadly Ebola virus in the African continent. The contribution was approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi just ahead of his departure to the US where he will address the 69th session of UN General Assembly in New York on September 27. "India to contribute USD 10 million to UN Secretary General's Fund for Ebola. Additional USD 2 million for purchase of protective gear to tackle Ebola," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson said here.

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** September 25, 2014

**Interview:** Murtuza Khorakiwala, MD, Wockhardt

**Headline:** [Jugaad is a valid concept for India society, says Wockhardt's MD Murtuza Khorakiwala](#)

**Synopsis:** In an exclusive interview at Wockhardt's headquarters at BKC, Mumbai, the 41-year-old

Murtuza Khorakiwala says adversity has been a blessing in disguise. "When you have challenges, you ask yourself questions and come out with revealing answers about yourself and the organisation," he says.

**Website: Moneycontrol**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: September 26, 2014**

**Headline: [Sun Pharma said to receive FDA Form 483 on Halol unit](#)**

**Synopsis:** A team of US FDA inspectors, which recently conducted a surprise audit on a Gujarat unit of Sun Pharmaceutical, has submitted Form 483, a Credit Suisse report said this morning. Submission of Form 483 means the FDA team found certain procedural issues with respect to the plant's running and seeks corrective action but may not imply an immediate import ban. The brokerage did not say how it got access to this information. The news of the audit was first broken by CNBC-TV18 on September 11.