



News Updates: September 30, 2014

OPPI 48th AGM 2014

Publication: Express Pharma

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [OPPI hosts its 48th Annual General Meeting](#)

Synopsis: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) hosted its 48th Annual General Meeting in Mumbai on September 27. The event saw all sections of the industry come together to felicitate Nihchal H Israni, Chairman, Blue Cross Laboratories, who received the first ever OPPI Lifetime Achievement award in recognition of his contribution to the Indian pharmaceutical industry for over six decades. The emphasis remained on collaboration within industry, with Government and with all relevant stakeholders. Various speakers highlighted the industry's concerns on access to quality healthcare and continued advocacy for an environment that allows innovation in medicine.

NPPA/ Drug Pricing

Publication: Moneylife

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [NPPA's U-turn on capping prices of 108 drugs for cardiac, diabetes](#)

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has withdrawn guidelines it issued for price control on 108 drugs used in treatment of cardiac and diabetes. It must be noted that under the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, NPPA was meant to regulate drug prices of medicines listed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). However, it tried to control prices of drugs that were not listed in NLEM and when pharmaceutical companies approached Courts, the drug regulator decided to withdraw its 'controversial' order.

Clinical trials

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Roche, GlaxoSmithKline cancer pill combos look similar in showdown](#)

Synopsis: Rival two-pill combinations for melanoma from Roche and GlaxoSmithKline have yielded similar results in separate clinical trials, leaving doctors with little to choose between the two regimens. Roche's combination is not yet available but GSK is already marketing its combined treatment, though it now plans to sell the drugs involved and other oncology products to Novartis under a deal announced in April.

Patent/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: September 30, 2014

Opinion piece: Srividhya Ragavan, professor of law, University of Oklahoma College of Law, and Raj Dave is partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Headline: [The right prescription in the IPR debate](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in the United States. As part of the agenda for the visit, both

countries will unfold their wishlist for the other. Chief on the list will be the US Trade Representative's (USTR's) requirement that India wind back parts of its posture on patents. India's patent reforms have long bothered the US, causing the latter to take an uncharacteristic and sometimes, an unwarranted interest. In every one of the USTR watchlists, India has featured as a 'priority' country, a status bestowed on countries whose trade laws are considered a barrier to US trade. This year, India was red-flagged as a 'Priority Foreign Country,' a special status designated for the intellectual property pariahs of the world.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: ['What is trade distorting when I am feeding my poor?'](#)

Synopsis: Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said that she strongly objected to some countries alleging that India was a deal breaker at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as it was only trying to take care of its poor while being fully committed to honouring the agreement reached at the Bali Ministerial meet. Highlighting the need for a 'vibrant' intellectual property regime, Sitharaman said the new IPR policy being framed by the Government will bring more clarity to the Act and lay down the roadmap for the future. She said the Government would promote R&D for drug manufacturers in the country and also provide them with funds for innovation. She also stressed the need for faster patent registrations so that India could benefit from technology transfer.

Publication: Business Standard *(sourced from Reuters)*

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Hundreds of firms join global hunt for copycat biotech drugs](#)

Synopsis: Hundreds of companies around the world are chasing an emerging market for cheaper copies of costly biotech drugs, with more than 700 so-called biosimilars now in development or already approved, according to a major study of the sector. Biotech medicines - made from proteins and other large molecules - account for six of the 10 biggest-selling drugs in the world today, led by AbbVie's \$12 billion-a-year rheumatoid arthritis injection Humira.

Modi government

Publication: Business World

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Walk The Talk](#)

Synopsis: On 12th December 2008, the commerce ministry came out with a strategy report to increase the export of pharmaceutical products from India. The report, one of the most comprehensive ever, was prepared by the captains of domestic drug industry and key bureaucrats. Almost six years later, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about a new "Make in India" initiative, the dozen odd "threats" that were identified by the expert task force, continues to harm Indian pharma industry's export prospects. Investment in drug research and development has not picked up, regulatory environment remains far from ideal, non-tariff barriers in key markets — especially, the biggest drug market, the US — has only increased and takeover of domestic drug firms by foreign firms continues...Even the most vital recommendation — to create domestic manufacturing capabilities in fermentation products to reduce dependence on Chinese import of key intermediates — has not materialised. In other words, none of the solutions, suggested by the task force to boost pharmaceutical exports, have so far been implemented. Even though the pharma exports have continued to grow through these years, its dependence on Chinese raw material imports have only increased. And if the story doing the rounds in the domestic pharma circle is true, while India's taskforce report remained on papers, it was China that streamlined its pharma production process based on the report to reap benefits.

Publication: The Economic Times *(sourced from PTI)*

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Government, pharma industry form 'India-Responsible Healthcare Trust](#)

Synopsis: The government and major pharmaceutical industry organisations have come together to form the 'India-Responsible Healthcare Trust' to power the Brand India Pharma campaign. "The India-Responsible Healthcare Trust will spearhead the Brand India Pharma initiative through the second phase. The industry-government partnership is an important milestone in the campaign," India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) said quoting Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher. The formation of the trust represents the commitment to both drive and safeguard the interests of the Indian pharma industry. The primary objective of this trust will be to position India as a responsible healthcare provider, IBEF said in a statement.

Similar report in-

Millennium Post- [Govt, Indian pharma cos join hands to form healthcare trust](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [Higher duties hit local mfg of medical devices](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made 'Make in India' one of the thrust areas of the government, but its own taxation policies seem to push in the opposite direction when it comes to medical devices. While duties on inputs for device manufacture remain very high, making it unviable to manufacture devices in India, duties on finished goods have been steadily reduced and in some cases like cardiac stents even brought to zero. This and some other policies incentivize importing finished goods rather than manufacturing them here. The net result is that over 75% of India's Rs 30,000 crore medical devices market is dependent on imports, mostly by multinationals that have no manufacturing facility in India. According to a government-directed study, this market is likely to grow at 15% a year, which means it could be worth over Rs 60,000 crore in five years or even Rs 1 lakh crore taking inflation into account.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 30, 2014

Opinion piece: SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Headline: [Rock Show in NY Over, It's Time to Roll Action in India](#)

Synopsis: Narendra Modi's Madison Square Garden address to overseas Indians was more a rockstar concert than a prime minister's lecture. He had delirious fans cheering, clapping, and chanting "Modi, Modi, Modi!" He plucked their heartstrings, praising them lavishly for raising India's global image, and promised that India would become a stunning success that would make them proud. This was not an occasion for poli cy announce ments, but for cel ebrations with fans that had backed him in his darkest days. It was a rally of the faithful, an out pouring of mu tual admiration. And yet, halfway through his US visit, the question remains whether his golden dreams will become real. Modi loves alliterations, and said India had the advantage of three Ds -democracy , the demographic dividend, and demand (one of the biggest markets in the world). These, he declared, would make India a superpower.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [PM's US Visit: Modi's 10-trillion-dollar breakfast with US CEOs, asks investors to shed fears](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a \$10-trillion Monday morning as he pitched India to some of the largest global investors and financiers, asking them to look afresh at the country and urging them

to shed any fears that they might have developed about investing in the country in recent years. After storming Madison Square Garden on Sunday, Modi kicked off one of the most extensive interactions between the American business community and the Indian government ahead of his meetings with President Barack Obama.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [PM Narendra Modi meets top US CEOs, many keen on India opportunities](#)

Publication: Business Insider

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [US Companies Keen On Engaging With The New Indian Govt](#)

Synopsis: America Inc, the US counterpart of Indian corporate, expects the new Modi government to deliver and make India an investment-friendly economy. According to an assessment done by ASSOCHAM's US office, the policy makers, corporate honchos of the top Fortune 500 companies in the US believe that Prime Minister Narendra Modi can turn India into 'a modern nation with democratic values'.

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Opinion piece: Doug Bandow, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute

Headline: [India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits America: Washington Should Recognize Another Emerging Great Power](#)

Synopsis: Before becoming prime minister India's Narendra Modi was barred from receiving a visa to visit the U.S. A rising leader in the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he was tied to deadly sectarian violence. But now, backed by an overwhelming parliamentary majority, he leads one of Asia's most important powers. The Obama administration is rolling out the red carpet. As it must.

Website: First Biz

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Modi in America: Decoding what US businessmen want from India's PM](#)

Synopsis: With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to the US expected to renew bilateral ties, top industry leaders from the two countries met in New York at a reception hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Friday. In meetings with global powers including China and Japan, Modi has won investment pledges of \$55 billion while in the run up to Modi's US trip, the Indian government gave relief to US businesses - scrapping a proposal to place anti-dumping duties on foreign solar panels and reining in a government agency that capped drug prices. While no big bang investment deals are likely to be clinched on this four-day tour, the key question is if Modi can win over the US private sector to attract capital.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [NOD FOR ONLINE ENTRY? - It's Fab News for \\$-Funded Firms Making in India](#)

Synopsis: The government is likely to allow foreign-funded Indian firms to sell goods online if they make more than three-fourths of their product range themselves at home as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wider push to promote manufacturing, and to boost homegrown brands such as Fabindia. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said in his July 10 budget that manufacturers will be allowed to sell

goods online even if they have foreign investment provided they manufacture locally. The existing foreign investment policy does not allow any foreign direct investment (FDI) in ecommerce. It also does not define 'manufacturing'.

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: September 30, 2014

Opinion piece: Kanwal Sibal, former foreign secretary, Government of India

Headline: [Indo-US relations: Not natural partners at all](#)

Synopsis: If the media coverage in India of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit and the adulation with which the Indian-American community greeted him in New York were any yardstick, it can already be labelled a resounding success. No other Indian prime minister has connected so well with the Indian Americans. This signifies that the entrepreneurial, achievement-oriented, can-do Indian Americans, who want to derive pride from India's success, see Modi as a saviour. Just before his departure, Modi sent a powerful message about making India a manufacturing hub in his 'Make in India' address to Indian and foreign investors.

Health Ministry

Website: Press Information Bureau- Government of India- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Dr Harsh Vardhan showcases government's early achievements in Health- "Four active months: Inclusivity bedrock of plans, MDG targets achievable"](#)

Synopsis: Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, laid out for the national media here today his objective of giving 1.2 billion Indians a health system that is at once accessible, affordable and equitable. He said, "The early days of a new regime are a time of contemplation on the road ahead as well as wrapping up the unfinished business of the previous government. We have done well in both respects." Shri Narendra Modi government's health policy has the poorest of poor Indians as its focus, he stated. The majority has been deprived of accessible and affordable healthcare for far too long. Dr Harsh Vardhan is determined to reverse this situation forever.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Malnutrition, related diseases a major issue in India: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Malnutrition and related diseases is a very serious issue in 184 deprived districts across the country and the Centre will launch a campaign to check it, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today said. "The government is very serious and sensitive on pre-mature deaths due to malnutrition, especially in 184 deprived districts in the country, including Rajasthan," Vardhan said replying to media questions during a video press conference from the national capital.

Similar reports in-

The Indian Express- [Malnutrition, related diseases a major issue in India: Vardhan](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [Health insurance scheme to be rolled out by this year's end](#)

Synopsis: The NDA government's flagship project, health insurance scheme for all, is likely to be rolled out in different phases by the end of this year. Health minister Harsh Vardhan said on Monday that the

details on health facilities to be covered in the scheme have been discussed at the ministry level and also the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). "The health insurance scheme, which will be a part of the Universal Health Assurance Scheme, will be the world's largest public health insurance programme," the minister said. He was briefing the media to list the achievement of his ministry in the first 100 days.

Similar report in-

Mint- [Govt to unveil universal health insurance scheme](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Bangalore

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [NHAM to be rolled out by year end : Union Health Minister](#)

Synopsis: The Union Government's flagship National Health Assurance Mission (NHAM), aimed at building a robust healthcare support system for the poor, is all set to be rolled out in a phased manner by this year end, said Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Monday. Addressing presspersons through video-conferencing from Delhi, the Minister said NHAM had been conceptualised to provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services apart from an assured set of primary and secondary healthcare services to people.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Bangalore

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [Union Health Minister keen on holistic healthcare for all](#)

Synopsis: Convinced that the country would benefit if traditional, evidence-based medical streams were allowed to join the public health mainstream, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan on Monday said he was keen on holistic healthcare for all. Addressing presspersons here during a video-conference from Delhi, the Health Minister said an expert group, headed by H.R. Nagendra, Chancellor of the Bangalore-based Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) University, had been formed to develop treatment protocols and areas of integration.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Medical regulatory bodies under the lens](#)

Synopsis: The various regulatory bodies governing medical practice, doctors, dentists and nurses, are likely to come under scrutiny, Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, said on Monday. Vardhan said he aimed to end the corruption and inefficiencies within the Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India and Indian Nursing Council. High-level committees are looking into the structure, system and laws governing these councils. Vardhan has promised "radical changes" in them soon.

Similar report in-

The Telegraph- [Bid to cleanse MCI; rural stint plan](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [After eliminating polio, govt targets measles](#)

Synopsis: An ambitious drive to eliminate or control a host of diseases, including measles, which affects lakhs of people and leave many killed every year will be launched, Health Minister Harsh

Vardhan on Monday said. Dr. Vardhan said the government was already working towards eliminating measles by 2015 and Rubella, also known as German measles, and 'Kala-azar' or black fever by 2015. It also aims to eliminate parasitic disease Filaria by 2015 and Leprosy at district level by 2017. "We got rid of Smallpox in 1977 and Polio in 2014. There is no reason why we cannot finish others," he said during a press conference here. Dr. Vardhan said the government has called a meeting of health secretaries from across the country on October 9 in this regard, following which a nationwide programme will be launched regarding elimination of such diseases and others. "We have problems of hypertension, diabetes, cancer, obesity among others and a detailed module and protocol to deal with them is ready. There will be a final discussion on October 9 before we roll it out," he said.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Govt seeks to eradicate Kala-Azar by 2015](#)

Synopsis: The Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan, has sought to eradicate Kala-Azar from the country by 2015. The Minister said at a conference here that the Indian Council for Medical Research has developed a non-invasive kit for dealing with this disease, which currently affects about four States. Other than Kala-Azar, measles and leprosy are among other diseases, on which the Ministry aims to deal with on priority.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [CVO removal: BJP leader put pressure, alleges AAP](#)

Synopsis: The controversy surrounding the removal of the AIIMS chief vigilance officer (CVO), Sanjeev Chaturvedi, refuses to die down. The government has claimed that it was routine action but many activists are alleging that it has been done at the behest of a senior BJP leader, J P Nadda, who had been in touch with health minister Harsh Vardhan constantly ever since he took charge of the health portfolio. The minister has denied all such charges.

Drug quality

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [Govt acts against US body's drug slur](#)

Synopsis: The government has initiated legal action against a US-based thinktank for "maligning" the domestic pharma industry on quality of medicines manufactured here. Sources said that the action is being initiated by the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), on behalf of the government and domestic industry, which has taken strong objection to the "smear campaign" being orchestrated by the Washington-based American Enterprise Institute (AEI) against domestic companies. The IBEF, a trust established by the commerce ministry, along with the industry, has strongly disputed a recent study by the US thinktank that claimed domestic pharmaceutical companies cut corners and made substandard drugs for markets with non-existent, under-developed or emerging regulatory oversight, notably Africa. Official sources said "a legal response" is being framed to oppose the study, adding the government was fully in support of the domestic industry, and would like to protect its interests.

Unethical medical practice

Publication: Pune Mirror

Edition: Pune

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [The medical 'negligence' myth](#)

Synopsis: Errors in judgment happen to the best of us. But which doctor would willfully harm a patient? One of the fieriest debates doing the rounds these days is on medical negligence. I still fail to understand why a doctor would be willfully negligent, as his practice depends on word of mouth. My own understanding of the situation is that often the expectations of the patient or their relatives outweigh the doctor's capacity. The concept that is prevalent in this country is that doctors can deal with any disease effectively. But that is not true. However, the doctor should always weigh all decisions carefully and explain the various modalities of therapy and their advantages and disadvantages to the patient and his relatives -- ensuring that they are a part of the clinical decision-making.

Universal health coverage

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: Delhi

Date: September 30, 2014

Opinion piece: K. Srinath Reddy, President, PHFI

Headline: Prescription for health (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

Synopsis: Political will is even more important than professional skill for addressing India's health in the next decade. There should be political will to elevate health to the top tier of the national development agenda. Economy, equity and electability together will constitute the will. Recognition that it is necessary to invest in health for accelerating economic growth has finally become an axiom of global development. It is now influencing our national development agenda. The imperative of promoting health equity, to bridge huge gaps in major health indicators across different social, geographic and gender groups, is a call to conscience that politicians recognise and respond to, whether on their own or through pressure exerted by civil society. Health is also now becoming an important electoral issue, with provision of essential health services generating political popularity and electoral gains. The recent election of Joko Widodo as President of Indonesia has been mostly attributed to the popularity of the universal health coverage (UHC) he introduced as Governor of Jakarta. In India, we are seeing the stirrings of a similar response to health policies that please the people.

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [Indians to see a 10.8% rise in salaries in 2015: Towers Watson survey](#)

Synopsis: Analysing the findings by employee groups in India reveals that all employees - from production workers to executive directors - are set to have higher pay raises than last year. The pharmaceutical sector across the region, including in India, will continue to have amongst the highest salary increases. Vietnam (12%), India (11.5%) and China (8.9%) will see the highest pay increases in this sector. "Patent expiries, increasing demand and encouragement for genetics have continued to put pressure on companies to attract and retain talent, particularly for jobs such as in regulatory affairs, clinical strategy, project management and qualified researchers," said Sambhav Rakyan.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Seeking the right medicine](#)

Synopsis: The usual mantra of waste management – reduce, reuse, recycle – is infeasible for hospitals. Both Government and private hospitals face a growing amount of specialised waste that they need to handle and dispose of securely. Data from a recently published study of Lucknow hospitals shows that on average, about 1-5 kg of waste are generated per bed daily. Other studies show that the bulk of the waste is non-medical, while medical waste averages to only 0.5-2 kg per bed per day.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [Failed cancer vaccines might could get new lease of life](#)

Synopsis: Using vaccines to fight cancer is a field littered with failures but experts believe it is possible the approach could get a new lease of life if such shots are combined with a new class of drugs called checkpoint inhibitors. Unlike traditional preventative vaccines, therapeutic cancer vaccines are designed for people with established disease and are supposed to boost the patient's immune system to keep tumours at bay.

Website: NDTV

Edition: Online

Date: September 29, 2014

Headline: [Benefit of Ranbaxy Deal to Accrue in Few Years: Sun Pharma](#)

Synopsis: Drug maker Sun Pharma has said that it will take a "few years" for it to realise the benefits of its \$4-billion takeover of Ranbaxy, terming the deal as a "complex and large acquisition". Sun Pharma chairman Israel Makov said that his company will leverage on complementary functional strengths to achieve topline growth and gains through both revenue enhancement and operational synergies, translating into higher margins, greater market share and more profits through the takeover of Ranbaxy.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [Industry raises concern over medical device notification, as it fails to address core issues](#)

Synopsis: The medical device industry expressed shock and concern over the recent notification issued by the health ministry, stating that it hardly addresses any major issues of the industry and rather only adds up to their present woes by complicating the matters further. There is a strong discontent among many against this move as they feel that it had been taken without considering the best interest of industry even after airing the difficulties faced by the industry in respect of growing import and trade dependency of medical devices.

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: September 30, 2014

Headline: [Can Biocon Join The \\$1-billion Club By 2018?](#)

Synopsis: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is on a tight deadline. Plans she had set in motion at least a decade ago are nearing fruition. According to the timetable, the founder chairman and managing director of Biocon has four years to increase the biopharmaceutical company's revenues from its current \$487 million to \$1 billion. This is an ambitious goal but, then, Mazumdar-Shaw (61) is yet to shy away from a challenge. "Risks, after all, are part of an entrepreneur's life," says the businesswoman who started the company in a garage in 1978.