

NPPA/ Drug pricing**Publication: Business Standard****Edition: National****Date: September 8, 2014****Headline: [Drug price monitoring cells across states soon](#)**

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is planning to set up its units across the country, an official said. These cells will be formed in coordination with state governments and work in association with the local drug controller. The idea is to keep a close watch on real-time price movements, the maximum retail price of medicines and their availability.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis**Edition: National****Date: September 8, 2014****Headline: [Albumin drug paucity leaves patients in the lurch](#)**

Synopsis: The entire country, including Mumbai and Pune, are reeling under an acute shortage of a life saving drug – Human Albumin Serum. The paucity of the drug has been persisting for the past three months in pharmacy stores of hospitals. Also it is not available with most wholesalers, distributors or retailers. Families of patients have been running from pillar to post to procure the drug. What triggered the shortage? The prices of 50 ml and 100 ml Albumin vials have been slashed from upto Rs6,500 – Rs4,000 to Rs2,500 – 1,600 under the latest Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) for essential medicines issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Government of India. Albumin is an essential life saving drug which should be priced reasonably, according to NPPA.

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing**Publication: The Times of India****Edition: Online****Date: September 6, 2014****Headline: [Only 20% of patents filed in India yearly are local](#)**

Synopsis: Despite efforts from government and industry, international companies and individuals continue to overshadow local inventors with regard to filing patent applications. Of the 43,000 applications filed for patents every year with the India Patent Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks each year just 9,000 are from Indian individuals and companies, said Chaitanya Prasad, CGPDTM and registrar of geographical indications. He was speaking on the sidelines of a two-day conference on intellectual property rights near Guindy on Friday. Officials said the CPGDTM's office was reeling under a severe staff shortage. "We are conducting awareness seminars across the country and have made it easier for the medium, small and micro enterprises (MSME) sector to file for patents," said Prasad.

Similar reports in-**The Financial Express- [Lapsed, expired patents become public property](#)****The Asian Age- [Europe extends helping hand to India on IPR](#)****Publication: The Economic Times****Edition: National****Date: September 8, 2014****Headline: [Poly Medicure wins long patent battle against German pharma giant B Braun](#)**

Synopsis: Poly Medicure, an Indian medical devices firm with annual sales of just over Rs 320 crore, has won a five-year long patent battle with Rs 40,000 crore German medical devices and pharma giant B Braun as the European Patent Office (EPO) revoked two of the latter's patents covering features of intravenous (IV) safety catheters. B Braun appealed against these decisions at the boards of appeals, a redressal forum within the EPO structure, but the appeals have been turned down by the boards and the patents of B Braun revoked, according to orders passed last month and earlier in June.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [Natco pharma's US partner files Abbreviated New Drug Application for Everolimus](#)

Synopsis: Drug maker Natco Pharma Ltd today said its marketing partner in the US Breckenridge Pharmaceutical Inc (BPI) has filed an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for Everolimus 0.25mg, 0.5mg, and 0.75mg Tablets. "Natco and BPI believe that its Paragraph IV ANDA was filed on the First-to-File date and expects to be the only generic that is entitled to the 180-day exclusivity period," city-based Natco said in a filing with bourses.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [Natco's US partner files ANDA for Everolimus](#)

Business Standard- [Natco jumps 5% after US partner files ANDA for Everolimus](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Natco pharma's US partner files ANDA for Everolimus](#)

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [Bristol-Myers sues Merck over U.S. immunotherapy patent](#)

Synopsis: Bristol-Myers Squibb Co on Thursday filed a lawsuit against Merck & Co Inc for allegedly infringing its immunotherapy patent. The company is seeking unspecified damages. Immunotherapy is a mechanism that uses the body's own immune system to eliminate cancer cells. In its lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court of Delaware, Bristol-Myers said Merck was planning to exploit its invention with a later-developed treatment, pembrolizumab, violating the company's May 20 patent.

Clinical trials/ Vaccines

Publication: The Tribune

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Headline: [Curbs on clinical trials leading to drug shortage: Pharma cos](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

Synopsis: Pharma companies are blaming curbs on clinical trials for "drought of new and generic drugs in the country," depriving thousands of consumers of low-cost medicines. The All India Drug Action Network had filed a PIL in the Supreme Court to seek guidelines for the protection of subjects participating in clinical trials in 2011. Since then, the process of granting approvals to new and generic medicines by the Drug Controller General of India has hit a roadblock with data showing that merely 24 drug approvals were granted this year, says Indian Pharmaceutical Association.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Headline: [Vaccine of value?](#) (*third edit*)

Synopsis: The world's first vaccine candidate against dengue a viral disease without a cure, presents a

dilemma for the countries in tropical and sub-tropical Asia and America, where the disease is endemic— whether or not to include it in national immunisation programmes. The vaccine, as per a report in Science, is set to be cleared by drug-approval authorities early next year and developer Sanofi Pasteur's \$400 million facility in France is capable of churning out 100 million doses of the vaccine annually. Given there is no cure for dengue, the line of treatment followed for the 5 lakh people hospitalised every year around the globe has been symptom-control. As a result, 20,000 die each year (WHO figures). Moreover, disease incidence increases in specific seasons, straining healthcare systems. In this backdrop, the adoption of the vaccine should have been a given. So, why the quandary?

Bayer- Nexavar

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Mudar Patherya, stock market writer, tracking corporate earnings and investor psychology to gauge where markets are not headed

Headline: [Huge strategies by pharma companies](#)

Synopsis: The scorecard: Natco won 17 litigations in recent years, the most significant being pulling off the first compulsory licence from Bayer for its patent-protected anti-cancer drug Nexavar in a landmark judgment by India's patent office in March 2012. Besides, despite global pharma giants blocking Natco's attempts to genericise Copaxone, Natco's United States (US) marketing partner Mylan filed an ANDA for a three-times-a-week generic Copaxone which has been accepted by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). What I like about this story is that this represents the face of the modern India - knowledge-driven, self-assured and best of all, willing to stake out for the big game. This then is a Rs 756 crore company (revenues, 2013-14) gunning for potential multi-year revenues a number of times its present size.

Health Ministry

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: ['We need 500% transparency in healthcare'](#)

Synopsis: Harsh Vardhan gets about five hours of sleep every night. Yet, the Minister does not usually lose sleep over anything. You need a clear mind for a solution, he says, in an interview that winds up, at midnight. From clinical research to quality of local medicines and euthanasia, the minister discusses a range of issues.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [TB a national emergency: Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: The Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today launched India's first National anti-Tuberculosis Drug Resistance Survey, India 2014-15 here today, saying that such an exercise will help form a better understanding of the disease. The survey, which would be held in collaboration with WHO and USAID, will have the largest ever sample size, 5,214 people, covering 120 TB units in 24 states.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [TB a national emergency; says Vardhan](#)

The Hindu- [Biggest ever anti-TB drug resistance survey launched](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Headline: [Health ministry to approve clinical trial waiver to new drugs approved abroad for life threatening](#)

[diseases](#)

Synopsis: In a significant decision aimed to avoid delay in the introduction of new drugs in the country indicated for serious/life threatening diseases like cancer, AIDS, etc and diseases of special relevance to Indian health scenario, the union health ministry has decided to approve waiver of local clinical trial to these new drugs which have already been approved in the well developed regulatory countries like USA, UK, Canada, Japan & Australia. The health ministry's decision in this regard came in response to a letter written by the CDSCO some time ago.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 5, 2014

Headline: [Australia Prime Minister Tony Abbott announces AUD 20million grant for Australia-India research fund](#)

Synopsis: Australia today announced extension of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) for a further four years and also pledged Australian dollars (AUD) 20 million for the initiative. "This is not just for India or Australia, but for everyone's benefit. That is why I am pleased to announce that over the next four years, AUD 20 million would be allocated by the Australian government for this partnership programme," visiting Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said here.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [Australian Prime Minister pledges research funds](#)

The Hindu- [India, Australia to collaborate on health care](#)

The Indian Express- [Abbott announces \\$20 mn for research](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 5, 2014

Headline: [Vast possibilities in India-Australia health care cooperation Dr Harsh Vardhan shows visiting PM Tony Abbott AIIMS Trauma Centre](#)

Synopsis: India and Australia are exploring cooperation possibilities in preventive healthcare, trauma care, geriatric medicine, diabetes research and mental illnesses. This found iteration in the dialogue held between the visiting Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Tony Abbott, and the Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, today. Dr Harsh Vardhan, who later had a meeting with the visiting leader, said, The warm and friendly relations that exist between India and Australia could materialise into manifold streams of cooperation in the health sector.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: September 8, 2014

Headline: [Harsh Vardhan to visit Dhaka for health ministers' meet](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be leaving for Dhaka this afternoon on a 5-day visit to attend meetings of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and enhance bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh. He will be a part of the 32nd meeting of the Ministers of Health of WHO South East Asia Region due to be held tomorrow.

Publication: Outlook

Edition: Online

Date: September 15, 2014 issue

Headline: [The Inquisitor Of Maladies](#)

Synopsis: “On the one hand, the prime minister has declared, ‘Na khaonga, na khaane doonga’ and on the other hand, in the most prestigious medical institute in the country, right here in Delhi, certain corrupt elements succeed in achieving what they could not in the past two years.” Thus reads an angry letter dated August 16 to Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan. It’s from Sanjiv Chaturvedi, chief vigilance officer (CVO) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. Chaturvedi wants the ministry to withdraw its order—issued the same day—relieving him of his charge. His term, rudely cut short, is originally scheduled to end in mid-2016. He also seeks a CBI inquiry into his complaints and a comparative evaluation of his and his predecessors’ performance. The shunting-out had clearly left the CVO nettled, and he’s got a fair bit of backing. AIIMS staff expressed support for him in public; the Aam Aadmi Party held protests backing him; the AIIMS students union demanded his reinstatement; the media too pleaded his case. As a forest service officer, Chaturvedi comes under the Union environment ministry. It has given him a clean chit in a letter to the health ministry, where he is on deputation.

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Headline: [Local Generic Drug Cos See Huge Opportunity in Japanese Market](#)

Synopsis: Indian generic drug makers are exploring all options to get a foot in the door to Japan's lucrative but difficult-to-crack \$111-billion drug industry. The penetration of generic drugs in Japan, the world's largest drug market after the US and Europe is a little more than 30% compared with over 80% in the US drug market. The Japanese government now wants to raise this share to 60% by 2017 as it looks to make healthcare affordable. According to analysts and experts, companies, including Lupin, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Pharma, Glenmark, Shasun Pharma, Sami Labs and Aurobindo Pharma, are making efforts to increase their business with Japan.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Headline: [Ageing Japan beckons Indian pharma companies](#)

Synopsis: Though the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan ended on a not-so-eventful note for the Indian pharma sector, the industry is hopeful that the Japanese market will slowly turn to India for exports of generics. Japan, which was so far had been a market for patented and innovative drugs, is slowly realising the importance of low-cost generics, due to growing ageing population.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [India ready to roll out easier customs rules in WTO push](#)

Synopsis: The commerce and revenue departments have worked out the details of India's commitment under the proposed trade facilitation agreement even as negotiators at the World Trade Organization in Geneva are trying to deal with the country's concerns on subsidy payments to farmers. The plan worked out in Bali last December had suggested that countries sequence their commitments on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in three stages. The first one or Category A needs countries to notify disciplines or activities that will be implemented as soon as the agreement is in place. Category B involves the list of activities that will be implemented at a later date, while Category C deals with issues that need additional time and may involve financial support, which India will not seek.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [India ready to roll out easier customs rules in WTO push](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 7, 2014

Opinion piece: Chandrajit Banerjee, director-general of the Confederation of Indian Industry, or CII

Headline: [A US-India 'reset'](#)

Synopsis: In the past few years, the world's two largest democracies have witnessed deceleration in their trade and commercial relationship due to various domestic and international factors. On both sides, companies face challenges related to market access and protectionism, while some concerns related to the relationship at multilateral platforms remain contentious. However, in the run-up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US this month, positive signals towards renewed collaboration are emanating from both sides. The visits of Secretary of State John Kerry, Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel carried forward the momentum. Stalled dialogues such as the US-India Strategic Dialogue, the Trade Policy Forum, the Private Sector Advisory Group, the Commercial Dialogue and so on are on the table again.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Headline: [PM Narendra Modi gears up for Obama meet, but US yet to name ambassador](#)

Synopsis: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to the US for his first summit meeting later this month, one of the more glaring absences is that of a US ambassador to India. The US is expected to name an ambassador to India in the coming days but that does not actually mean the new envoy will be here anytime soon. The political gridlock in Washington DC has meant that there is a huge backlog of 65 ambassadorial posts across the world that are yet to be filled, because the US Senate has not been able to confirm them.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 7, 2014

Headline: [Make drug scam probe reports public, says Modi](#)

Synopsis: Former deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi on Friday demanded that the government immediately make public the four inquiry reports on the Rs 100 crore medicine purchase scam. Since the death of Niranjana Sah at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital (JNMCH), Bhagalpur, due to administration of substandard medicines, the state government ordered probes into the death, procurement and purchase of medicines, but none of the inquiry report has yet been submitted, he said.

FDA

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Headline: [Prescription in ALL CAPS: Medical fraternity gets the chill](#)

Synopsis: Still have to squint to decipher the doctor's scrawl on a handwritten prescription? The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is struggling to implement Medical Council of India's directive for writing the drug prescription in capital letters. On their part, various medical associations too admit their doctors have yet to start prescribing medicines as per the state's model format. While MCI had approved a draft for doctors to prescribe drugs in capital letters, the then state Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mahesh Zagade had chaired a committee to formulate a model prescription format. The committee included representatives of the Indian Medical Association, Maharashtra Medical Council, Maharashtra Veterinary Council, Maharashtra Dental Council, Indian pharmaceutical association and others.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [US approves use of novel cancer drug](#)

Synopsis: The US Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved the first of an eagerly awaited new class of cancer drugs that unleashes the immune system to fight tumours. The drug, which Merck will sell under the name Keytruda, was approved for patients with advanced melanoma who have exhausted other therapies. Cancer researchers have been almost giddy in the last couple of years about the potential of drugs like Keytruda, which seem to solve a century-old mystery of how cancerous cells manage to evade the body's immune system.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [Chemists' body asks to be included in FDA committee](#)

Synopsis: The Maharashtra State Chemists and Druggist Association (MSCDA) has sent a representation to the state government demanding its inclusion in the core committee of Maharashtra Food and Drug Association and pharmaceutical trade associations to ensure fair play and voice their concerns and complaints in the committee. Prior to the constitution of the committee, MSCDA had a dialogue with the minister of state for food and drug, Satej Patil, on having a platform to voice their concerns and issues with a competitive authority for ensuring an ideal drug distribution system in the state.

MCI/ AIIMS

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 7, 2014

Headline: [AIIMS doctors told to write generic drugs](#)

Synopsis: All India Institute of Medical Sciences has issued a circular asking all doctors, consultants and residents to prescribe drugs by their generic names only. If someone chooses to prescribe the branded ones, he or she will have to give a justification, according to the order issued in the name of deputy secretary Sanjiv Chaturvedi. "All the doctors in AIIMS are hereby again advised to henceforth prescribe only generic medicines. In case a doctor wants to specifically prescribe a branded drug, he or she should have a justifiable reason."

Similar report in-

The Hindu- [Doctors at AIIMS directed to prescribe generic drugs in OPD](#)

FDI

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [Govt may soon permit 100% FDI in brownfield medical device projects](#)

Synopsis: The government is likely to soon permit 100% FDI in brownfield medical devices and equipment manufacturing projects through the automatic route. Currently, 100% FDI is allowed in the pharmaceutical sector (including medical devices) in greenfield projects through automatic route, while Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval is needed for brownfield investments. Besides, there are riders while giving permission to brownfield investments, including that 'non-compete' clause would not be allowed except in special circumstances with FIPB approval. Also, FIPB has the discretion to incorporate conditions for foreign investment in all brownfield cases, at the time of granting approval.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 7, 2014

Headline: [Finance Ministry to take up 35 FDI proposals](#)

Synopsis: Finance Ministry will take call on 35 foreign direct investment proposals, including that of Bharti Shipyard and Verizon Communications, later this month. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) headed by Finance Secretary Arvind Mayaram will hold its 210th meeting on September 16 and there are 35 proposals on the agenda, the ministry said. Bharti Shipyard, an Indian company in shipbuilding sector which has existing FDI through FIIs and NRIs proposes to undertake defence activities.

Similar report in-

Mint- [FIPB to take up 35 FDI proposals in September](#)

Public Health

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Opinion piece: Melinda Gates, co-chair and trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Headline: [Indian women show indomitable power](#)

Synopsis: Each year, 50,000 Indian mothers die due to pregnancy related complications. Those deaths are tragic for the simple fact that India is losing its mothers and the ripple effect of a missing mother on her children and community is incalculable. And though child deaths have been coming down, 1.4 million Indian children still die every year, most from preventable causes. Malnutrition takes a staggering toll on India, too. Nearly half the deaths of children under 5 in India can be attributed to malnutrition. Millions of children who suffer from malnutrition don't develop cognitively the way they should. Investing in saving lives is an investment in Indian women and girls, which is in turn an investment in India's future. Bill and I are encouraged by the steps the Indian Government is taking to help its poorest. The National Rural Health Mission has made a great impact. We're also proud to be partners with the Government, which is investing heavily in the health of its women and children.

General Industry

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 7, 2014

Headline: [Acute shortage of cancer specialists is the most critical issue: Suresh Advani](#)

Synopsis: Suresh H. Advani, one of the country's best-known oncologists, laments that India's cancer care requirements go largely unmet, but is not really surprised about the alarming surge in patient population that has come to public notice of late. The Mumbai Cancer Registry, of which he was a founding member and director, predicted this scenario 20 years ago, seeing the rapidly changing lifestyle in Indian cities. Advani, who performed India's first successful bone marrow transplant to treat a nine-year-old myeloid leukaemia patient in 1983, is still the last hope for hundreds of cancer patients visiting him from across the country. India has 2.4 million people diagnosed with cancer at any given time. The national health report, released by the Union ministry of health in August, predicted at least a 20% increase in cancer cases in India by 2020. This indicates that about 2 million new cancer cases will get added to the country's patient population every year. But India, which has less than 2,000 cancer specialists to take care of the more than 10 million patients (including reported cases, patients prone to relapses after treatment as well as those without treatment and undiagnosed patients), is far behind the target of providing at least minimum care to the expanding cancer patient population.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [How bad is a daily dose of 'plastic' for your health?](#)

Synopsis: Breast cancer survivor Akriti Sharma is on regular medication. She is apprehensive that the plastic bottles she has her medicines from could have an adverse effect on her health. "In any case, plastics are also known to damage the environment. So, why use something which is meant to help you but can end up damaging you?" Sharma's concern may not be something too many consumers are aware of. But could the packaging of our medicines, indeed, push us towards more diseases? Pro-green groups and consumer activists believe so and so does the Government. Chemicals could leach into life-saving medicines if plastics are used for packaging, they say. But the plastic industry counters that plastic is a legally and globally accepted packing material.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Diane Brady, senior editor for Bloomberg Businessweek in New York

Headline: [Should Bill Gates Write a Big Cheque to Stop Ebola?](#)

Synopsis: The world's richest man has already spent billions to combat such deadly diseases as malaria and polio, especially in Africa. Through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, he has already given \$1 million to the US Fund for Unicef last month to fight Ebola in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. But with a personal net worth of \$85.7 billion, he could afford more, writes Diane Brady. The price tag for stopping Ebola is now \$600 million. At least that's how much United Nations officials estimate it would cost to halt the deadly epidemic still sweeping across West Africa. A month ago, the figure was just over \$70 million. On September 2, Tom Frieden of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that the window to contain the outbreak is closing.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Opinion piece: Robert Cyran

Headline: [As long as it catches mice](#)

Synopsis: Google has finally learned from its case of healthcare hiccups. Costly run-ins with US regulators taught the internet giant that drugs and biotech can be a lot more complicated than the search business. Now it's partnering with pharmaceutical firms and others that know the legal terrain. That allows Google to engage in disruption while avoiding bureaucratic minefields. The company's latest stumble came last year, when the Food and Drug Administration punished 23andMe for selling unproven genetic tests and ignoring regulatory warnings. The biotech startup was bankrolled by Google and launched by the wife of Google co-founder Sergey Brin.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [Difficult, making in India](#)

Synopsis: At a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his maiden Independence Day speech invited foreign companies to set up manufacturing bases in the country, the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) shows India's ranking has slipped to 71 out of 144 countries this year, from 48 in 2007-08. India's ranking is the lowest among the BRICS countries and the rank differential with China has grown from 14 in 2007 to 43 at present. Even the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranks India at 134 out of 189 countries this year, which is three notches down from 2013. Since 2007, India's ranking has declined in most of the parameters accessed by GCI and the ranking is dismal in basic and more fundamental drivers of competitiveness like health and primary education, higher education and training, labour market efficiency. The report underlined that India's health situation is indeed alarming as infant mortality and malnutrition incidence are among the highest in the world and only one-third of our population have access to improved sanitation. Despite 900 million mobile connections, India is one of the world's least digitally connected countries and just 15% of our population has access to the internet on a regular basis. The silver lining,

however, is that India scores well in innovation, business sophistication and market size.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 5, 2014

Headline: [WHO mulls untested Ebola drugs](#)

Synopsis: Health experts honed in on Friday on a handful of unproven drugs they hope might turn the lethal tide of Ebola, as key figures urged that funds go for frontline crisis care in some of the world's poorest states. On the second and last day of talks in Geneva, the World Health Organisation-led group discussed fast-tracking two potential vaccines and eight potential therapies, including the drug ZMapp that has been used on a handful of frontline workers. With no fully tested treatments for Ebola, the WHO has endorsed rushing out potential cures like ZMapp — a call echoed by African doctors battling the epidemic that has taken some 1,900 lives so far.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: September 6, 2014

Headline: [Achhe din: Merger and acquisitions are picking up](#)

Synopsis: Call it the Modi impact. After years of suppressed investment environment, India Inc is showing signs of revival with a spurt in merger and acquisitions (M&A) cases. Fair play regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) used to hardly get four to five cases of M&As for approval every month in the past few years. "In the last three months, we have seen that number double to almost 10 a month. These are green shoots of revival and a spurt in investment activity," a senior CCI official told TOI. Under the Competition Act, CCI's nod for M&As is needed when the target company has assets of over Rs 250 crore and an annual turnover of more than Rs 750 crore. CCI then examines whether such a merger could create a monopoly and affect competition.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 7, 2014

Headline: ['Start Amma pharmacy at Central Station'](#) (Letter to editor)

Synopsis: With reference to the story 'Full-fledged medical shop needed at Central', which appeared on August 31, lack of pharmacies at Chennai Central Station is indeed a matter of concern. Railway authorities can rope in Amma Marundhagam (pharmacy) to cater to the needs of passengers. Low margins have cited as reason why agencies don't show any interest in opening such an outlet. Amma Marundhagam fits the bill, as it offers low-cost medicine to the public.