

## Access to Healthcare

### **False alarm: Samples test -ve for polio, [The Times of India](#) (21 June 2015)**

Amid reports of around 200 samples testing positive to polio-like symptoms in Uttar Pradesh, the Union health ministry on Saturday asserted that India remains polio free and all the samples tested were found negative for polio. The 208 cases reported from Bareilly are that of the 'acute flaccid paralysis' a condition which presents symptoms similar to polio but the causes are not related to an infection by the polio virus, the ministry said in a statement.

#### **Similar reports have appeared in:**

[Business Standard](#)

[The New Indian Express](#)

[Asian Age](#)

[Deccan Chronicle](#)

[The Tribune](#)

[NDTV](#)

[Zee News](#)

[Outlook India](#)

---

### **Mission Indradhanush: Immunising kids of migratory workers, [The Economic Times](#) (22 June 2015)**

Twenty-five-year-old Reena had sacrificed a day's wages and spent several hours walking in the blazing sun to reach an immunisation camp in Maner block in Bihar capital Patna. For the migratory labourer from Nalanda, this was a rare opportunity to get her one-and-a-half month-old son inoculated. Reena works at a brick kiln and had reached the immunisation camp set up under Mission Indradhanush at Sona Brick Kiln. The entire area, located around the Ganga riverbed, has a concentration of brick kilns that attract migrant labourers from districts like Nalanda, Jehanabad and Gaya. This was the core reason why the health ministry had launched the immunisation initiative in the area to target itinerant workers under Mission Indradhanush. The mission aims to achieve more than 90 percent immunisation coverage by 2020. This initiative will eventually close gaps in the immunisation effort and strengthen its coverage.

#### **Similar reports have appeared in:**

[Business Standard](#)

[The Statesman](#)

[Yahoo! India](#)

---

### **After Chhattisgarh tragedy, steep fall in sterilisation process across country, [DNA India](#) (22 June 2015)**

People have not forgotten last year's Chhattisgarh sterilisation tragedy, which killed a dozen women and left several hospitalised, as there is a drop in sterilisation process in India. The Union health ministry admitted that it was 'steepest fall' in recent years. In a recently held meeting with all 36 states here, the health ministry said, "The performance in sterilisation in the country had come down from approximately 43 lakh sterilisation in 2013-14 to 37 lakhs in 2014-15, a fall of six lakh in one year which is steepest fall in the recent years.

## Ethics & Compliance

### Data integrity ... dil se, [Express Pharma](#) (21 June 2015)

Two reports, released in early June, have both good news and bad news for the pharma industry in India. The good news is that the sector seems to have become more proactive about addressing data integrity concerns. Over one third of the total data integrity reviews conducted by EY were done proactively by GMP compliance conscious companies. But the bad news is that lapses in data integrity continue to rise. In a survey conducted by the firm, 'Analysing the state of data integrity compliance in the Indian pharmaceutical industry', more than 30 per cent of the over 170 respondents had received inspectional observations such as Form 483s, warning letters, import alerts, statement of non-compliance with GMP etc. issued by global regulators. Clearly this is still a work in progress, with as much as 28 per cent respondents admitting that their organisations did not have a fraud reporting mechanism in place. These laggard companies run the very real risk of whistle blowers turning to social media platforms.

### CDSCO to upgrade manpower to enhance GMP compliance and quality of drugs, [Pharmabiz.com](#) (22 June 2015)

The Central Drug Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) would soon appoint 147 drug inspectors by the end of 2015 to ensure quality of drugs on par with global standards in line with current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP). The process for the appointments has already started, says a senior CDSCO official. A total of additional 1195 posts have been sanctioned for the upgradation of manpower and labs under the 12th five year plan. Central government has allocated Rs.900 crore for enhancing manpower and capacities of minilabs at port offices and mobile labs at CDSCO level. According to informed sources, "CDSCO expects to double the manpower and enhance the lab infrastructure both at the centre and states by the end of 2017. CDSCO has also conducted 17 training programmes to train drug inspectors on carrying out GMP inspections in the year 2013-14 to ensure quality of drugs supplied to over 200 countries from India".

## Medical & Regulatory

### IDMA urges Maha FDA to allow marketing of cefixime + azithromycin FDC, [Pharmabiz.com](#) (20 June 2015)

The Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) has urged Maharashtra Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to allow manufacturing and marketing of fixed dose combination (FDC) of cefixime (200/200/100) + azithromycin (250/500/125). The manufacturers and marketers of FDC of cefixime + azithromycin are facing problems as they are not allowed to sell their product in certain parts of Maharashtra. Recently, the special committee operation was undertaken by a drug inspector in Maharashtra where 6000 FDCs dossiers were scrutinized and a report was submitted to the concerned ministry.

### Maha FDA cancels 2,241 retail licenses and suspends 1,857 licenses for violation of D&C Act, [Pharmabiz.com](#) (20 June 2015)

Based on the inspections on 24,193 retail drug stores across the state, the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s report reveals violation of Drugs & Cosmetics Act related to dispensing medicines without prescription and absence of a registered pharmacist as the reason behind cancellation of retail licenses in the state. As many as 2,241 retail licenses were cancelled and 1,857 licenses suspended following the show cause notices issued to 4503 medical stores across the state between April 2014 and February 2015, a senior FDA official explained.

### Trade Seeks Separate Law for Nutraceuticals, [The New Indian Express](#) (21 June 2015)

Drug manufacturers across the country are seeking separate regulations for the fast growing but unregulated nutraceutical (a broad term used to describe any product derived from food sources with extra health benefits, in addition to the basic nutritional value found in foods industry) in the country. The present status of regulations, say manufacturers, see these products fall under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which is ill-equipped to handle them. "There are two branches in the medical products industry - the sickness industry and the wellness industry. Right now, there is sufficient regulation for the sickness industry that comprises the drug industry. However,

the nutraceutical products are lumped with the foods and this is not ideal,” said M Rajarathinam, chairman, Tamil Nadu chapter of Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA).

---

**Online sale of medicine need a dose of regulation, [The Hindu](#) (22 June 2015)**

The advent and proliferation of on-line sale of medicines on e-commerce platforms no doubt buttress the government’s case of ‘access to all’ but the recent case of prescription drugs being sold online has alerted authorities to extent and dangers of this unregulated practice. As such, selling medicines online is prevalent in developed markets and its mushrooming in India is a consequence of the booming e-commerce segment in India. But, clearly selling over-the-counter (OTC) medicines online, which is permissible, is quite different from selling prescription drugs online where the attendant dangers of abuse are high. The authorities have responded with alacrity to the situation, and last week, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) pointed out the need to have in place a regulatory framework to bring online medicine sale under its ambit. Industry body FICCI has been appointed as the nodal agency by the DCGI to consolidate the guidelines, and it will seek the views of representative bodies such as AIOCD, IMA, **Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)** and others.

---

**DoP to launch 6 pharma clusters by end of 2015-16 to enhance competitiveness of pharma sector, [Pharmabiz.com](#) (22 June 2015)**

The department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) is planning to establish six pharma clusters in the country by the end of financial year 2015-16. As part of this, the DoP had recently launched Cluster Development Programme for Pharma Sector (CDP-PS) to enhance the capability and competitiveness of pharma sector in the country. According to information from the Union ministry of chemicals and fertilizers, the Central government has plans to launch at least six pharma clusters in the country, among which three pharma clusters are going to be greenfield clusters. “The CDS-PS programme will provide support to the pharmaceutical industry in becoming more capable, productive and competitive,” said Ananth Kumar, Union minister of chemicals & fertilizers while launching the CDP-PS.

---

**IPC to start its regional arm in CDSCO’s zonal & sub zonal offices across country, [Pharmabiz.com](#) (22 June 2015)**

Keen on establishing its pan India presence, the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), which acts as the national coordinating centre (NCC) for the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI), is in the process of opening its extended arm across multiple cities in the country. For this purpose, IPC will be closely associating with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), to open its regional centres across CDSCO’s zonal and sub zonal offices.

---

## Other News on Pharma

**Medical fraternity demands amendments in PCPNDT Act, [Pharmabiz.com](#) (20 June 2015)**

The doctors in the country have demanded to the Union ministry of health & family welfare and ministry of law & justice to make amendments in the PCPNDT Act to help make ultrasound more easily available to those in need and would make the law less rigid towards the medical fraternity. The National Steering Committee on the PCPNDT Act, comprising experts from the major national medical societies, will soon take these proposed amendments to the government. The Committee recently came together in Bengaluru to deliberate extensively on the plight of the girl child and steps to improve the altered sex ratio in India.

---

**WHO to incorporate Yoga in universal health care approaches, [The Economic Times](#) (22 June 2015)**

After United Nations, now the World Health Organization (WHO) is set to endorse yoga. The international public health organization plans to incorporate yoga into universal health care approaches. This would mean that yoga would become part of various public health programmes commissioned by WHO not just in India but in several other countries. WHO is working with many Indian centres of yoga to devise a common and standardized practice of yoga, which can also be part of the curricula of medical practitioners.

---

**Yoga can help reduce healthcare costs: Modi, [Business Standard](#) (22 June 2015)**

The practise of yoga can lead to a reduction in healthcare costs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a conference here to mark the first International Yoga Day on Sunday. "Yoga is not a system but a state of being. It is a philosophy and not just a set of exercises," Modi said at the conference. The prime minister said that stress and many lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and hypertension can be handled with yoga. "The burden of diseases are shifting to non-communicable diseases. There is ample evidence that practicing yoga helps combat stress," he said, and added that yoga also helps in full development of mental powers.

**Similar reports have appeared in:**

[Zee News](#)

---