OPPI

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IPR & Innovation

Govt plans to integrate 36 services with eBiz portal, MoneyControl

Seeking to promote ease of doing business, the government today proposed to integrate 36 central and state government services such as application for environment clearance, property tax and factories licence with the eBiz portal. Similarly, the list of 24 identified services for states for possible integration include issuance of fire safety recommendation, land mutation and conversion, drug licence, annual filing under Factories Act, Licence under FSSAI, shops registration, trade licence, NOC from Pollution Control Board and new power connection and permission to charge the line. On intellectual property rights, it said after incorporating comments received from all ministries and departments concerned and other stakeholders on the draft IPR Policy, the think tank has submitted a final report to DIPP on April 18.

Access to Healthcare

Health services saw a leap in last one year: Nadda, The Times of India

Healthcare services have seen a leap in the one year of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said on Thursday. Listing his government's achievements, Nadda said the health ministry has launched a massive immunisation campaign to target nearly 90 lakh children who are either not vaccinated or have been partially vaccinated. The campaign Mission Indradhanush was launched in December last year. "We are taking the help of pulse polio campaign workers to reach out to children and since the campaign began, approximately 40 lakh immunisations have taken place," the minister told a press conference here. Nadda said there has been a five percent increase in immunisation in every phase since the launch of the campaign on April 7.

Similar reports have appeared in:

Business Standard

The Indian Express

Yahoo! India

Zee News

Fund crunch derails health schemes, The Tribune

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and AIDS Control Programme have come to a halt in the state. Reason: Fund crunch. The Union Health Ministry has failed to release Rs 200 crore under the NRHM and Rs 17 crore for the AIDS Control Programme. The NDA government has constituted the Shivraj Chauhan Committee to sort out the issue. But the committee has not taken any decision so far. This has brought all health Centrally-funded programmes to a halt. “Despite sending estimates to the Centre, we did not get any response from the Union Health Ministry,” said Vineet Chaudhary, Additional Chief Secretary, Health. The first quarter will end by September, still funds have not been released.

IPA seeks greater role for pharmacists in national TB control programme, Pharmabiz.com

Keen to address the mounting issue of tuberculosis (TB) cases in India, the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) wants to spread its pharmacist PPP TB model across India and urged the Centre to integrate this model into the national TB control programme pan India. Pharmacists are already recognised by the government as partners in Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), but experts strongly feel that the model needs to spread across the country to engage significant number of pharmacists to achieve the impact. They pointed out that pharmacists, being the first point of contact with the suspected cases, can play a vital role in referring them to the nearest sputum microscopy centers as well as can act as DOT providers making free anti-TB medicines available through pharmacies to the TB patients.

Ethics & Compliance

Rise in USFDA inspections marred image of Indian pharma industry: EY, The Hindu Business Line

The increase in foreign regulatory inspections has marred the image of the Indian pharmaceutical industry, according to a survey of Ernst & Young (EY). Out of 19 US Food and Drug Administration's (USFDA) warning letters issued in 2014, eight were issued to Indian companies, EY said in its latest survey on analysing the state of data integrity compliance in Indian pharmaceutical industry. India has the second largest number of manufacturing facilities outside the US (523 as on March 2014) registered with the USFDA. There has also been a steady rise in drug exports to the US from India. They had gone up from $1.25 billion in FY'10 to $3.45 billion in FY14. ``With the growing importance of the Indian pharmaceutical industry in the global market, the number of foreign regulatory inspections has also increased considerably,'' the survey said.

Medical & Regulatory

Ads promising sexual prowess under scanner, The Times of India

Even as the controversy over Maggi and its advertisements continue to grip the country, commercials of sexual potency tablets have come under the scanner. The Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) has received more than 10 complaints from Kolkata in the past one month against advertisements claiming that magic oils with aphrodisiac powers will guarantee happy endings in bedrooms. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Acts, 1954, which controls the advertising of drugs in India, prohibits commercial that claim to have magical properties. ASCI will intimate the authorities concerned, such as I&B ministry, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the health ministry, about it by the end of June.

Govt restricts free export of goods for promotion activities, Business Standard

The government today restricted free outbound shipments of goods by large exporters for export promotion activities to Rs 10 lakh. The move is aimed at curbing free exports limit of large exporters or status holders. "Status holders shall be entitled to export freely exportable items on free of cost basis for export promotion subject to an annual limit of Rs 10 lakh or 2 per cent of average annual export realisation during preceding three licensing years, whichever is lower," Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a public notice. It also said that for R&D equipment for pharmaceuticals and bio-technology sector, duty free import of goods upto 25 per cent of FOB (free on board) value of exports during preceding licensing year, shall be allowed.

Similar reports have appeared in:

Outlook India

MoneyControl

NPPA pulls up pharma cos over database updation, DNA India

In its continued effort to make companies adhere to practices, the drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has asked 19 out of 100 companies to register for online database on Thursday, failing which they have to appear in person before the NPPA member secretary with a valid reason for not doing so. The 19 companies include Wockhardt, Ipca Laboratories, British Biological, Danone, Dabur India, Indoco Remedies and Alkem Laboratories. Last September, the NPPA had asked all pharma companies to register online with Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System (IPDMS). In a notification then, the price regulator had said that availability of reliable database was a necessary pre-requisite for carrying out the functions of price fixation and price revision in respect of scheduled drugs, price fixation in respect of new drugs.

Other News on Pharma

FDI dips 40% in March to $ 2.11 billion; lowest in four months, DNA India

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India declined by 40% year-on-year to $2.11 billion in March 2015, the lowest in the last four months of 2014-15 fiscal. Previously, in November 2014 the FDI was the lowest at $1.53 billion. FDI in India was at $3.53 billion in March 2014. Amongst the top 10 sectors, services received the maximum FDI of $3.25 billion in 2014-15, followed by telecommunication ($2.89 billion), automobiles ($2.57 billion), computer software and hardware ($2.20 billion) and pharmaceuticals ($1.52 billion). The government has relaxed FDI norms in various sectors, including insurance, railways and medical devices, to boost FDI in the country.

IDMA taking steps to strengthen and tap biz opportunities for SMEs, Pharmabiz.com

S.V. Veerramani, the new president of the Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association (IDMA) speaks about the various issues in the pharmaceutical industry in the country and the problems being faced by the manufacturers, especially those in the SME sector. He says that the all India body of the drugs manufacturers in India is curiously viewing the issues in the Indian pharmaceutical sector and taking up them with the government and the department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) for getting resolved. Putting hundred percent confidence in the Narendra Modi government, he hopes that IDMA's endeavours to strengthen the Indian pharmaceutical industry will bring positive results. In an interview with Peethaambaran Kunnathoor, he speaks of the government policies, regulatory issues, common problems in the industry and the strategic steps IDMA is taking to strengthen the pharma SME sector.