



News Updates: August 28, 2014

Drug pricing/ NPPA

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Opinion piece: Vasudha Vattal, researcher at ICRIER, New Delhi

Headline: [Making healthcare affordable](#)

Synopsis: Much to the disappointment of the Indian pharmaceutical industry, the latest development on the bloc is the imposition of price ceilings on 108 non-scheduled formulations comprising anti-diabetics and drugs for cardiac ailments. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) justifies its move that these drugs, though outside the list of essential medicines, display significant inter-brand price differentials (and thereby market failure), resulting in tremendous financial burden on the common man. But what is worth thinking about here is whether such a measure has any long-term viability in dealing with the miseries of the masses, especially when we have failed to address another equally pertinent issue—state failure. The role of the state in delivering as essential a service such as health cannot be emphasized enough. This is apparent from the world average statistic for public expenditure on health (as a percentage of total health expenditure), which stood at 60% in 2012. Unlike most developed as well as developing countries, India has little to offer as far as its public health budget is concerned and its share of public health expenditure in 2012 was only 33%.

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [MSF upset over inclusion of IP in ongoing negotiations of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership](#)

Synopsis: The international medical humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has expressed concern over the inclusion of intellectual property (IP) in the ongoing negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), as it will roll back public health safeguards enshrined in international and Indian patent laws. RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the 10 member-states of ASEAN and the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs – Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. Till now there have been five rounds of negotiations. At the third round of negotiations, the Intellectual Property Working Group (IPWG) was established. In June 2014, Japan submitted an 'Elements paper' to the IPWG of the RCEP which includes a draft text on IP.

Ethics

Publication: Moneylife

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Opinion piece: Professor Dr BM Hegde, a Padma Bhushan awardee in 2010, is an MD, PhD, FRCP (London, Edinburgh, Glasgow & Dublin), FACC and FAMS

Headline: [Open letter to Health Minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Medical ethics in this country is non-existent. Corruption is rampant and the MCI, which is meant to control unhealthy practices closes its eyes to this menace. And Dr Harsh Vardhan, the union minister for health & family welfare seems has shown the rare honesty to admit it.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [SPEAK OUT - EDIT PAGE MAILBOX](#) (response to Jug Suraiya's article titled 'Bitter Medicine')

Synopsis: This is with reference to the article 'Bitter Medicine' (August 27) by Jug Suraiya. It asks, are all physicians prescribing safe and effective drugs in treating a health problem? The answer is, no. But statins may be the wrong example. It depends on which study you look at to draw any significant conclusion about statins' role in lowering cholesterol. The three prime precursors of cardiovascular diseases are hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia and smoking. These risk factors have both individual and cumulative effects. Among South Asians, the incidence of cardiovascular disease is very high and doctors rightly err on the side of caution in prescribing drugs which lower these risk factors. Even a concept based on a combination of medicines, called Polypill, has been advocated. All medicines have side effects. The risks have to be weighed against potential benefits while prescribing, but not all prescribing is bad.

Clinical trials/ Vaccines

Publication: The Wall Street Journal

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Blog: Ed Silverman (Pharmalot)

Headline: [India Outlines Plans for Upgrading Clinical Trial Procedures](#)

Synopsis: In its latest bid to upgrade regulatory oversight of clinical trials and restore confidence among global drug makers, the Indian government recently issued a proposal to enhance procedures for gathering and monitoring key information, particularly concerning patients. But the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization seems to have provided as many questions as answers, at least as far as clinical research companies are concerned. In fact, comments submitted to the agency by an industry trade group punched a few holes in the effort.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Ebola vaccine from GlaxoSmithKline to begin US clinical trials within weeks: Sources](#)

Synopsis: US health officials will announce on Thursday that a human study of an Ebola vaccine made by GlaxoSmithKline will begin within a couple of weeks and not later this year as the company estimated originally, according to people familiar with the plans. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will make the announcement as part of a previously scheduled briefing for reporters, the sources said.

Similar reports in-

NDTV- [Drugs For Ebola: A Factfile](#)

Firstpost- [From ZMapp to vaccines: A look at all the drugs we have against Ebola so far](#)

Health ministry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Government's ambitious Universal Health Assurance Scheme proposes insurance cover for poor](#)

Synopsis: Health minister Harsh Vardhan on Wednesday offered first glimpse into the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) government's ambitious universal health assurance (UHA) scheme which, he said, would have an insurance component, assured package of diagnostics and availability of at least 50 essential drugs. The government, he said, will pay premium for the poor who cannot afford it and he will ask the finance ministry to give incentives to those opting for it so that there is a "big pool" of people availing the benefit which will bring down the premium.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Government's health plan proposes insurance cover for poor](#)

The Hindu- [Govt. to offer health cover for poor](#)

The Indian Express- ['Incentivise health insurance to ensure free medical aid'](#)

The Indian Express- [Govt's ambitious health plan proposes insurance cover for poor](#)

Zee News- ['Centre finalises universal health assurance programme'](#)

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Need to promote cycling as part of healthy lifestyle: Health Minister](#)

Synopsis: Stressing on the need to promote cycling as an integral part of a healthy lifestyle, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said he would approach the Surface Transport and Urban Development Ministries for the development of cycle tracks along roads to transform cycling into a "huge movement in the country". Speaking at the release of 'Pedalling towards a greener India: A report on promoting cycling in the country' by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Harsh Vardhan said, "I will personally write to Surface Transport and Urban Development Ministries and ask them to develop cycle tracks."

Similar reports in-

The Hindu Business Line- [Make cycles affordable, says Health Minister](#)

The Times of India- [Less than 4% of commuting in Delhi done on cycles now](#)

The Hindu- [Harsh Vardhan advocates dedicated cycle tracks](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Health Ministry to promote cycling for a healthy lifestyle](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Imphal

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Centre removes tainted RIMS director](#)

Synopsis: The Centre has relieved the controversy-mired director of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (Rims), S Sekharjit, from his duties and assigned the charge to a professor of the institute. According to some employees of the region's premier health institute, there were over 10 allegations of wrongdoings, including funds misappropriation and corruption, against Sekharjit, who is also facing a CBI probe into one of the allegations. The Union ministry of health and social welfare (northeast section) on Monday issued an order relieving Sekharjit from his duties with "immediate effect".

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Modi's Japan visit 2014: Cabinet gives nod to signing of health pact with Japan](#)

Synopsis: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan, the government today gave its nod to the signing of a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) between the two countries which is aimed at boosting health sector ties. The MoC will cover health financing towards universal health coverage, which is a key goal of the ruling BJP, through sharing of experiences in the public health insurance

system and human resource development in this regard, an official statement said. The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the MoC which will be signed between health ministries of the two countries.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [Healthcare cooperation between India, Japan approved](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Narendra Modi Cabinet gives nod to signing of health pact with Japan](#)

Website: Market Watch

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [USIBC Concludes Successful Pharmaceutical Mission to India; Looks Forward to Continued Dialogue and Collaboration with the Government of India](#)

Synopsis: The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) has concluded its Pharmaceutical Executive Mission to Delhi, India. The delegation expressed its commitment to the Indian market, called for further dialogue with the government on issues related to pricing and intellectual property, and discussed strategies for expanding greater access to healthcare and health insurance in India. USIBC's Executive Mission was led by Paul Schaper, Executive Director, Global Health Policy, Merck and included senior representatives from Johnson & Johnson, Baxter, Mylan, Abbott, Eli Lilly, Waston, and Quintiles. During its visit, the Pharmaceutical Delegation met with the Ministry of Health, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Drugs Controller General of India, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, and the Department of Biotechnology. The delegation also hosted briefings with the U.S. Embassy, Confederation of Indian Industry, Khaitan & Co., and representatives of the healthcare industry.

Publication: Business Today

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Personal accident cover under Jan Dhan Yojana doubled to Rs 2 lakh](#)

Synopsis: To make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) a mega success, the government has doubled the personal accident cover to Rs 2 lakh per person if the bank account is opened within the first 100 days of the massive financial inclusion programme being launched on Thursday. "Those who open bank accounts with any of the public sector banks under the financial inclusion drive within the first 100 days from August 28, will get personal accident cover worth Rs 2 lakh," National Payment Corporation (NPCI) chief executive AP Hota told PTI. A formal government announcement on this is likely to come on Wednesday, he added.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Even under Modi government, it is still environment vs development](#)

Synopsis: If environment minister Prakash Javadekar's tweets are anything to go by, India is treading a fine balance between development and environmental protection. For instance, on May 31, shortly after taking charge at Paryavaran Bhawan, he tweeted: "The government believes in #environment and #development, and not environment vs development." However, a look at the ministry's major decisions between then and now suggests that in the NDA, much like the UPA, the conflict is real. Take a look at the ministry's major decisions. In coal, it has exempted coal mines' expansion projects from public hearings. It has done away with the need for consent from gram sabhas for prospecting in forests. Ministry officials no longer inspect mining projects on less than 100 hectares of land. Mid-sized polluting industries can now operate within 5 km of national parks and sanctuaries — as opposed to the 10 km limit imposed by the Supreme Court.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [100 days of Modi Govt: No landmark decisions yet, but on right track](#)

Synopsis: As prime minister, Narendra Modi's biggest achievement so far is his connect with the masses, as was evident in his maiden Independence Day speech a few days ago, when he addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort without the security of a glass cage around him. Modi's speeches and statements continue to thrill and convince a large majority, as was the case when he was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s prime ministerial candidate. The results of the recent by-polls to 18 Assembly seats across four states, however, have come as an early wake-up call for the party. Modi's promise to usher in "achche din" has kept India Inc charmed. Most top industrialists rate the prime minister's first 100 days in office as "good", primarily due to his intentions, not concrete policy measures. Off the record, many admit so far, there have been no landmark decisions or policy reforms that can turn around the economy or reduce the high inflation (retail inflation rose to 7.96 per cent in July from 7.46 per cent in June. But the near-unanimous view is the 63-year-old PM must be given more time to prove himself.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Opinion piece: Chandrajit Banerjee, director general of CII

Headline: [A welcome shift in discourse](#)

Synopsis: In its first 100 days, the new government has spoken with intent, perspective and a sense of purpose. A hundred days is a short time for a government, but when it assumes charge it is expected to present a strong indication of its policy intent in this period. Since the Indian economy has been growing at sub-5 per cent for two years, rapid progress on reforms was critical. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government have delivered on all counts. The government has affirmed policy direction, initiated action on multiple fronts, and enabled the economy to shift track to a faster growth trajectory within this short time. Investor spirits are surging and a new investment cycle is now underway.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Opinion piece: Bharat Bhushan

Headline: [One hundred days of soliloquies](#)

Synopsis: The myth-making surrounding Narendra Modi may be losing its potency within the first 100 days of assuming office. Three recent developments indicate the waning of Modi's magic: the Congress party's victory in all three Assembly by-elections in Uttarakhand in July; the "grand alliance" (albeit, of convenience) of the Janata Dal (United), Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress recovering lost ground in the Bihar Assembly by-elections along with the electoral successes of the Congress in the by-elections in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; and the reluctance of the government to call for a re-election in Delhi despite being chided by the Supreme Court. There are other alternative explanations - that the "Modi wave" does not work in state Assembly by-elections; that political temperatures have returned to a "normal" level after a highly polarised Lok Sabha election and that the prospect of a political wipeout has forced political groups to emphasise commonalities and improve their local election management. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will probably still do well in the forthcoming state Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana. However, the public perception of the Modi myth seems to have dimmed.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Brave New World: Modi's 100 days,10 top moves](#)

Synopsis: It's been 100 days since May 20, when Narendra Modi staked his claim to be Prime Minister after having led the Bharatiya Janata Party to an emphatic win in the Lok Sabha elections, largely on the promise of providing a cleaner, better governance model and higher economic growth. Since then, there have been some rhetorical flourishes from the PM, but the general consensus seems to be that he hasn't done enough to boost growth or taken steps to actually improve ground-level administration. Having said that, the Modi government has taken some interesting policy decisions in the 100 days since the time he met President Pranab Mukherjee to present his claim as Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy. We take a quick look at the top 10 moves from the government since then.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Opinion piece: SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Headline: [Even One Small Step a Day can Bring Growth into Play](#)

Synopsis: Modi has proposed incremental changes but no radical reforms in labour laws, land acquisition, anti-inflation strategy, fiscal strategy, subsidies or privatisation. Like Congress, he embraces financial inclusion, public sector bank dominance, public-private partnerships in infrastructure, higher spending on health and sanitation, food security and Aadhaar. He has built on Congress' approaches to a BRICS bank and WTO rules on farm subsidies. His one big change has been abolition of the Planning Commission, but that has few policy implications. Modi has tweaked old Congress ideas, proposing two bank accounts per family rather than one, plus an overdraft of Rs 5,000 per family (shades of the `Congress' old loan melas). MNREGA will be tweaked to create more durable assets. Analysts say Modi is avoiding radical change till the Maharashtra elections are over. That's very unlike Thatcher, and more like traditional Congress dithering. Yet incrementalism plus firm, decisive administration is clearly achieving significant gains (just as it did in 12 years of Modi's rule in Gujarat).

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Poverty alleviation: First, we need to catch up with Saarc neighbours](#)

Synopsis: What was unique in PM's speech was his invocation to the common past of the Saarc region relating to India's freedom movement: "Our common forefathers fought for freedom together. If without weapons or resources we could defeat a powerful sultanate (British rule), can't we defeat poverty together?" That brings us to a closer scrutiny about how India – ahead of other countries in the progress of its real income – has been overtaken in terms of social indicators by many of these countries, even within the region of South Asia itself. It was also a reminder of the imperative to chart out a critical path to accomplish the 2015 Millennium Development Goal of cutting poverty by half – a goal signed up to by all the world's governments. The 12th Plan observed that even if the figure of people below the consumption poverty line were to fall to zero, removing poverty in India will remain a challenge till every Indian has access to safe drinking water, sanitation, housing, nutrition, health and education. India spends less than 4 per cent of its GDP on important areas of education and health. Almost 12 per cent of our children (between 5 and 15 years) are identified as child labour, and we have about 2.4 million people living with HIV/Aids.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Gandhinagar

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Modi to inaugurate Vibrant Gujarat Summit next year: Anandiben Patel](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the seventh edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2015 at Gandhinagar Mahatma Mandir on January 11. The Prime Minister's Office "has kindly consented for the presence of the honourable PM at the inauguration", chief minister Anandiben Patel said at the curtain-raiser event of the summit in New Delhi on Wednesday. The event will see seven countries — Australia, Canada, China, Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore and South Africa partnering with the state. Patel also invited India Inc to participate in the biennial investment summit. "The seventh 'Vibrant Gujarat Summit' has attracted the partnership of seven countries and states from India and I hope that it will lead India to shine across the seven seas," said Patel. The event, started in 2003, was the brainchild of then chief minister Narendra Modi. Under his leadership, Gujarat hosted six editions of the summit. The seventh edition will be organised at the biggest scale so far, with Prime Minister Modi opening the event.

Similar report in-

India Today- [Vibrant Gujarat summit to host seven partner countries](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Opinion piece: T S Vishwanath, Principal Adviser at APJ-SLG Law Offices

Headline: [Making a U-turn on WTO?](#)

Synopsis: The current turmoil in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) over the future of the Doha Round brings to focus a possible change that countries may expect from WTO negotiations. The Geneva-based multilateral trade body has over the years focussed mainly on the issue of market access by putting together agreements that will provide transparency and predictability to countries while engaging in global trade. However, ever since the Doha Round started and developing countries found greater voice in the outcome of the negotiations, there seems to be a shifting focus on the policy space available to countries under the multilateral agreements rather than on the rules that help provide greater market access.

FDI

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Chennai

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: Govt mulls separate FDI route for medical devices (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The government is actively considering a proposal to have a separate policy for allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the manufacture of medical devices, through the automatic route. Consultations between ministries, led by the ministry of commerce, are on. A policy and rules could be framed soon, a senior official said. The aim is to encourage greater investment from abroad in the sector. The health care and diagnostic segment is growing rapidly, creating a major potential market for manufacturing of medical equipment and medical devices in India.

Public Health

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [Toilets key to improving child health in India: Study](#)

Synopsis: A new study on large-scale rural sanitation programmes in India highlights challenges in achieving sufficient access to toilets and reduction in open defecation to yield significant health benefits for young children. Investigators, led by an Indian-origin researcher, conducted a cluster randomised controlled trial in 80 rural villages in Madhya Pradesh to measure the effect of India's Total Sanitation campaign (an initiative to increase access to improved sanitation throughout rural India) on household latrine availability, defecation behaviours and child health.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- ['Toilets key to improving child health in India'](#)

The Hindu- [New approach needed to curb open defecation?](#)

The New Indian Express- [Toilets Key to Improving Child Health in India'](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: August 27, 2014

Headline: [HC seeks Centre's reply on PIL seeking scheme for newborns](#)

Synopsis: The Delhi High Court today sought a response of the Centre on a PIL for putting in place health insurance policies and a national programme for management of birth defects to ensure that foetuses with congenital problems are not aborted due to high cost of treating such children. A bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw also issued a notice to the General Insurance Council of India after Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain sought that it too be made a party to assist the court with respect to the issues raised in the public interest litigation (PIL).

Similar report in-

The Asian Age- [High Court PIL seeks health scheme for birth defects](#)

General Industry

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Piramal to exit drug discovery business](#)

Synopsis: Billionaire Ajay Piramal-led Piramal Enterprises Ltd, which sold its India drug formulations business in 2010 to US-based drug maker Abbott Laboratories, has decided to exit from the drug discovery research business after a review meeting this week. The group, which focuses on drug discovery or new chemical and biological entity research under its subsidiary company Piramal Life Sciences Ltd, has circulated an internal note to the 180-odd employees, mostly scientists, in the discovery unit located in Mumbai, asking them to either take a retirement or to move to the group's generic medicine development and contract research units.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [Piramal Enterprises to stop early-stage research](#)

The Times of India- [Piramal Life shuts Mumbai R&D unit](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Piramal Healthcare to shut down drug discovery division in Mumbai](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Opinion piece: Virander S. Chauhan, former director of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, is an active researcher in infectious diseases and vaccinology

Headline: [Ebola's re-emergence, a wake-up call](#)

Synopsis: Scientists, researchers and the pharmaceutical industry should treat Ebola as a common enemy that must be defeated with modern medicine and better health-care infrastructure. Modernisation and development should not become the reasons for such viral outbreaks to take centre stage.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Hyderabad to emerge as new biotechnology capital of India: Experts](#)

Synopsis: Hyderabad, the capital city of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has the potential to become the biotechnology capital of India in the coming years, opined experts at broacher unveiling ceremony organised by OMICS group in the city. "Though many have projected Bengaluru as the biotech capital of India, in fact it is Hyderabad which has the potential. With numerous research institutes like CCMB, IICT along with private biotech players like GVK Bio, Bharat Biotech, Shanta Biotech, Dr Reddy's, Mylan etc, the city of Hyderabad is a favourite destination for investments in the bio similar segment," said Srinubabu, managing director of OMICS International Inc. According to Dr Kaiser Jamil, Director of Centre for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies (JNIAS), there are lots of areas that are left unexplored in the biotechnology segment, with hundreds of biotech drugs coming off patent regime, very soon a large number of national and international companies are expected to focus in this segment and particularly Hyderabad is a favourite destination for new investments in biosimilar, biologics and biowaivers.

Publication: Business Standard (Special report)

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: Know the country's pharma capital (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Everyone knows Maharashtra as the financial capital of the country. But not many know that the Western state is also the pharma Capital of the nation, accounting for about 40 per cent of the country's pharma market. It houses six of the top ten pharma companies in the country, interestingly, all these top players - Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Wockhardt, Lupin, Cipla, and Piramal Healthcare - are based in Mumbai, the financial capital of India, which is also the capital of Maharashtra.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy CCI probe in new phase](#)

Synopsis: India's antitrust regulator has ordered a second-stage investigation into the merger of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, citing the risk that the deal could harm "national interest" by resulting in significant market domination by the combined entity. This is the first time the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has decided on a second-stage inquiry, which follows a preliminary investigation of a deal, and raised such an objection. The watchdog will deliver a final ruling after hearing from the companies again and seeking public feedback on the transaction.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Narendra Modi-led NDA government has failed people: Nitish Kumar](#)

Synopsis: The NDA government has done nothing to inspire the confidence of the people. The people are thoroughly disappointed with its shoddy performance and may be regretting why they voted for NDA. The common man was actually misled into believing the lofty promises BJP made to the people in the run-up to the general elections. I accept three months are too short a period to judge the performance of any government, but the kind of beginning they have made has given strong clues to what lies ahead. During the election, an impression was created that they will get hold of black money in no time if they were voted to power. But have they done anything concrete which will

make us believe that they are genuinely working to recover black money? The government will not like to hurt the interest of those who had opened their kitty to fund the election of BJP.

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: Bangalore

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Karnataka state to boast of 22 government medical colleges, first in nation](#)

Synopsis: Karnataka is all set to become the state with the highest number of government medical colleges in the country, with the government kick-starting the process of starting six new medical colleges in the economically backward districts. Each college is coming up at a capital expenditure Rs 199 crore. Colleges will come up in Tumkur, Chitradurga, Chikkaballapur, Bagalkote, Haveri and Yadgir. Each college will have an annual intake of 150 MBBS seats each. According to the latest gazette notification issued by the state medical education department, with these six new medical colleges, the total number of government medical colleges in the state would be 22. Presently, the state government is running medical colleges at Bengaluru, Mysore, Bellary, Hubli, Bidar, Raichur, Belgaum, Shimoga, Hassan and Mandya.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [Anti-cancer drugs may also stop malaria early](#)

Synopsis: Scientists searching for new drugs to fight malaria have identified a number of compounds — some of which are currently in clinical trials to treat cancer — that could add to the anti-malarial arsenal.

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: August 28, 2014

Headline: [How Raman Effect Can Help Detect Bombs](#)

Synopsis: Raman Scattering or Raman Effect—as the phenomenon was eventually named—is the scattering of light that falls on a substance, leading to a change in the colour of the light that emerges from the substance. Normally, a large part of incident light gets absorbed, transmitted or reflected. But a tiny part—about one out of every 10,000 photons (light particles) that fall on a substance—undergoes Rayleigh scattering. This means the photon gets scattered, but doesn't change its wavelength and, therefore, its colour. An even tinier part—about one photon in 10 million—not only scatters, but also changes its wavelength and colour. What's more, the change in the colour of the light is decided by the substance that scatters the light. When the substance is water, for example, the light turns blue. By studying the altered light, therefore, one can identify the substance as water. Raman spectroscopy, which uses this phenomenon to detect various substances, is today used in everything from quality control in the pharmaceutical industry (examining active pharmaceutical ingredients in drugs) to medical diagnostics like understanding the composition of tumours in cancer patients. Physicists continue to tweak this powerful technique while being on the constant look out for new applications, and new ways of observing the Raman Effect closely. Hundreds of papers are written each year, several of them by Indian scientists.