



**News Updates: June 03, 2014**

### Modi government

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 3, 2014**

**Headline: [New Health Policy Soon](#)**

**Synopsis:** More than a decade after the last health policy India saw, the government is planning a new one. The health ministry, headed by Cabinet Minister Harsh Vardhan, is deliberating on the key areas to be included in a comprehensive policy. Issues which are likely to be a part of the new policy are malnutrition, rational use of essential medicines, expansion of immunization programme to include Hepatitis B, Hemophilus influenza and other preventable diseases, an official said. Other key areas could be modernisation of public hospitals, tobacco control programme and a separate division for environmental health. There are plans for an inclusive health insurance policy too but it could be a separate national policy.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: June 2, 2014**

**Headline: [Prime Minister Narendra Modi to meet secretaries of economic ministries tomorrow](#)**

**Synopsis:** After brainstorming with his key ministers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will tomorrow meet top bureaucrats of economic ministries to chalkout action plan for his government for next 100 days. Modi, who last week enunciated a 10-point framework for good governance with sectors like education, health, water, energy and road besides reforms in infrastructure and environment accorded top priority, has asked ministries to prepare 100-day action plans. Secretaries will present success and failures of the past regime as well as points of action in next five years. Secretaries may also list pending issues besides their future plan in discussion with Modi.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: June 2, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Suvojit Chattopadhyay, works on issues of governance and development**

**Headline: [A boring pro-poor agenda](#)**

**Synopsis:** The author wants Mr. Modi to consider drawing up a pro-poor welfare agenda. The new government should have a vital and effective social safety net for the poor and the vulnerable to enable them to realise their potential. It is not just about free grains or laptops—it also rests on ensuring equal access to quality healthcare and education and equitable access to economic opportunities. He highlights critical areas that the new government should consider while planning its pro-poor welfare policies.

### Drug regulation

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Plans to bring drug approval processes online](#)**

**Synopsis:** The country's top regulatory agency in the health sector will follow the Narendra Modi mantra of e-governance to bring more transparency and accountability while reducing red tape in clinical trials, drug approvals as well as manufacturing licences. The office of Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is

preparing a plan to go online with all approval-related processes, etc, an official said. This would enable companies to apply online for approval of their products and also upload required documents. Companies will be able to track their pleas on a daily basis, the official said.

**Website:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** June 3, 2014

**Headline:** [Maha FDA recommends uniform enforcement of rules in India to deliver quality drugs locally, overseas](#)

**Synopsis:** To achieve the objective of making available quality drugs in the country, Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recommended certain suggestions to the Drug Consultative Committee (DCC) to bring in uniform regulations and enforcement related to the drug trade, Good Manufacturing Practices and regulation of medical devices to make it affordable to the common man. FDA Commissioner Mahesh Zagade said the recommendations have been submitted in line with the Government of India's mandate that state regulatory authorities should act in a harmonious manner to achieve the objective of maintaining quality of the drugs.

**Website:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** June 2, 2014

**Headline:** [IPA-Karnataka branch deliberates on solutions to regulatory challenges in pharma manufacturing](#)

**Synopsis:** The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA), Karnataka branch has highlighted regulatory roadblocks faced by pharmaceutical manufacturers in terms of compliance. The recent global regulatory charges against a few Indian companies have further pressed the need to relook at the manufacturing processes and devise mechanisms to put in place systems. In order to place impending issues in perspective, IPA-Karnataka branch organised a seminar on 'Current Regulatory challenges in pharmaceutical manufacturing' which is the first in the series after its parent body Indian Pharmaceutical Association commemorates its Platinum Jubilee in December 2013.

### 'Fire in the blood'

**Publication:** The Hindu

**Edition:** National

**Date:** June 3, 2014

**Headline:** [Telling a factual tale](#)

**Synopsis:** Dylan Gray's critically acclaimed documentary Fire In The Blood ( FITB ), released in India recently is about the medicines for AIDS. FITB has triggered off the revolution about the prices of AIDS medicines with India at the crux of it. Mr. Gray tells the tale of many AIDS victims who died because they didn't have access to medicine. Fire in the Blood tells a shocking story about how the fruits of science are systemically blocked by profiteering corporations from reaching and benefitting the vast majority of the population. And, they use these to price breakthrough drugs and it becomes affordable only for a tiny sliver of humanity. Hundreds of thousands of people die single week because of this. So it's not an "us and them" situation. Sooner or later this affects almost everyone in the world. Mr. Gray has further pointed out that though basic research on essential medicine is funded by government and public sources worldwide, giant drug companies end up getting patent monopolies and they overcharge drugs.

### General Industry

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** National

**Date:** June 3, 2014

**Headline:** [GlaxoSmithKline in \\$350 million cancer deal with biotech specialist](#)

**Synopsis:** British pharmaceuticals giant GlaxoSmithKline has agreed a USD 350-million deal with Adaptimmune to help develop and sell the biotechnology firm's cancer drugs, the companies said today. Adaptimmune announced in a statement that it has entered a "strategic cancer immunotherapy collaboration" with GSK to "develop and commercialise novel cell-based therapies" in its lead clinical cancer programme.

**Similar reports in-**

**Business Standard-** [Glaxo in \\$350 million cancer deal with biotech specialist](#)

**The Financial Express-** [GlaxoSmithKline in \\$350 mn deal to develop cancer drugs with UK firm: report](#)

**Reuters-** [GSK in \\$350 million deal to develop cancer drugs with UK biotech firm](#)

**CNBC-** [What GSK's new cancer deal shows about pharma market](#)

**Bloomberg Businessweek-** [Glaxo to Work With Adaptimmune in Cancer Drug Search](#)

**Website:** Moneycontrol

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** June 2, 2014

**Interview:** Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CMD, Biocon

**Headline:** [Govt's signals right; simple quick fixes needed: Kiran Shaw](#)

**Synopsis:** If one week is anything to go by, then the Modi-led BJP government is making all the right moves, believes Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairman, Biocon. Speaking to CNBC-TV18, Shaw says the Centre now seems to have the political will to revive the economy and believes that the leaders will now get the bureaucrats to perform exceedingly well. The Modi government has scrapped the EGoM and GOMs and has asked ministers and bureaucrats to work for six days every week. The prime minister wants to change the work culture of bureaucrats and ministers.

**Publication:** The Financial Chronicle

**Edition:** National

**Date:** June 3, 2014

**Headline:** [Europe's new one-stop patent winning over companies](#)

**Synopsis:** Europe's new one-stop patent system is winning over companies despite initial criticism from lawyers and some multinationals of the scheme, which is expected to come into effect in 2016, according to a survey on Monday. The Europe-wide unitary patent system offers a cheaper, simpler solution for businesses seeking to protect their inventions, rather than having to register and enforce patents separately in individual European Union countries. But there has been scepticism as to whether firms would opt into the new arrangement or stick with a country-by-country approach, given doubts about the efficiency and quality of decision-making from an untested Unified Patent Court (UPC).

**Publication:** The Hindu

**Edition:** National

**Date:** June 3, 2014

**Headline:** [Over 3 crore patients screened for non-communicable diseases across TN](#)

**Synopsis:** Over the past year, the Tamil Nadu government has facilitated the screening of over three crore patients for non-communicable diseases (NCD), said C. Vijaya Baskar, minister for health and family welfare. Of these, 49 lakh patients were screened for cervical cancer, 64 lakh for breast cancer, 1.07 crore for diabetes, and 1.52 crore for hypertension, at primary health centres across Tamil Nadu, said Mr. Baskar, on the sidelines of World No Tobacco Day function and Cancer Survivors Day, on Saturday. The idea of the screening is to help people detect NCD as early as possible so they can control the progress of the disease, said Mr. Baskar.

**Website: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: June 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Karnataka govt set to strike big with pharma sector during Global Investors Meet in Jan 2015](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Karnataka government, which is starved of big investments in pharmaceuticals, is now all set to woo investors in drug research, manufacturing and clinical trials. At a recent review meeting chaired by chief minister Siddaramiah, a decision was taken to boost pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors making them the focus of investments during the Global Investors Meet (GIM) to be held in January 2015. Karnataka health and family welfare Principal Secretary N. Sivasailam told Pharmabiz that the state government had identified pharmaceuticals as a knowledge sector and was working to accord it a prime position at the GIM 2015.