



News Updates: June 10, 2014

Modi government/ Health Ministry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: June 10, 2014

Headline: [Modi's governance agenda: Health, hygiene to get special attention](#)

Synopsis: The BJP-led coalition will revamp the critical healthcare sector, upgrade hygiene standards across the country and launch a mission to drive home the message.

President Pranab Mukherjee stressed the need for an accessible, affordable and effective healthcare system. The government will formulate a New Health Policy and roll out a National Health Assurance Mission. On the hygiene front, the focus will be on ensuring that every household has toilets and public spaces are not littered with garbage. The government announced 'Swachh Bharat Mission' as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary in 2019. The government may end up spending about Rs 4 crore to make the country open defecation free and to ensure drinking water supply at home.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [President's speech: 6 action points of Modi government that will make the common man happy](#)

Business Standard- [Prez unveils govt's 5-point agenda](#)

The Indian Express- [Mandate for hope is plan for change: Modi government outlines ambitious agenda](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: June 10, 2014

Editorial- T K Arun

Headline: [Modi's agenda similar to UPA's; let's wait for execution](#)

Synopsis: The President's address to the joint session of Parliament after a new government is formed outlines its vision and priorities. Pranab Mukherjee's speech to the members of the 16th Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha bore the alliterative hallmark of Narendra Modi's campaign speeches but essentially offered continuation of the previous government's policies and programmes. This is welcome, rather than being a let-down. Why launch a National Multi-Skill Development Mission, when a National Skills Mission, Corporation and Council are already in place and have been doing a pretty decent job, too? Similarly, why ignore the good work done by the National Rural Health Mission while announcing a new National Health Mission?

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: June 10, 2014

Headline: [New policies and projects](#) (Editorial Comment)

Synopsis: Indeed, the President announced several new policies and schemes, which were aimed at fixing the many problems in the economy. Some of those policies were indeed quite ambitious - for instance, a national land use policy, a national irrigation programme, a national education policy, a national multi-skill mission, a new health policy, a national health assurance mission, a labour-intensive manufacturing policy, a national highways programme and a national energy policy that will

encourage reforms in the coal sector, among other things. Backing up these policies were a host of projects to provide better infrastructure and create more jobs. These included rolling out broadband highway to reach every village and making all schools e-enabled; setting up investment and industrial regions along the dedicated freight and industrial corridors; creating a fast-track public-private partnership mechanism; launching a project for high-speed trains; developing new world-class ports; setting up the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institutes of Management in every state and building 100 cities with world-class amenities. Many of these grand schemes were part of the promises the Bharatiya Janata Party had made in its election manifesto. For any government, achieving those goals would be a tall task, given the current resource constraint the government faces. But that they were mentioned in the president's address is an assurance that the party in power now is keen on fulfilling its electoral promise made to the people. It is now to be hoped that Mr Modi's government quickly addresses the resources problem using innovative funding avenues and systems.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [Harsh Vardhan invited to address India-US health meet in Nov](#)

Synopsis: Union health minister Harsh Vardhan has been invited to address the India-US Health Exchange meeting to be held in Chicago in November. The two-day US-India Health Summit in Chicago being held on November 7 and 8 is organised by the Association of Tamil Nadu medical graduates charitable foundation (ATMG-USA) Chicago in alliance with Multi Ethnic Advisory Task Force in Chicago, a statement said. Prominent health care organisations, universities and federal government officials are expected to participate in the two-day meeting.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [Environmental Hazards to Health a Major Concern- Dr Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, has announced his resolve for greening the health care and to converting All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi into a green hospital. With environmental degradation and environmental risks emerging as the single biggest source of diseases -from ordinary water borne diseases to cancers -the Health Minister has announced plans for setting up a network of capacity building institutions all over India modelled on the line of All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata, and the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health in Delhi's Maulana Azad Medical College.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [Centre committed to AIIMS-like institute in new AP: Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: The Centre is committed to set up an AIIMS-like institution in new Andhra Pradesh according to the assurances made in the state's reorganisation act, Union Health Minister and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan said. "As per our central government's initiative, we would like the state government to provide us 200 acres of land, water and electricity... We are committed to establishing an AIIMS- like institution in this state also," Vardhan told PTI here after the swearing-in ceremony of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu as the first chief minister of Andhra Pradesh post-bifurcation yesterday.

Clinical trials

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 10, 2014

Headline: [Drug makers seek out-of-court settlement in clinical trial cases](#)

Synopsis: In order to keep pace with the government's healthcare agenda, the pharmaceutical sector wants research work to go on, at any cost. In a letter to health minister Harsh Vardhan, the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), an industry body representing leading pharma companies, including Sun Pharma, Lupin, Dr Reddy's Labs, Cadila Health and Glenmark, stressed the need for an out-of-court settlement with health activists fighting for the rights of clinical trial participants. The letter says that the ongoing litigation in the Supreme Court is hindering drug development and research work in the country.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: June 10, 2014

Headline: [Clinical Trial Approval Process May Go Online](#)

Synopsis: To bring in transparency, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), is considering a proposal to make all clinical trial-related approval processes online. The regulator is expected to initiate consultations with trade bodies, Contract Research Organisations (CROs) and industry representatives in this regard shortly, according to a senior official of GVK Biosciences Pvt Ltd.

Indo – US ties

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: June 10, 2014

Headline: [U.S. very excited about opportunity ahead: Biswal](#)

Synopsis: After the talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the government turned its focus on the other high-profile visitor in town: United States Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Nisha Desai Biswal. On Monday, as she met officials in the Ministry of External Affairs, including Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh, President Pranab Mukherjee set out India's vision for ties with the U.S. In his speech at the joint session of Parliament, President Mukherjee said the new government would "bring a renewed vigour to engagement and intensify it in all areas, including trade, investment, science and technology, energy and education." Ms. Biswal said, "The United States is very excited about the opportunity ahead and the road ahead because we see the resounding mandate with which this government has come in, with which Prime Minister Modi has come in, and the hopes and aspirations of Indian people."

FDI/ FII- Pharma

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Editorial: Ramnath Subbu

Headline: [Restrictions on FII investments in Pharma could help industry, consumers](#)

Synopsis: Reports that the government is likely to impose restrictions on portfolio investments by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) in the domestic pharmaceutical sector have been welcomed as a move that will help both the domestic industry and the Indian consumer, feel experts. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) wants any increase in foreign institutional investment in the listed pharmaceutical companies beyond the 24 per cent threshold to first get permission from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

Innovation/ General Industry

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [Indo-Global Healthcare Summit & Expo 2014 on Innovations and Advances](#)

Synopsis: Affordable and accessible healthcare has captured the discourse on health policy in our country. Innovation and affordability go hand in hand. Frugal innovation has become a hallmark of Indian businesses and entrepreneurship across the world. The answers to most healthcare challenges also lie in innovation for increased efficiency, accessibility and affordability of healthcare. This also presents immense opportunity for healthcare organizations in India to continuously innovate and develop sustainable healthcare models. Indo-Global Healthcare Summit & Expo 2014 on innovations and advances will be held at Taj Krishna and Taj Deccan (Taj Group of Hotels - 5 Star), Hyderabad, India from June 20 to 22, 2014. The Indian Medical Association, the Federation of AP Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Indus Foundation are jointly organizing Indo-Global Healthcare Summit & Expo 2014 on Innovations and Advances. The Summit & Expo 2014 is a unique event for identifying and sharing successful innovative models of healthcare delivery from around the world. The event is the result of extensive work with healthcare entrepreneurs to understand the needs in healthcare delivery. The event will help professionals, entrepreneurs, industry players, investors and global institutions to collaborate for taking advantage of the latest innovations and advances. Around 4,000 participants from India and abroad are expected to take part in the event.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation sanctions funds for projects](#)

Synopsis: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced funding for 55 projects from 12 countries through its Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) initiative. The announcement includes 52 Phase I grants of \$100,000 to help innovative thinkers advance bold ideas designed to address important health and development challenges including novel female and male condom designs to improve user experience and develop a mobile phone-based platform for early screening of sickle cell disease, a press release here said.