



News Updates: May 17-19, 2014

Modi led government - Focus on policies: Industry suggestions/ recommendations

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: May 17, 2014

Opinion piece: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CMB, Biocon

Headline: [An agenda for economic revival: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw](#)

Synopsis: The decisive mandate handed to the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party reflects India's overwhelming desire for a strong leadership. Expectations are high from the new government, which will have to deliver on its promise of a better life for every Indian. The only way it can do so is by reviving the economy and putting India on a path of sustainable and equitable growth.

Similar piece in-

The Hindu Business Line- [A mandate to revive the economy](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 17, 2014

Opinion piece: Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Indian Political Economy, Columbia University

Headline: [Towards economic freedom](#)

Synopsis: Arguably, parliamentary polls of 1977 and this year are two of the most important elections in Indian history. The former was a referendum on political freedom and the latter on economic freedom. Ironically the Congress party, which laid the foundation of political freedom through a democratic Constitution in 1950 and of economic freedom through trade and investment liberalisation in 1991, ended up on the wrong side of the fence in both elections. In 1977, it represented the authoritarian side of the equation while this year it stood for progressively greater government intrusion into the lives of people through extensions of the rights approach to housing, entrepreneurship and health rather than empowering them directly through growth and development.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: May 17, 2014

Headline: [Corporates to Narendra Modi: Push reforms, put India back in business](#)

Synopsis: In India, the healthcare sector, despite improvements in recent past, suffers from underfunding and bad governance, says Glenn Saldanha, chairman and managing director of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals. "The new government should look at substantially increasing its spend on healthcare." Satish Reddy, chairman of Dr Reddy's Laboratories, said the new government needs to address the concerns surrounding clinical trials in India. "There is a lot of angst in the industry with respect to that and you have already seen the clinical trials being moved out of India," Reddy said. "We are also seeing a slowdown in the process of approval...We hope that this delay is plugged."

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: May 18, 2014

Headline: [India Inc's Memo To Modi](#)

Synopsis: The Indian firms and business leaders have put forth suggestions pertaining to different sectors on what the Modi led government should focus on to revive the economy. *In the Pharma sector*, Kiran Majumdar Shaw has suggested the following: Hike healthcare spending to at least 3% of GDP, Address 'Right to Health' issue through universal healthcare programme, Revisit drug pricing policy. Imposition of price control on essential drugs needs a rethink, Replace with initiatives that facilitate significant bulk purchasing by the government to meet the needs of poor patients and Unshackle clinical trials. If India is to pursue drug research and innovation, curb on clinical trials must be removed post haste. *In the Healthcare Sector*, Shobana Kamineni, Executive Director Apollo Hospitals, has suggested the following: Increase public healthcare, expenditure, Liberalise medical education and set up more medical colleges, Reform the training system in healthcare, Create more hospital infrastructure to offer healthcare services to a larger section, Empower and expand role of Medical Council to ensure good practices by professionals and Strengthen and expand hospital accrediting agencies and make compliance mandatory for all healthcare outfits.

Similar report in-

The New Indian Express- India Inc's Memo To Modi (link unavailable, scan attached)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: May 18, 2014

Headline: [Gujarat that Modi built](#)

Synopsis: Under Narendra Modi, Gujarat has seen rapid growth, development in infrastructure and a slew of investments into various sectors. His term as chief minister, however, had its share of controversies. As he leaves the state for New Delhi, here's a look at how Gujarat fared during a decade under Modi

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 17, 2014

Headline: [Election results 2014: Booster dose for economy, jobs creation will top govt's agenda](#)

Synopsis: "Disruptive innovation" is a phrase that comes most easily to a long-time associate of Narendra Modi when offering a view of how India's next Prime Minister will order his priorities. As a leader, Modi has hunted for strategies that are transformative rather than incremental in bringing about change on a large scale, be it in agriculture or industry. A man who believes in both delegation as well as micro-management when necessary, Modi is expected to make the economy, more specifically employment generation, an urgent focus of his government. On the issue of dealing with minorities, a Modi government can be expected to stress developmental initiatives in education and health that can deliver real benefits while steering clear of affirmative action or extending quotas to private sector.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 17, 2014

Headline: [End of the populist vote](#)

Synopsis: An examination of the BJP's 2014 poll manifesto shows minimal emphasis on populist measures and freebies—a low-cost housing programme and universalization of secondary school education are the two that come closest to qualifying as populist measures in the document. In contrast, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in its decade-long stay in office unveiled a slew of populist measures like the right to food and education, a Rs.70,000 crore farm loan waiver, a rural employment guarantee scheme and partial rollback of its plan to cut the number of subsidized gas cylinders. Analysts and party leaders did credit some of the programmes like the farm loan waiver scheme announced in 2008 and the rural jobs programme implemented in 2006 as the reasons why the alliance came back to power in 2009 with a renewed mandate.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 19, 2014

Headline: [An economic roadmap for India](#)

Synopsis: Improving the quantity and quality of education and healthcare through partnerships with the private and non-profit sector and researchers is essential to sustain growth beyond the next five years. The new government should promote researcher-policymaker partnerships to design and evaluate innovative programmes to solve knotty policy challenges such as improving learning outcomes and boosting preventive health care. India is fortunate to have thought leaders in almost every sector who could help unleash such innovation in partnership with the civil service. Just as there is a chief economic adviser in the finance ministry, why not have a technocratic chief education adviser or a chief health adviser to work with the education and health secretaries?

Publication: The Indian express

Edition: National

Date: May 17, 2014

Headline: [Barack Obama dials Modi](#)

Synopsis: US President Barack Obama Friday night congratulated Narendra Modi for his emphatic electoral victory during a telephone call in which they discussed Indo-US strategic partnership and the global economic situation. Obama told Modi that the largest democracy in the world had given a decisive mandate. The US leader also expressed the hope that under Modi's leadership, India would play a significant role on the global stage. With BJP's PM candidate Narendra Modi set to become the next Prime Minister, the heads of several countries, including the United States, Pakistan and the UK congratulated him on his victory and invited him to visit their country. China's Foreign ministry and the envoys of Canada and France also expressed willingness to work together.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: May 19, 2014

Headline: [A Guide to Better Understand Clinical Trials](#)

Synopsis: In a step towards creating awareness about clinical trials, the Indian Society for Clinical Research (ISCR) has released a guide for participants willing to undergo trials. This guide comes as part of the International Clinical Trials Day (May 20) celebrations. "The guide is a step forward by ISCR in empowering patients with enough knowledge on clinical trials so that they can make an informed decision on participating. Given the misconceptions that exist about clinical research in India today, we felt it was necessary to provide an objective guide for patients," said Suneela Thatte, president, ISCR.

FDI- Pharma

Publication: Business World

Edition: Online

Date: May 17, 2014

Headline: [Why UPA's Parting Nod To FDI In Gland Pharma Was Appropriate](#)

Synopsis: There are many people, including some within the UPA government, who believe that the Union Cabinet should not have given clearance to an overseas private equity firm KKR to pick up substantial stake in Hyderabad-based Gland Pharma and its associated investment company days before demitting office. The argument seems to be based on the fear that foreign direct investment (FDI) in existing Indian pharmaceutical companies could be a tricky issue, and hence safer to avoid anything controversial during the final days of the government.

FDA

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Mumbai

Date: May 19, 2014

Headline: FDA targets online sale of illegal drugs (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Concerned over the increasing incidents of illegal sale of prescription drugs through websites, the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has, written to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and the Union commerce ministry to prepare an action plan to put an end to this.

Drug quality

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: May 19, 2014

Headline: [Drug exports: Indian pharma's charm offensive](#)

Synopsis: India is launching a campaign to repair its reputation as a global supplier of cheap high-quality drugs, responding to bans imposed by US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on several suppliers. As part of the charm offensive, New Delhi has invited global regulators, including the FDA, to visit Indian production units to get first-hand evidence of measures taken to ensure the quality of locally manufactured generics. The move seeks to address US quality concerns that have prompted the FDA to slap a slew of sanctions on Indian generics, choking off growth in drug exports.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: May 17, 2014

Headline: [Conflict of interest in setting norms for pharmaceuticals in WHO](#)

Synopsis: The World Health Organisation's (WHO) work of setting up norms and standards for production of medicines seems to be flawed by a fundamental conflict of interest. At the heart of its standard setting work is an entity the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) in which majority of the WHO member countries have no voting rights and which is dominated by pharmaceutical industry groups. This glaring conflict of interest seems to fly in the face of WHO's policy on engagement with private entities which states that the development of norms, standards, policies and strategies which lies at the heart of WHO's work would be protected from influence by any form of vested interest.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 19, 2014

Headline: [Measles vaccine wipes out woman's cancer cells](#)

Synopsis: US doctors claim to have wiped out a woman's advanced blood cancer with a massive dose of the measles vaccine, enough to inoculate 10 million people. The woman was part of a clinical trial at the Mayo Clinic demonstrating that cancer cells can be killed with injections of a genetically-engineered virus through a process known as virotherapy.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu- [Measles vaccine wipes out US woman's cancer](#)

Daily News & Analysis- Now, measles virus to treat cancer (link unavailable, scan attached)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 19, 2014

Headline: [US nets biggest penalties for fraud from pharma](#)

Synopsis: The US crackdown on healthcare fraud is paying huge dividends to the exchequer, accounting for three quarters of the money recovered as penalties in fraud cases exposed by whistleblowers between 1987 and 2013-over \$21 billion of the total \$27 billion. Over half the whistleblower cases registered under the False Claims Act since 1987 were related to healthcare and pharmaceutical products, followed by cases related to the department of defence, which accounted for 16% of cases and led to the recovery of just \$2.7 billion. This emerges from the statistics on cases under the Act from 1987 until the end of 2013 put together by the US Department of Justice. The cut-off was 1987 because the legislation in its current form came into being through amendments to the Act in 1986.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: May 19, 2014

Headline: [Commerce ministry likely to address concerns of pharma exporters in new foreign trade policy](#)

Synopsis: The Union commerce ministry is likely to address the persisting demands by the pharmaceutical industry on the exports front in the form of incentives in the forthcoming foreign trade policy, it is learnt. The sources in the ministry said it had been receiving several representations from the industry and also the agencies like the Pharmexcil, especially in the wake of declining exports from the country. The concerns will be addressed in the new foreign trade policy which would streamline the entire exports patterns. The policy also to be crucial as the first from the incumbent Narendra Modi-led government.

Website: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: May 19, 2014

Headline: [Pfizer raises bid for AstraZeneca to \\$117 billion](#)

Synopsis: U.S. drugmaker Pfizer said on Sunday it had raised its offer for British rival AstraZeneca to 69.3 billion pounds (\$116.6 billion), or 55 pounds a share, and would walk away if AstraZeneca did not accept it. But the latest bid was still viewed as falling short of properly valuing AstraZeneca and the company is likely to publicly reject it as early as Monday, according to the Financial Times, which cited people familiar with the matter.

Website: Zee News

Edition: Online

Date: May 15, 2014

Headline: [Big Pharma beware: GSK China case may be just the beginning](#)

Synopsis: Chinese corruption charges against executives of British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK) could be just the start of the pharmaceutical industry's problems in its biggest emerging drugs market, according to industry sources in China. The charges relating to GSK executives, accused of funnelling hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to doctors and health officials via travel agencies, were announced by Chinese authorities last week, the culmination of a 10-month police investigation.