



News Updates: May 23, 2014

Modi government

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 23, 2014

Headline: [Health: Cheaper drugs, fund infusion to heal this sector](#)

Synopsis: The report states that “the health minister’s biggest challenge would be to curtail the rising expenditure on healthcare, most of which is coming out of people’s own pockets. For this, public spending on healthcare will need to rise from just 1% of GDP, among the lowest in the world, to the long promised 3%. The sector also needs overhauling in several aspects, especially on the regulatory front, to bring in greater accountability and efficiency in delivery.” The report also lists down the top priorities of the health ministry.

Drug pricing

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: May 23, 2014

Headline: [Plea to encourage generic drugs](#)

Synopsis: The All-Kerala Chemists and Druggists Association has urged the government to encourage the marketing of life-saving medicines in generic names and not as branded ones so that patients will get them at lower prices. AN Mohan, president of the association, pointed out that the National Drug Pricing Policy 2012 had recommended this, but it was not being implemented. He said pharmaceutical companies were marketing drugs of the same chemical substance in several brand names in order to make huge profits. Generic medicines would be far cheaper than the branded ones.

Fire in the Blood

Publication: The Economic Times- Panache

Edition: National

Date: May 23, 2014

Headline: [Film Screening](#) (scan attached as well)

Synopsis: The Economic Times – Panache has published the show timings of the documentary Fire in the Blood in their listings sections.

Similar report in-

The Hindustan Times [Delhi edition]- Watch (link unavailable, scan attached)

Drug regulation

Publication: Pune Mirror

Edition: National

Date: May 23, 2014

Headline: [State FDA takes Internet pharmacy war to Centre](#)

Synopsis: Around two months after officials of the Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) busted multiple rackets centering around the illegal sale of medicines over the Internet, suspicion of

more such activity across the country has propelled them to take the issue to the national level. Considering the gravity of the situation, FDA officials earlier this week approached the Central government's Ministry of Commerce, as well as the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), asking them to investigate such scams and take similar action to crack down on cases of 'Internet pharmacy', as also draft a concrete policy to tackle it. In the action taken around Mumbai and Pune, amongst other spots, in February and March this year, officials seized medicines worth Rs 2 crore from across the state.

Similar report in-

India Today- [Websites selling illegal drugs are controlled by underworld](#)

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: May 23, 2014

Headline: [Indian drug regulatory system among the best in the world: Claims AIDCOC](#)

Synopsis: The All India Drugs Control Officers Confederation (AIDCOC) has claimed that the drug regulatory system of the country is at par with any other drug regulatory system prevalent across the globe and stressed that the Indian drug regulators are among the best law enforcers around the world. Speaking on the sidelines of 'iPHEX-2014', the 3-day mega exhibition of Indian pharma products & technologies which is underway in Mumbai, AIDCOC general secretary Ravi Uday Bhaskar pointed out that it is easy to play the blame game and question the competency, especially since they cater to one of the largest population in the world, a job that is not easy to do considering the vastness and diversity of the country.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: May 23, 2014

Headline: [Gujarat uses technology to detect low quality drugs](#)

Synopsis: Gujarat has used technology to its advantage in detecting medicines and other pharmaceutical products that are "not of standard quality", said HG Koshia, Commissioner of Gujarat's Food and Drug Administration. The moment a drug sample is detected of not of standard quality (NSQ), bulk SMSes are generated and sent to stakeholders, largely chemists, asking them to withdraw the relevant batch or batches of the concerned drug, he said, participating in iPhex, a three-day industry event.

General Industry

Website: Moneycontrol.com

Edition: Online

Date: May 22, 2014

Headline: [Is Pfizer-Astra deal important for Indian pharma sector?](#)

Synopsis: The deal, if and when it comes through, will not only benefit the drug industry globally, but also the Indian pharmaceutical sector, given the industry in India is fragmented and needs some consolidation, says Sarabjit Kaur Nangra of Angel Broking.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 23, 2014

Headline: [US FDA to expand scrutiny into Sun Pharma data](#)

Synopsis: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd seems headed for more trouble with the US Food Drug

Administration (US FDA), which in its latest letter to the company on its Karkhadi factory in Gujarat has pointed to company-wide data integrity issues similar to those that plagued Ranbaxy Laboratories. In April, Sun acquired Ranbaxy in a deal worth \$3.2 billion.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 23, 2014

Headline: [Teva Pharmaceutical recalls 38,858 bottles of drugs made by Emcure Pharmaceuticals in US market](#)

Synopsis: Israeli drug-maker Teva is recalling nearly 39,000 bottles of three drugs manufactured by its Indian supplier Emcure Pharmaceuticals in the US market due to violation of manufacturing norms. The recall includes anti-diabetic glyburide and metformin hydrochloride tablets, anti-inflammatory drug indomethacin in different strengths and hypertension drug methyldopa.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Teva recalls 38,858 bottles of drugs made by Emcure in US market](#)

Business Standard- [Teva recalls 38,858 bottles of drugs made by Emcure in US mkt](#)

The Financial Express- [Teva recalls 38,858 bottles of drugs made by Emcure in US market](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 22, 2014

Headline: [Supreme Court asks Andhra Pradesh High Court to look into Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy merger](#)

Synopsis: The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to stay a status quo order by Andhra Pradesh High Court on the planned merger of Sun Pharma and Ranbaxy for now and instead directed the high court to issue a fresh order after hearing companies' objections in two days. The high court had on April 25 issued a status quo order on the amalgamation process, holding up the biggest merger in Indian pharmaceutical industry valued at over \$4 billion, on the basis of a petition alleging insider-trading. Sun Pharma and Ranbaxy moved the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the "unreasoned" status quo order, which was passed "ex-parte" without even hearing them.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [SC gives Andhra Pradesh HC two days to decide Sun-Ranbaxy issue](#)

Business Standard- [Ranbaxy-Sun Pharma deal: SC calls for ruling in two days](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Apex court asks Andhra HC to decide on Ranbaxy-Sun Pharma merger](#)

The Indian Express- [Supreme Court refuses to stay HC order on \\$4 bn Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy merger](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [Supreme Court tells Andhra High Court to decide Ranbaxy case in 2 days](#)