



News Updates: May 24-26, 2014

Modi government

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

Headline: [Economic Agenda | What the sectors need](#) (scan attached as well)

Synopsis: The report highlights the expectations of stakeholders from the Modi government. Ranjit Shahani, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Novartis India stated his concerns and expectations pertaining to the pharmaceutical sector. The pharmaceuticals industry would like to see focus by the new government on healthcare covering patents and intellectual property rights (IPR), health services, and science and innovation. The new government needs to create courts specially equipped to deal with IPR cases speedily, focus on medical insurance and quality healthcare service, and invest in health infrastructure.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

By- line article: Rakesh Sarwal, civil servant and health adviser in the Planning Commission

Headline: [What the new govt can do to set the health system right](#)

Synopsis: Mr. Sarwal states that in India there is no organized attempt to contain health risks in the environment, or to help people build positive healthy behaviour. Drugs, which comprise a major part of households' out-of-pocket spending, are often prescribed in an irrational manner. While there has been some improvement in population-level indicators such as infant mortality, malnutrition levels remains stubbornly high. Illness today is catastrophic for those on the fringe, costly and hassle-filled experience for others. Mr. Sarwal lists down the key critical things that central government can do to set the health system right.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

Opinion piece: Dipankar Gupta, director, Centre for public affairs and critical theory, Shiv Nadar University

Headline: [Get well first, get wealthy next](#)

Synopsis: Roughly, 30% of Indian villagers are so poor that they do not even seek medical treatment. If you think you are lucky because you live in a city, think again. As many as 47% urbanites are forced into debt every time they check into a hospital. Look at the irony of it all. When we voted, we vaulted over the town and country divide. But jump as high as we might, factoids such as these cling to our bodies and bring us down. No political leader in India has ever stood on the stump and argued forcefully for universal healthcare. It is always somewhere in the manifesto, either on page 20 or 21, along with other wash-and-wear views, but it sits there unnoticed. There is competition between parties on economic delivery, on land acquisitions, on teaching Pakistan a lesson, but never a heated word on health. Surely, our politicians must know that we are alive and unwell.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

Headline: [No quick fixes for the economy](#)

Synopsis: This government's primary priority will be to set right the economy. It requires a clear understanding of what went wrong with an economy which was doing so well only a few years ago. It should also be kept in mind that there are no quick fixes. The solution will not be limited to urgently needed executive decisions, but also include the budget which is likely to be presented sometime in July. While the government may earn political brownie points by dealing with so-called low-hanging fruits, the real challenge will be to address structural challenges facing the economy that require a medium- to long-term perspective.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

Headline: [Six immediate tasks for Narendra Modi](#)

Synopsis: Narendra Modi inherits a weak economy. The easy options are closed to him. A demand stimulus is out of the question right now. The fiscal deficit is so large that the new government cannot crank the public spending lever. Persistently high inflation means that the Reserve Bank of India is in no position to bring down interest rates. The Indian economy thus needs structural reforms if it is to get out of the current quagmire.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

Opinion piece: Osama Manzar, founder and director of Digital Empowerment Foundation and chair of mBillionth Award

Headline: [Bridging connectivity gaps for better health services](#)

Synopsis: In the last two years in Madhya Pradesh, the maternal mortality rate has gone down from 310 to 227 per 100,000 live births, and the target in the next two years is to bring it down to 100. To achieve better health for the masses, the health department has developed 12 software applications to monitor and track about 100 government health programmes spread across maternal and child health, immunization, disease control, tuberculosis, supply chain, and forecasting of disease outbreaks, in addition to applications to manage health insurance, drugs and medicines, and community action by accredited social health activists. However, the most significant and community involving effort of the state health department is the use of almost all possible social media applications.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: May 24, 2014

Headline: [Drugs controller told to file affidavit on clinical trials](#)

Synopsis: A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Friday directed the Drugs Controller General of India and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization to file an affidavit in response to a writ petition seeking a directive not to allow clinical trials on patients in the State without obtaining their genuine informed consent. The order came on a petition filed by a Thrissur-based NGO, Jananeethi. According to the organisation, clinical trial on patients were being conducted without obtaining their informed consent. No ethical committee on each trial was constituted before conducting the trial as per the ethical guidelines. In fact, there were malpractices in obtaining the prior consent from the patients who were selected for undergoing the drug trials. Even details such as the drugs, risk involved and also the side-effects of the drugs tested on the patients were not disclosed to them.

Similar report in-

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: May 26, 2014

Headline: [CDSCO in the process of constituting 38 more new drug advisory committees](#)

Synopsis: With a view to further beef up the process of approvals to clinical trials, the health ministry has begun the process of increasing the number of new drug advisory committees (NDACs) from the current 12 to 50. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has already in principle finalized the composition of the new NDACs. The members for the new panels have already been contacted and many of them had given consents verbally and through mails. As and when the consents come from other members, the panels would be formally constituted, sources said.

Cancer

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: May 25, 2014

Headline: [India has 1.8 mn cancer patients but only one oncologist to treat every 2,000](#)

Synopsis: Even as cancer is fast turning into an epidemic in India, with about two million registered patients, the country is facing an acute shortage of oncologists, surgical oncologists and radio-therapists. The mismatch between the number of those with cancer and specialised doctors in this field has hit the expansion plans of corporate hospitals trying to foray into smaller towns, as well as cancer centres in the pipeline. Official data show there are only about 1,000 trained oncologists in the country and the ratio of oncologists to cancer patients is about 1:2,000. By comparison, the US has an estimated 12,500 oncologists to treat about 1.4 million patients diagnosed with cancer - a ratio of about 1:100. While the situation is similar in other developed countries, data show that preparedness in other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) countries, too, is as inadequate as in India.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: May 26, 2014

Headline: [New way to treat aggressive breast cancer reported](#)

Synopsis: Researchers have reported a discovery that they hope will lead to the development of a powerful new way of treating an aggressive form of breast cancer. The breast cancer subtype in question is commonly called "HER2-positive"; it's a subset of the disease affecting about one patient in four, in which tumor cells overexpress a signaling protein called HER2. The blockbuster drug Herceptin is a treatment of choice for many women with HER2-positive breast cancer, but in most cases, resistance to the treatment develops within several years. The prognosis for HER2-positive breast cancer patients is worse than for those with other subtypes of the illness.

FDI Pharma

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: May 24, 2014

Headline: [How will Indian pharma sector shape up under new government?](#)

Synopsis: Indian pharma companies have attracted significant amount of attention over the past two decades. Several global companies have aggressively joined hands with Indian companies due to India's strong generic pharma position. However, despite significant global interest, the size of investments in the Indian pharma space by global companies remained constrained due to several

restrictions in the FDI policy.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 25, 2014

Headline: [WHO faces civil society ire for ties with pharma-backed norm setting body](#)

Synopsis: At the ongoing 67th World Health Assembly in Geneva, public health organisations have objected to the World Health Organization's (WHO) participation in the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH), which they describe as "a de facto standard setting body set up by transnational pharmaceutical industry to serve their business interests". Raising the bar on manufacturing standards and using these standards to keep out companies from developing countries has been of great concern especially to the Indian pharmaceutical industry which exports 50% of its \$10 billion annual generic medicine production.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 25, 2014

Headline: [Andhra HC vacates status quo order on Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy merger](#)

Synopsis: Providing relief to pharma giants Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Ranbaxy Laboratories, the Andhra Pradesh high court on Saturday vacated stay orders it issued last month on the merger of two firms that would create world's fourth largest medicines producer. The merger was considered the largest in the Indian pharma sector involving \$4 billion (Rs 24,000 crore).

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Ranbaxy merger: Andhra Pradesh HC vacates the stay on Sun Pharma](#)

Business Standard- [Sun Pharma-Ranbaxy merger gets Andhra high court breather](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Ranbaxy-Sun Pharma case: AP High Court vacates status quo order](#)

The Financial Express- [Stay on Sun Pharma, Ranbaxy merger lifted](#)

The Hindu- [Stay on Sun-Ranbaxy merger lifted](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Court diktat to drive Sun Pharma, Ranbaxy](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

Headline: [GSK India to benefit from global business swap deal with Novartis](#)

Synopsis: GlaxoSmithKline's India operations will benefit from the global business swap deal agreed to by its British parent and Swiss giant Novartis last month, a top executive has told ET. Glaxo will get Novartis' vaccine portfolio, including anti-rabies products such as Rabipur, while transferring its smaller oncology business. The two companies agreed on this swap last month. GSK India's oncology sales were around Rs 50-55 crore.

Publication: Frontline

Edition: Online

Date: May 30, 2014 edition

Opinion piece: C. P. Chandrasekhar, Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Headline: Threat from big pharma (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Pizer's bid for AstraZeneca is symptomatic of the attempt at global consolidation by Big

Pharma as a means to stifle competition or acquire higher-value products. And among their targets are companies in India where 100 per cent FDI is a big attraction.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: May 25, 2014

Headline: [Innovative drug developers receives awards from APJ Abdul Kalam](#)

Synopsis: Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, the former President of India conferred "PharmalInnova Award" to twenty pharmacy students for their innovative drug development. PharmInnova Award is a bi-annual event organized by Rajnibhai V Patel Trust at Ahmedabad. Interesting innovations has been selected by panel of researchers and scientists at the PharmalInnova Award after a lengthy scrutinizing process. Those innovations have been picked up which are workable and has a high probability of commercialization

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

Headline: [Raise resources for education and healthcare through disinvestment and denationalization of coal](#)

Synopsis: PM-designate Narendra Modi wishes to put the Indian economy on a new footing. A good way to set the ball rolling would be to pick up the threads of two ideas mooted by Atal Bihari Vajpayee's NDA government. Public sector companies should be put up for disinvestment, not through piecemeal sale of shares but rather through big bang transfers of controlling stakes. Second, coal mining must be denationalized. Both measures will invite determined opposition from vested interests. But failure to do so will mean a far greater number of people are deprived of opportunities to better their lives.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 26, 2014

Headline: [Health leads](#)

Synopsis: While more companies across sectors plan to recruit B-school graduates this year, the healthcare sector, including the pharmaceutical industry, is expected to hire the maximum number of graduates, as per the 13 annual corporate recruiters' survey by the US-based Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC). Informs Michelle Sparkman Renz, director, research communications, GMAC, "By sector, the greatest demand for hiring MBAs is seen among industries that fall outside typical stereotypes associated with MBA job recruiting. With nine out of 10 healthcare and pharmaceutical companies planning to hire an MBA candidate in 2014, the industry leads the global demand. This is followed by manufacturing (87%), finance and accounting (82%), and consulting (84%)."