



News Updates: May 28, 2014

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: May 28, 2014

Headline: [Coming soon: Health cover for all, says Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: The new Union health minister Harsh Vardhan, who assumed office on Tuesday afternoon, promised that the government would work to provide 'health insurance coverage for all' through a national insurance policy for health. "The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana of the ministry of labour is working fine in some states but its reach is limited to BPL (below poverty line) families. I plan to rope in all economic groups and make the health ministry a sort of regulatory body for oversight on existing microhealth insurance programme in the villages and cities of India," said Vardhan, adding that the new government can learn a lot from micro-health insurance instruments developed by NGOs, selfhelp groups and small private entities.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [New doctor in town promises health insurance for all](#)

Business Standard- [Preventive health care and insurance on Vardhan's agenda](#)

Business World- [Expect Good, Clean Hospitals & Zero Corruption'](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 28, 2014

Headline: [Team Modi's first day in office](#)

Synopsis: In its 1st meeting, Union Cabinet talks tough on terror, stresses on growth and fiscal consolidation, hints at review of tax laws and reaffirms commitment to welfare schemes. Harsh Vardhan, minister for health and family welfare, said the Modi government would strive to "keep each and every person of this country healthy and establish a people's health movement". Vardhan added: "After consultations with experts on a policy level, we'll aim to establish a ministry aided by e-governance and corruption-free administration."

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 28, 2014

Headline: [Here's why Narendra Modi entrusted Young Turks with key jobs](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi killed at least two birds with one stone with his retire-at-75 policy: He managed to keep about 10 septua-and-octogenarian BJP leaders such as Murli Manohar Joshi, CP Thakur, Bhola Singh and Karia Munda out of the ministry, which in turn helped create space for several Young Turks, whom he made ministers of state with independent charge (MoS-IC) of portfolios that are far meatier than some of the Cabinet posts he's doled out to more senior party colleagues. Nripendra Mishra, who was on Tuesday tipped as principal secretary to PM, played a key role and helped the BJP core team come up with the relatively small council of ministers. It would have been even smaller - around 35 members - if there had been agreement on a full-scale restructuring of ministries. For instance, a proposal to merge three industry ministries - heavy industry, DIPP and micro, small and medium enterprises - couldn't be implemented because it would meant sacrificing two Cabinet posts and one of MoS.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: May 28, 2014

Headline: [BJP has a historic chance to firm up India-US ties](#)

Synopsis: After Narendra Modi's victory, people are looking at the future with optimism not only in India but also in the US. This strengthening of the Indo-US relationship, however, is not a foregone conclusion — it will take careful work by both sides. The US has taken an important first step: The symbolism of President Barack Obama's invitation to Modi to visit Washington should not be underestimated. This indicates that the US is ready to work with Modi and that it would not let the visa issue cloud bilateral relations. Modi should accept the invitation without delay.

Drug regulation

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: May 28, 2014

Headline: [AIDCOC wants Centre to take stringent measures to strengthen regulatory mechanism in states](#)

Synopsis: To ensure uniform and effective implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules in the country, the Drugs Control Officers Confederation (AIDCOC) strongly feels that it is high time for the Centre to focus on strengthening the state mechanism with increased manpower and requisite training on a priority basis among others. This demand comes in the wake of huge disparity in the quality of implementation or monitoring of the Acts and Rules in some states compared to commendable performance by the state regulatory body in other states.

General Industry

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: May 28, 2014

Headline: [Bitter pill: China curbs squeeze pharma margins](#)

Synopsis: A crackdown on corruption and pricing in China's fast-growing pharmaceutical market has squeezed profits and margins, raising a red flag to global Big Pharma that the days of easy growth in the country may be over. A Reuters' analysis of more than 60 listed Chinese healthcare firms shows average profit margins declined to around 10% last year from 15% in 2012. Average net profits fell 2.1%, down from close to 20% growth in previous years.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: May 28, 2014

Headline: [GSK Consumer fined for overcharging](#)

Synopsis: GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare has paid Rs 48 crore in fine to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority for overcharging for its Crocin Advance fever and pain-relief pill. "We had raised a demand of Rs 55 crore but the company has paid a fine of Rs 48 crore while raising some points on the higher demand. We are in the process of examining their explanation and will decide on the rest of the amount of penalty in a few days," Authority Chairman C P Singh said.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 28, 2014

Headline: [Andhra High Court order not to impact merger with Ranbaxy: Sun Pharma](#)

Synopsis: Drug major Sun Pharma today said its \$4 billion merger with Ranbaxy Laboratories will remain on track and the lifting of the stay order issued by the Andhra Pradesh High Court will have no impact on the deal. Last week, the court had vacated the status quo order it had issued earlier on the merger process between Sun Pharma and Ranbaxy.

Similar report in-

The Financial Chronicle- [Andhra High Court lifts stay on Sun Pharma and Ranbaxy merger](#)

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: May 28, 2014

Opinion piece: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon

Headline: [Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw: Time for Technology-Driven Smart Governance](#)

Synopsis: The winds of change are blowing through India and one does not need opinion- or exit polls to gauge the mood of the voter. The country wants to usher in the kind of political governance that is accountable, transparent, and performance-oriented. The lacunae in our present governance and economic models have thwarted the aspirations of a billion Indians. Runaway inflation has eaten into the savings of the common man, lack of meaningful economic reforms has hurt business and industry and a slowing economy has led to job losses. Basic needs like health, education and a clean environment have remained unmet.