



News Updates: September 3, 2014

Drug pricing/ NPPA

Publication: Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: September 2, 2014

Headline: [JD\(U\) took donations from state government agencies for Lok Sabha polls: BJP](#)

Synopsis: Former deputy chief minister and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi today alleged that the JD(U) had taken donations from state government agencies for the general elections held earlier this year. "The JD(U) misused the Bihar Medical Services Infrastructure Corporation (BMSIC) and other state government agencies and took donations from such agencies to meet the party's expenditure in the general elections," Sushil Modi claimed at a press conference here on the alleged multi-crore scam in purchase of medicines by BMSIC. Modi further demanded that the Dr K K Singh-headed committee's report in the medicine purchase scam must be made public as it has questioned the procurement process and indicted some senior officials for approving purchase of certain medicines at exorbitantly higher rates than the price fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

Patents/ IPR/ Compulsory licensing

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [India has to inject a culture of innovation](#)

Synopsis: India slipped 10 notches to the 76th position on the Global Innovation Index 2014 (GII). Gary Coleman, managing director (global industries) at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Ltd, and Kumar Kandaswami, senior director at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (India) Pvt. Ltd, talk about what's holding back Indian companies. In the interview Coleman said, you need to have an environment for innovation and part of that environment is dictated by having talent with the right skills, public policy that allows innovation to occur, fundamentals that relate to infrastructure, and the whole area of information and communication technologies that needs to be developed for innovation to really grow. If you look at the countries that are ranked lower in the GII, they are highly co-related to the factors that I described.

Clinical trials

Publication: DNA

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Piramal Life Sciences move to shut Mumbai R&D ops affects scientists](#)

Synopsis: With clinical trial approvals in India on a steady decline, pharmaceutical companies are shutting their indigenous drug discovery operations in the country. Last week, Piramal Life Sciences announced that it is shutting down its drug discovery and research unit in Goregaon, Mumbai. This has left close to 400 employees in the categories of band one and two, research fellows on government-funded projects and apprentices in a lurch.

Health ministry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [No action yet against errant diagnostic labs](#)

Synopsis: After the initial outrage expressed by health minister Harsh Vardhan over diagnostic centres getting caught paying commission to doctors, there appears to be little follow-up. Complaints were lodged in seven police stations against 12 diagnostic centres exposed during a sting operation by a TV news channel, but not a single FIR has been lodged despite more than a month having passed. Not a single center has been closed down and no doctor or diagnostic centre owner has been arrested.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Centre unveils strategy to tackle kala azar](#)

Synopsis: The Centre on Tuesday unveiled a kala-azar rapid diagnosis kit as part of its strategy to combat the disease which predominantly strike Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh. The kit developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was released by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. An insecticide, synthetic Pyrethroid, directed specifically at the sand fly, which is known vector source of kala-azar, would also be supplied for spraying on the walls of homes in the endemic regions. The strategy also involves carrying out active searches for people with symptoms of the disease in the 54 affected districts of the four States. Thirty-three districts in Bihar, 11 of West Bengal, four in Jharkhand and six districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh of Bihar are affected by Kala-azar.

Similar Reports in :

The Time of India : [New kit for kala-azar screening](#)

Modi government

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [India-Japan Ceps review stuck over drug exports](#)

Synopsis: The much-awaited review of the India-Japan comprehensive economic partnership agreement (Cepa) remains stuck over the issue of giving Indian drug companies more access to the Japanese pharmaceutical market. This is even as India has raised the issue of soaring trade deficit with Japan during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to that country. Modi's Japan visit, from August 30 to September 3, was expected to yield some far-reaching results for India's business community and traders at large. But the talks to expand Cepa - at least insofar as pharmaceutical exports are concerned - have remained a 'work in progress', much like other important unfinished items on the prime minister's agenda, such as the civil nuclear agreement negotiation and defence deals.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [After Japan, Modi to invite investments from US](#)

Synopsis: After wooing Japanese investments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to attract more funds from the US for infrastructure development.

The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), on Monday, floated a Cabinet note on setting up a joint mechanism with the US for smooth flow of funds into the country's infrastructure sector with an estimated investment deficit of \$1 trillion.

"As per the proposal, Government officials from India would help in identifying infrastructure projects that need funding while officials from the US would shortlist American companies that are interested in investing their money," a DIPP official said.

Publication: India Today

Edition: Online

Date: September 2, 2014

Headline: [Modi woos Japanese investors: You have hardware, we have software, let's unite](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India has now moved on from a 'red tape' economy to a 'red carpet' economy.

"For ease of business, we have liberated many regulations. India is now not a 'red tape' but a 'red carpet' nation," Modi said in his address to Japanese investors in Tokyo. "India is the only country in the world with three important things: democracy, demography and demand. Democracy provides security and justice," the Prime Minister said.

"Just the way India has a 'Look East' policy, it now looks like Japan has a 'Look at India' policy," Modi said, adding, "You are most welcome to India. Invest in India. Trust India."

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Government goes regional to push Jan Dhan Yojna](#)

Synopsis: Last week, Indian banks opened around 15 million accounts in one day, when the government launched its ambitious Jan Dhan Yojana campaign, a financial inclusion programme. Behind that success was a campaign that could well serve as a template on how the new National Democratic Alliance government will likely promote its programmes. The financial inclusion campaign, for instance, was backed by a media campaign in print, TV, radio, and billboards, and in multiple languages, said Shekar Swamy, chief executive officer at RK Swamy BBDO, the agency that carried out media duties for the Jan Dhan Yojna scheme.

Publication: Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [PM Narendra Modi hardsells India as manufacturing hub](#)

Synopsis: Hardselling India as a manufacturing destination, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday invited Japanese investments, saying the era of 'red tape' has been replaced by 'red carpet' with ease of doing business and liberalisation. Addressing Japanese investors at a business symposium organised by Nikkei and Jetro, Japan's trade promotion body, Modi talked about his vision of 'Make in India' and cited the decisions of his 100-day old government to create ease for doing business. "No other country offers such an opportunity" as India, given the fact that it has democracy, demography and demand, Modi said on the fourth-day of his trip, a day after he addressed investors and businessmen at another event.

Publication: Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [PM Narendra Modi's 100 days in office: Big flourishes vs small steps](#)

Synopsis: What makes an economy grow or, put another way, what attracts investors? Obviously big flourishes get hyped up in the media, but is this what drives investors? A good place to start answering this question, at the end of Narendra Modi's 100th day in office, is the government's decision to hike FDI levels to 49% in defence.

Most commentators, including this newspaper, have criticised the government, arguing no great money will come in since there is little difference in terms of the control the foreign partner has in a 26% versus a 49% FDI level—it is only at 51% that the foreign firm will feel comfortable in transfer of technology. Defence minister Arun Jaitley, however, rubbishes this argument and points to how, in a few weeks, the government has cleared two large orders for aircraft made in India—so, he argues, once foreign manufacturers see the market opening up, they will come in, never mind that FDI limits are not at 51% levels.

FDA

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [With regulatory action rising, drug makers opt for larger covers](#)

Synopsis: Faced with a rise in the cost of compliance owing to regulatory action by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Indian pharmaceutical companies are now turning to insurance firms for larger product-liability cover. Even smaller pharma companies, in the nascent stages of drug discovery, are purchasing these covers, insurance executives said. According to a recent report by global credit rating agency CRISIL, stricter norms by the FDA will lead to higher compliance costs for Indian companies and it will remain high over the medium term. The report noted that the cost of compliance for drug makers has doubled over the past five years.

FDI/ Insurance

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Finance ministry opposes DIPP's proposal on investment caps in pharma firms](#)

Synopsis: The finance ministry has opposed a proposal by the industry department to make an exception for pharmaceutical companies by forcing them to take government approval for foreign portfolio investments that cross 24%, compared with a proposed threshold of 49% for other sectors. In a note for inter-ministerial discussion on composite foreign investment caps, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) proposed that the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) vet overseas portfolio investments in excess of 49% in sectors where it isn't allowed through the so-called automatic route.

Public Health

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Govt to MPs: Take up construction of toilets as your top priority](#)

Synopsis: Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to construct toilets to help preserve the dignity of women, minister of state (independent charge) for planning and statistics Rao Inderjit Singh has now also urged all Members of Parliament to utilise funds under the MPLADS for the purpose, making it their top priority over the next one year. Pointing out that construction of toilets at public places and schools is already permitted under the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Singh in a letter last week said, "I would like to make the request that the highest priority may kindly be given to construction of toilets in schools during the next one year."

General Industry

Publication: Reuters

Edition: Online

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Novo Nordisk drops inflammation business to focus on diabetes](#)

Synopsis: Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk has stopped research and development activities in inflammatory disorders to concentrate on the prevention and treatment of diabetes, its biggest business. The company, whose main rivals include Sanofi and Eli Lilly & Co, aims to increase the number of people using its drugs to 40 million in 2020 from 23 million in 2012, as the world faces a big jump in type 2 diabetes linked to over-eating and lack of exercise.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Government to reverse brain drain, bring back NRI scientists](#)

Synopsis: In a bid to reverse the brain drain of the past few decades and to bring back scientific talent, the Narendra Modi government has initiated talks with many eminent non-resident Indian scientists, who left the country to pursue research overseas. The Ministry of Science and Technology has approached about a dozen well-known scientists from across the world in an effort to bring them back to various departments under the ministry, said Jitendra Singh, minister of state (independent charge) for science and technology. According to Singh, the government is trying to facilitate and create a conducive environment along with social infrastructure to attract the scientists who had left the country many years ago for various reasons.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Quality healthcare also key to healthy heart: study](#)

Synopsis: It comes back to the basics: the quality of your healthcare system determines your health. A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine last week has indicated that keeping a healthy heart may have as much to do with the quality of healthcare as avoiding risk factors. The international study, led by researchers at the Population Health Research Institute at the McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences was conducted in 17 nations across the world, including India and Bangladesh in this region.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Massive surge in cancer cases nationwide but where are the doctors?](#)

Synopsis: There are less than 1,600 cancer specialists in the country to treat an estimated one crore cancer patients, and the situation is likely to worsen with an expected 20 per cent jump in the number of cancer cases by the end of this decade, according to government data and prominent doctors' associations. The doctor-patient ratio gap is unlikely to be corrected any time soon unless dramatic measures are taken since many of these specialties are relatively new and the number of seats in these super specialties is limited.

Similar Reports in-

Financial Express : [Massive surge in cancer cases in India but where are the doctors?](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Naresh Trehan plans to expand hospital business, open drug stores](#)

Synopsis: Cardiac surgeon Naresh Trehan's Medanta plans to expand its Medanta - Medicity hospital business and enter the pharmacy market. The company has sought approval from the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for the plans, according to the agency's website. Apollo Hospitals is another hospital operator with presence in the pharmacy market. In fact, the Hyderabad-based company, with a network of around 1,600 Apollo Pharmacy outlets, is the largest druggist in the country.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition : Online

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [AIIMS, US varsity tie-up on India's first regenerative medicine center](#)

Synopsis: India's top public healthcare establishment, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, is in talks with the Ohio State University (OSU) to set up the country's first comprehensive regenerative medicine center that will open up avenues in research and development and introduce revolutionary techniques. Regenerative medicine, a broad subject, deals with the "process of creating living, functional tissues to repair or replace tissue or organ function lost due to age, disease, damage or congenital defects".

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: Kolkata

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: Wanted Life Support (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

Synopsis: Till date, despite the urgent need for skilled paramedical staff in India, there is no regulatory authority to monitor and check the quality of paramedical training programmes. Bodies like the Para Medical Council of India or the All India Paramedical Technology & Alternative Medicine Council are private societies registered under the Society Registration Act and owned by people who have devised the curricula for various paramedical programmes in medical laboratory technology, radiology imaging technology etc. Various institutes across the country are affiliated to these societies and are running their courses for a hefty fee.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

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Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Nod for combination inhaler breathes fresh life into Cipla](#)

Synopsis: Serroflo is the generic version of GlaxoSmithKline's Seretide, used to treat asthma and breathing disorders. The market size of Seretide in Germany and Sweden is expected to be around \$50 million (₹300 crore). Though the benefit from the launch may not materialize in the near term, it raises hopes about Cipla's approval and launch in other key markets such as the UK, France and Spain over the next few months. The launch of Seretide in these larger markets will not only boost the company's revenues but also profitability given the healthy margin for inhalers. The potential for Seretide in EU is around \$800 million, while the market size in the UK is over \$350 million.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Vigilance clearance to AIIMS whistleblower](#)

Synopsis: Coming to the aid of former Chief Vigilance Officer at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Sanjiv Chaturvedi, the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) has given the whistleblower Indian Forest Service officer an “all clear” in respect of his vigilance clearance. In its report, the MoEF noted: “As per the vigilance division of this Ministry, Sanjiv Chaturvedi is clear from the vigilance angle.”

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Manipal Health to invest Rs 2,000 crore in 5 years](#)

Synopsis: Privately-held Manipal Health Enterprises, which operates Manipal Hospitals, is planning to invest around Rs 2,000 crore in the next five years and nearly doubling the capacity of beds to 7,000 in the same period, the company’s new CEO Ajay Bakshi said. Bakshi, who assumed reins of the company — part of the Manipal Education and Medical Group — on August 12, has charted out a national and international expansion plan that mainly involves growth through acquisitions? “Growth is very important on our agenda. We are looking at more than doubling our capacity within the next five years, mostly owned beds,” said Bakshi.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: September 3, 2014

Headline: [Dr. Agarwal elected IMA President](#)

Synopsis: Rajasthan's noted physician Dr S S Agarwal was elected unopposed as President of Indian Medical Association (IMA). While K K Agarwal of Delhi was elected Secretary General, Dr R N Tandon of Delhi was elected Treasurer of the national body of doctors. Dr Agarwal would hold the post of President for a tenure of two years, leading the IMA's chapters in 29 states and its 1,800 local branches, a communication received from IMA's Election Commissioner Dr P Vijay Chander Reddy said today.