



Right Based Healthcare Will Not Work Without the Infrastructure

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In continuation, considering that healthcare professionals play an important role in facilitating digitization of the healthcare ecosystem in India, the initiative holds significant promise. The Indian government is set to launch a curriculum focused on digital health for medical professionals, aiming to bridge the gap between healthcare and technology.

On a related note, India to consider new Drugs Bill to regulate imports, manufacturing, the bill is aimed at ensuring quality, safety, efficacy, performance and clinical trial of new drugs with the objective of highest possible regulatory standards and transparent regulatory regime.

In an interesting move, India and the United States agreed to work towards a broader and deeper bilateral drug policy framework for the 21st Century, the Biden administration said after talks between officials from the two countries.

Regarding NCDs, such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and obesity have become a grave global public health challenge. Unhealthy diet, particularly the consumption of ultra-processed foods, is a major contributor to the high prevalence of such diseases. The Global Food Regulators Summit seeks to prioritise strategies that promote healthier eating habits and empower consumers to make informed food choices.

In another important step, The Health Ministry is planning a unified portal for digital drug regulatory mechanism. The portal will include the details of stakeholders, such as manufacturers, distributors, and procurement agencies, among others.

In this eleventh volume of Occasional News Wrap, various dimensions of health regulation issues have been captured, which appeared by way of op-eds, articles, news etc. during the month of July and August, 2023.

S.N.	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1.	<p>Master's Degree in Digital Health on Cards <i>Livemint</i> July 2, 2023 By Priyanka Sharma</p>	<p>Considering that healthcare professionals play an important role in facilitating digitization of the healthcare ecosystem in India, the initiative holds significant promise. The Indian government is set to launch a curriculum focused on digital health for medical professionals, aiming to bridge the gap between healthcare and technology.</p>
2.	<p>Right Based Healthcare Will Not Work Without the Infrastructure <i>Livemint</i> July 3, 2023 By Amar Patnaik</p>	<p>As per information given to Parliament, India's doctor-to-patient ratio is about 1: 1,511 for allopathic doctors, against the WHO norm of 1: 1,000. With covid having exposed India's public health system, particularly at the primary healthcare level, there is unanimity that the country's health sector needs extensive infrastructure support.</p>
3.	<p>If the Consumption of Tobacco is Not Okay, India Should Just Ban It <i>Livemint</i> July 4, 2023 By Dilip Cheriaan</p>	<p>The government's new online content guidelines are far too stiff and will prove costly-a big pity, if it's just health tokenism. The MoHFW's announcement that it will impose additional anti-tobacco controls on Online Curated Content Providers (OCCPs) has sparked widespread conversation. Opting for these regulations rather than considering a ban on the production or sale of tobacco, a known harmful substance, begs the question: Are these guidelines mere tokenism?</p>
4.	<p>Navigating the Pricing Regulation for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Nishith Radio July 07, 2023</p>	<p>In the first episode of this two-part series, Dr. Milind Antani, Darren Punnen and Eshika Phadke discuss the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013, which regulates the price of drugs and medical devices in India, and what companies need to be cognisant of to avoid pitfalls. In the second episode of this two-part series, Dr. Milind Antani, Darren Punnen and Varsha Rajesh discuss recent developments to the price control regime for medical devices and pharmaceutical companies in India.</p>
5.	<p>FSSAI to Meet International Food Regulators <i>Livemint</i> July 11, 2023 By Priyanka Sharma</p>	<p>Unsafe food costs low- and middle- income countries \$110 billion each year in productivity and medical expenses. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will hold a meeting with global food regulators, including G20 countries.</p>
6.	<p>148 Million Children Are Stunted by Hunger- UN <i>Firstpost</i> July 13, 2023 By FP Staff</p>	<p>According to the 2023 State of Food Security and Nutrition report from five UN agencies, while worldwide hunger levels remained stable between 2021 and 2022, many countries are suffering worsening food crises.</p>

7.	<p>World Can End AIDS by 2030-UN Agency</p> <p><i>Hindustan Time</i> July 13, 2023 By Rhythma Kaul</p>	<p>The number of people on antiretroviral treatment worldwide rose almost fourfold, from 7.7 million in 2010 to 29.8 million in 2022. HIV treatment averted almost 21 million AIDS-related deaths between 1996 and 2022. The world can end AIDS or at least achieve considerable reduction in new infections by 2030, the United Nations agency UNAIDS said as it released its annual AIDS update.</p>
8.	<p>India to Consider New Drugs Bill to Regulate Imports, Manufacturing</p> <p><i>ET Pharma.com</i> From <i>The Economic Times</i> July 14, 2023</p>	<p>The bill is aimed at ensuring quality, safety, efficacy, performance and clinical trial of new drugs with the objective of highest possible regulatory standards and transparent regulatory regime. India's lawmakers will consider a New Drugs Bill on rules for importing, manufacturing and selling medicines, according to a parliamentary notice, as the country seeks to draw lessons from a deadly cough syrup scandal.</p>
9.	<p>Global Food Regulators Summit Seeks to Tackle Non-Communicable Diseases</p> <p><i>Policy Circle</i> July 19, 2023 By Simi TB</p>	<p>NCDs such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and obesity have become a grave global public health challenge. Unhealthy diet, particularly the consumption of ultra-processed foods, is a major contributor to the high prevalence of such diseases. The Global Food Regulators Summit seeks to prioritise strategies that promote healthier eating habits and empower consumers to make informed food choices.</p>
10.	<p>Govt. Moots Single Regulatory Portal for Drugs</p> <p><i>The Hindu Business Line</i> July 19, 2023 By Abhishek Law</p>	<p>The Health Ministry is planning a unified portal for digital drug regulatory mechanism. The portal will include the details of stakeholders, such as manufacturers, distributors, and procurement agencies, among others. Components of the Digital Regulatory System, according to the draft document, will include a single window/dashboard; a mobile application; alerts and delivery notifications across different messaging platforms via e-mail or SMS; chatbots and a dashboard with access to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and other authorities.</p>
11.	<p>India, US Agree to Work Towards Broader, Deeper Bilateral Drug Policy Framework</p> <p><i>India Today</i> July 21, 2023 By PTI</p>	<p>India and the United States agreed to work towards a broader and deeper Bilateral Drug Policy framework for the 21st Century, the Biden administration said after talks between officials from the two countries. What we've really worked on over the last couple of days is the three pillars. One is the counter-narcotics and the work to do to disrupt the networks of traffickers and producers of illicit drugs.</p>

12.	<p>NITI Aayog Issues Guidelines for Livestock Telemedicine in India</p> <p><i>The Economic Times</i> July 27, 2023 By Yogima Seth Sharma</p>	<p>NITI Aayog has proposed assigning a unique user ID to registered veterinary practitioners (RVP) and animal keeper with mandatory consent from the animal keeper as part of the advisory guidelines and framework for Livestock Telemedicine in India. The framework, however, exempts a registered veterinary practitioner from any penal action should he/she fail to establish veterinarian-client (animal keeper)-patient (animal) relationship, while rendering telemedicine consultation in case of an emergency.</p>
13.	<p>Stringent Domestic Food Safety Standards Essential to Boost Consumer Confidence</p> <p><i>Livemint</i> July 31, 2023 By Staff Writer</p>	<p>There is a need to implement Stringent Food Safety Standards to boost consumer trust both within the country and overseas, according to Sanoj Kumar Jha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Addressing the 'FICCI Conference on Capability Enhancement for Safe Food Business and Accession Ceremony of All India Cadre of Safe Food Business Professionals,' Jha emphasized the significance of India's agriculture and processed food industries during the pandemic.</p>
14.	<p>FSSAI Cracks Down On Use of Chemicals, Pesticides in Vegetables</p> <p><i>Livemint</i> July 31, 2023 By Priyanka Sharma</p>	<p>The Food Safety Standards Authority of India) has directed all states and union territories to intensify surveillance of fresh produce due to mounting concerns over high concentrations of Harmful Pesticides and Chemicals in vegetables and fruit sold in markets. Excessive amounts of chemical are used to prolong the shelf-life of fresh fruit and vegetables, prompting the food regulator to intensify the monitoring of businesses involved in trading, re-packaging, manufacturing and selling fresh produce.</p>
15.	<p>Over 60 Percent People from Rural Areas Go Out of State for Better Medical Treatment: Study</p> <p><i>The Economic Times</i> August 02, 2023 By PTI</p>	<p>More than 60% of rural Indians with major diseases choose to leave their state to access treatment, according to a report. Surveying 6,478 individuals across various regions, the report found that over 10% sought treatment at a public primary healthcare facility, while around 60% visited government-run facilities. More than 60 percent of people from rural areas chose to "migrate" out of their state for availing treatment for major diseases, according to a report.</p>
16.	<p>Docs to be punished for not prescribing generic drugs: New NMC rules.</p> <p><i>The Times of India</i> August 13, 2023 By PTI</p>	<p>The NMC Regulations notified on August 2, 2023 stated that India's out-of-pocket spending on medications accounts for a major proportion of public spending on healthcare. All doctors must prescribe generic drugs, failing which they will be penalised and even their license to practice may also be suspended for a period, according to the new regulations issued by the National Medical Commission.</p>

17.	<p>India Has a Rich History of Traditional Medicine: WHO Chief Tedros Ghebreyesus <i>The Economic Times</i> August 17, 2023 By PTI</p>	<p>Praising India for its "rich history" of Traditional Medicine like Ayurveda and yoga, WHO Chief Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus stressed the need to integrate this ancient medicinal knowledge into the national health system of countries. The Director-General of the World Health Organization was speaking after inaugurating WHO's first-ever Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in Gandhinagar as part of the G20 Health Minister's Meetings commenced at the Mahatma Mandir convention centre.</p>
18.	<p>India In Final Stages to Introduce Policy On R&D in Pharma-Medical Devices Sectors: Union Minister Mandaviya <i>BW Healthcare World</i> August 21, 2023 By BW Online Bureau</p>	<p>Acknowledging the paramount importance of Research and Development in healthcare advancement, Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya spoke of India's strides in fostering an innovative environment on the sidelines of the G20 Health Minister's Meeting in Gandhinagar. He stated that India is in the final stages of introducing a national policy to promote research and development and innovation in the pharma-medical devices sectors.</p>
19.	<p>Jan Aushdhi Expands its Generic Footprint <i>The Hindu Business Line</i> August 22, 2023 By PT Jyothi Datta, Abhishek Law</p>	<p>Low-cost pharmacy initiative Jan Aushadhi battles quality perception, supply issues. At least 10,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras are expected to be operational in the country by December. Having started in 2008 as a modest initiative to supply less expensive, generic drugs to consumers, the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushdhi Kendras now number 9,750-plus countrywide and offer a larger basket of medicines and surgical products.</p>
20.	<p>Centre Forms Committee to Prepare Food Safety Norms, Protect Users from Unhealthy Food Items <i>The Economic Times</i> August 23, 2023 By Teena Thacker, ET Bureau</p>	<p>The committee, headed by an Additional Secretary in the DoCA of Govt. of India, has been asked to submit its report within six weeks, the memo said, adding that it will examine and identify gaps or inadequacies within the current regulatory framework that contribute to the Proliferation of Unhealthy Food Products. The government has formed a committee that will frame guidelines to protect consumers from unhealthy food products available in the market, its latest effort to strengthen the country's food safety system.</p>