OPPI

Daily News Monitor

June 21, 2016

1. **OPPI hails new FDI norms for pharmaceutical sector - PTI**

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) today welcomed the Centre's decision to allow up to 74 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in pharmaceutical sector under the automatic route. With the objective of promoting the development of this sector, it has been decided to permit up to 74 per cent FDI under automatic route in brownfield pharmaceuticals and government approval route beyond 74 per cent will continue. "We welcome (the) government's decision to make changes to the FDI policy. We believe that this will provide an impetus to employment and job creation in the country," OPPI Director General Kanchana TK told PTI here. "The decision...will augur well with our members who are constantly exploring ways of ensuring new drugs and medicines are made available to Indian patients," Kanchana added. Under the existing policy in the sector, 100 per cent FDI is allowed under automatic route in greenfield pharma and up to 100 per cent under government approval in brownfield pharma. The new norms will enable enhanced investments (in the form of M&A activity) from the MNC companies, which believe in the growth potential of the domestic industry. "We remain positive on the sector, maintaining our recommendations," Angel Broking VP Research- Pharma Sarabjit Kour Nangra said.

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- Zeebiz.com: India Inc hails FDI norms, Sitharaman says defense FDI will not compromise India's security
- Times of India: India Inc. hails government's new FDI norms
- Financial Chronicle: Modi consigns Rajan to history

2. **China rolls out sops for investments to Indian pharma companies – The Economic Times**
   China, the second largest pharmaceutical market in the world after US, is luring Indian drug companies to set up greenfield operations in that country. To roll out the red carpet, the local government has decided on a spectrum of incentives like tax benefits and ready availability of resources like infrastructure and manpower at competitive costs, people aware of the schemes told

3. **Novartis aims to nearly triple biosimilar drugs on market by 2020 – The Economic Times**
   Switzerland's Novartis pledged to nearly triple its number of biosimilar drugs on the market by 2020, raising its bet that cheaper versions of blockbuster cancer and immune system medicines will snatch billions in rivals' profits. Novartis's Sandoz generics unit aims to be selling eight biosimilars, compared with three now, as patents on original drugs expire.

4. **Government begins mapping region-specific exports for bigger share of global trade – The Economic Times**
   The government wants to capture greater market share in global trade and has kick-started an exercise for mapping region specific exports to achieve this aim. It has identified the pharmaceutical sector as an "export commodity with high potential" to garner higher market share in Europe and auto components to drive exports growth in South America.

5. **Introduce data protection as an IPR: Study – Business Standard (Commercial feature)**
   With a view to benefit and drive the growth of pharmaceutical research and innovation in India, the Assocham-TechSci Research study has recommended introduction of data protection as an intellectual property right (IPR). The study, titled 'IPR in pharmaceuticals: Balancing, innovation and access', has also suggested for digitisation of IPR for pharmaceuticals in India to strengthen online processing and maintenance of information database thereby making the process more systematic and convenient. Though it would require allocation of more personnel for patent examinations and training sessions to be organised as part of resource development module, the study has emphasised that efficient management of IPR filings would help in building a stronger IPR framework in India.

6. **Pharma sector: green shoots for brownfield projects – The Hindu Business Line**
   Enabling easier inflow of foreign investment in the pharmaceutical sector, the Centre has allowed 74 per cent FDI under the automatic route in existing (brownfield) projects. Any investment beyond that will require government approval. The Centre had already eased the rules for investment in greenfield pharma projects, where 100 per cent FDI is permitted under the automatic route. Earlier, while 100 per cent FDI was allowed for brownfield pharmaceutical investment, it required government approval. "The pharmaceutical sector has been witnessing heightened activity in recent years and this change should help in reducing the timelines for deals involving FDI of less than 74 per cent equity stake," said Kalpesh Maroo, Partner at consultancy firm BMR & Associates LLP.

7. **Indian healthcare providers to spend $1.2 billion on IT in 2016: Gartner – Mint**
   Healthcare providers in India are expected to spend $1.2 billion on information technology (IT) products and services in 2016, an increase of 3.4% over 2015, according to research firm Gartner, Inc. The spending includes expenses on internal services, software, IT services, data centre, devices and telecom services, the research firm said. "IT services, which includes consulting, software support, implementation, hardware, IT outsourcing (ITO) and business process outsourcing (BPO), will continue to be the largest overall spending category within the health care providers sector," said Moutusi Sau principal research analyst at Gartner.

8. **Preventive drug against breast cancer is holy grail for women with BRCA1 gene – International Business Times**
   A preventive treatment could prove effective on women who carry the mutated BRCA1 breast cancer gene, greatly reducing their chances of developing the disease, scientists have said. They have identified a protein marker associated with pre-cancerous cells that could be targeted by existing drugs. Women with the BRCA1 gene have an elevated risk of developing an aggressive form of breast cancer. Yet, very few options exist today to avoid them falling sick. Many of them currently choose to have their breast tissues and ovaries surgically removed. The aim of the study, published in Nature Medicine, was to identify other potential treatments that do not involve surgery.

9. **Soon, cancer screening centres in 100 districts across India – The Indian Express**
   The government is set to roll out a screening programme for cancer, hypertension and diabetes in 100 districts later this week. The programme aims to screen people aged above 30 for oral cancer and women aged above 30 for breast and cervical cancer. As per the protocol finalised by Health Ministry, which would be unveiled by Health Minister J P Nadda Wednesday, people would also be screened for hypertension and diabetes. The programme would be conducted by trained nurses and auxilliary nurse midwives at primary health centres or sub-centres.

10. **Pharma biggies among 200 under lens for poor drugs – The Times of India**
    The Drug Controller General of India has launched inspections against 200 drugmakers, including leading firms like Cipla and Pfizer, for allegedly selling poor quality medicines and non-compliance to manufacturing norms. "We have already inspected 36 drug manufacturing plants over last three months. In the second phase, starting from Monday, we will conduct inspections in 20 more facilities, " an official in the health ministry told TOI.

11. **Only dermatologists can perform cosmetic procedures at spas: Govt – Deccan Herald**
    The Karnataka government issued a circular to district health officers and local inspection committees under the District Registration Authority, instructing them to inspect spas and other places that carry out therapeutic procedures. Khader said that it would be now mandatory for all spas to register themselves under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act which provides for prominent display of the practitioners' names. The government took the decision on a memorandum submitted by the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists. Besides, the minister said that a show-cause notice had been issued to a private hospital in Bengaluru, where alleged medical negligence drove a five-year-old child into coma.

12. **New FDI norms welcome, but policy still needs to be put to test, say pharma companies – Business Today**
    The new policy on foreign direct investment (FDI) announced by the government on Monday, June 20, has been welcomed by the Indian pharma sector, though there are some caveats being added in terms of the likely responses to the policy from foreign companies. That the policy does not allow automatic 100 per cent FDI in brownfield pharma ventures is only meant to prevent acquisition of existing pharma businesses, but that it allows this in greenfield ventures will mean new investments and especially by those that are majors but do not have enough India revenues and have a small presence at the moment in India. However, "how many would be interested in a 74 per cent stake in brownfield ventures, would be the first test of the policy", says D.G. Shah, Secretary General of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.

13. **PatientSafe India to address the challenge of drug counterfeiting – Express Pharma**
    As a part of a nationwide campaign against drug counterfeiting, PatientSafe India, a one-day conference on addressing the challenge of drug counterfeiting, is being organised at Mumbai. It is slated to be held on June 28, 2016 at Courtyard Marriott, Mumbai International Airport, Mumbai. This conference will be facilitated by SynCore Consulting with active collaboration of all the industry associations, regulators, trade bodies and consumer groups such as OPPI, IDMA, IPA, IMA, PDA and AIOCD. The theme of the conference is to deliberate on the various aspects

of drug counterfeiting and suggest creative ways to raise awareness and devise strategies to curb the practice of drug counterfeiting.

14. **Betting big on M&As – Express Pharma**
    In an editorial piece, Viveka Roychowdhary talks about mergers and acquisitions. The editorial piece highlights how Indian pharma companies are cashing in on opportunities provided by mergers between their global peers. For instance, DRL's latest deals cover products that need to be divested by Teva as it seeks to acquire Allergan's generics business. DRL's deal is subject to approval from the US Federal Trade Commission as well as Teva's buy of Allergan's generics portfolio going through. This adds a layer of complexity to the deal but once it goes through, DRL is obviously looking at the end game: according to IMS Health, the combined sales of the branded versions of these eight ANDAs in the US is approximately $3.5 billion MAT for the most recent 12 months ending in April 2016.