



News Updates: December 14 -16, 2013

FDI / Foreign Investment in Pharma / M&As in Pharma

Publication: The Financial Chronicle (also appeared in The Asian Age, The Pioneer and The Statesman)

Edition: National

Journalist: Soumonty Kanungo

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Torrent buys Elder pharma unit](#)

Synopsis: Torrent Pharmaceutical, on Friday, said it has acquired branded domestic formulation business of Mumbai-headquartered Elder Pharmaceuticals. The size of the deal is Rs 2,000 crore, which includes Elder Pharma's domestic formulation businesses in India and Nepal (India business). Torrent Pharma in its statement to Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) said that Elder's India business comprises a portfolio of over 30 brands with market leading products across the women's healthcare, pain management, wound care and nutraceuticals therapeutic segments. Elder was advised by Nomura with Ernst & Young being the transaction and tax advisor and Khaitan & Co. being the legal advisors. "The identified India business is being sold as a going concern on a slump sale basis and the transaction will also involve the transfer of employees engaged in sales, marketing and operations of the India business. Under the proposed transaction, Elder will continue to manufacture and supply the products at its existing manufacturing facilities for Torrent for a period of three years," Torrent said in the release.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Journalist: Sanjay Pingle

Date: December 16, 2013

Headline: [Net sales of 50 top cos up by 17% in first half of 2013-14, adjusted net profit rise by 28%](#)

Synopsis: The leading 50 listed pharmaceutical companies notched up satisfactory financial performance during the first half ended September 2013 despite several odds like quality problems in US, new Drug Price Control Order, forex losses, interest burden and higher manufacturing costs. The net profit before adjustments and forex losses of these companies went up by 28.3 per cent to Rs.9,386 crore in the first half ended September 2013 from Rs.7,316 crore in the corresponding period of last year. Their net sales also moved up by 16.8 per cent to Rs.60,196 crore from Rs.51,537 crore

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Journalist: R. Prasad

Date: December 14, 2013

Headline: [Clinical trials on child-friendly bedaquiline MDR-TB drug for children initiated](#)

Synopsis: "Before the BPCA [Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act] and the PREA [Paediatric Research Equity Act] became law, more than 80 per cent of the drugs approved [by FDA] for adult use were being used for children, even though the safety and effectiveness had not been established in the latter. Today that number has been reduced to about 50 per cent," a FDA blog post notes. The effects of BPCA and PREA are already beginning to show. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, whose new drug (bedaquiline) was approved by the FDA last year for use in adults with MDR-TB disease, has already initiated steps to produce a paediatric version.

Patents / Intellectual Property Rights / Compulsory Drug Licensing

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: December 14, 2013

Headline: [Generic possibilities from Bristol-Myers AIDS drug pact](#)

Synopsis: Indian drug-makers wanting to make AIDS drug atazanavir will now be able to do so, following a licensing agreement signed by multinational pharma firm Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) and UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP). Atazanavir, marketed by BMS under the Reyataz brand, is used in the second-line treatment of HIV/AIDS. The agreement, announced on Thursday, will allow manufacturers worldwide to produce more affordable versions of atazanavir, and to combine atazanavir with other medicines, to make treatment easier and more accessible in developing countries, said Greg Perry, Executive Director of MPP. Generic drug-makers, many of which are in India, will be able to access the technology to make the drug, and export it to 110 countries.

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Journalist: Kalyan Ray

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Pharma sector seeks most number of patents in India](#)

Synopsis: New-age economic sectors like pharmaceuticals and computer technology pioneer innovation in India, leaving behind agriculture and heavy engineering that was the bedrock of the Indian economy for decades, a new analysis suggests. Using patent applications filed in India in 2012 as a proxy for innovation, the analysis found that drugs and pharmaceuticals topped the list, contributing to 23 per cent of patent applications, followed by the computing and control sector with 15 per cent and communications with 10 per cent.

FDA Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Journalist: Pallavi Ail

Date: December 14, 2013

Headline: [USFDA-hit Indian pharma looks for whistleblowers](#)

Synopsis: Gurgaon-based Ranbaxy Laboratories' troubles began when Dinesh Thakur, who had served on the board of the drug firm between 2003 and 2005, approached the US Food and Drug Administration and department of justice with proof that the company had indulged in data tampering, supply of falsified data to the regulator and production and sale of substandard drugs. It now turns out that one reason why Thakur chose to invoke the US' robust whistleblower policy (which forced Ranbaxy to cough up \$500 million) rather than first take up the matter with the company's top management was that the company then lacked a whistleblower policy. Clause 49 of the listing agreement with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) mandates disclosure of whether an entity has a whistleblower policy or not. However, Indian laws do not make it binding for a company adopt such a policy.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: December 16, 2013

Headline: [Separate Drug Ministry Sought](#)

Synopsis: A separate Union ministry for pharmaceuticals was sought to protect the pharmacists in the country, by Amitav Joyprakash Choudhury, convenor of Indian Pharmacist Revolution Yatra(IPRY). Speaking to reporters, Amitav observed that pharmacists were the backbone of the life-saving drugs. He also urged the Centre to amend the Acts including Drug and Cosmetics & Acts 1940 & 1945, Pharmacy Act 1948, and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Act. It also demanded that a Central Register of Pharmacist be created by Pharmacy Council of India.

Publication: Health India

Edition: Online (*Reproduced from PTI*)

Date: December 14, 2013

Headline: [DCGI gives approval to develop and manufacture biological tissues](#)

Synopsis: Drug Controller General of India has given an approval to a health care service provider to develop and manufacture tissues used for the treatment of unmet medical needs. The approval has been given to Chennai-based Dr K M Cherian's Heart Foundation and Frontier Lifeline Hospital to develop and manufacture Tissue Engineered Porcine Pulmonary artery (tePPA), Tissue Engineered Bovine Jugular vein (teBJV) and Tissue Engineered Bovine pericardium (teBP), a release said.

Company News

Publication: The Times of India (Also appeared in Business Standard, The Financial Express, Mint and The Telegraph)

Edition: National

Journalist: Rupali Mukherjee and Chitra Unnithan

Date: December 14, 2013

Headline: [Torrent acquires Elder unit for 2k cr](#)

Synopsis: Torrent is set to acquire Mumbai based Elder Pharms entire domestic formulations business in India and Nepal for Rs 2,004 crore. The deal is the first major India consolidation story in the pharma sector, where an Indian company is buying a domestic business to grow its share in the home market. The acquisition is also the largest domestic pharma deal this year, confirming the return of confidence in a sector which has been plagued by policy flip-flops. The only other similar deal involving Indian companies was Zydus Cadila buying mid-sized Biochem in 2011 for around Rs 300 crore. Other transactions this year were mainly fund-raising plans by contract manufacturers. This transaction is a strategic fit for Torrent and will strengthen its core prescription-based business. This acquisition strengthens our position in the women healthcare, pain management and vitamins/nutrition segments by enhancing and accelerating market access, said Sudhir Mehta, chairman, Torrent Group. The value of Elders brands is expected to be around Rs 400 crore and the deal is at five times the multiple. With this deal, the India to India (consolidation) story may now emerge, with valuations having been tempered down. This has the potential to set the tone for future deals with reasonable valuation parameters, says Sujay Shetty, leader-lifesciences, PwC India.

Business Standard: http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/torrent-elder-deal-higher-leverage-margin-concerns-for-street-113121400302_1.html

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: December 15, 2013

Journalist: Robert Cyran

Headline: [Opening the ark](#)

Synopsis: Animal health is presenting a bit of a feast for the wolves of Wall Street. It's the secret cash cow of the pharma business. Research and development costs are lower, regulatory scrutiny is gentler and growth faster than human care. And shareholder pressure is forcing firms from Novartis to Merck to explore sales, joint ventures and initial public offerings. Revenues are less than a tenth that of human medicine. But research on human diseases unveiled biological principles and chemical compounds that also cured animals. The resulting profit was largely gravy. Now, while this tail isn't wagging the dog, it's inducing some wiggling. Sales for the sector are rising around six per cent a year according to Zoetis, which Pfizer spun off in early 2013. That's slightly faster than human drug sales. There's less pressure from generic firms selling cheap copycat pills, too. Only about a fifth of Zoetis' sales come from drugs with tough patent protection. In addition, research and development (R&D) costs are lower: Sanofi's animal division spends an amount equal to around 7.5 per cent of sales on investigating and producing new drugs. That's about half what the typical pharmaceutical firm shells out for human medicine.

Publication: Moneycontrol.com (Interview)

Edition: Online

Date: December 16, 2013

Headline: [GSK open offer premium of 26% 'healthy': Centrum](#)

Synopsis: After the UK-based parent of GSK Pharma announced an open offer proposing to buy nearly 25% of the firm at a price of Rs 3,100 per share – a nearly 26% premium to the stock's Friday closing price, CNBC-TV18 spoke with Ranjit Kapadia, Pharma Analyst, Centrum Broking, to get his view.

Publication: Equity Bulls

Edition: Online

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Sun Pharmaceutical, Lupin announces US FDA approval for generic Cymbalta - Angel Broking](#)

Synopsis: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and Lupin has announced that the USFDA has granted its subsidiary final approval for its Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) to market a generic version of Cymbalta, Duloxetine Delayed-Release Capsules USP, 20 mg, 30 mg and 60 mg. Duloxetine Delayed-Release Capsules USP, 20 mg, 30 mg and 60 mg are therapeutic equivalents of Eli Lilly & Company's Cymbalta Delayed-Release Capsules. These Capsules have annual sales of approximately US \$5.5bn in the US. Duloxetine Delayed-Release Capsules USP is indicated for the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD), generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) and diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain (DPNP).

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Journalist: Indivjal Dhasmana

Date: December 14, 2013

Headline: [HIV/AIDS patients not to be denied insurance cover: Irda](#)

Synopsis: Those suffering from HIV-AIDS or other illness wouldn't be denied life insurance cover, though they might have to pay a higher premium, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Irda) said on Friday. Irda Chairman T S Vijayan said insurance companies would provide life cover to those with pre-existing illness, but the pricing will be based on commercial considerations. "The whole idea is the person may be having a disease once the policy has started. Even if the person is having disease, he shouldn't be excluded. The obvious thing is pricing has to be different. That is a commercial decision left to the industry," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry here.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: December 15, 2013

Journalist: Rema Nagarajan

Headline: [Clean slate for doctors on medical negligence?](#)

Synopsis: With no data on incidence of medical errors and no authority tracking cases of medical negligence, one might be forgiven for imagining that the over-8 lakh registered doctors in India are perfect professionals who never make any mistakes. Recently, the parliamentary committee on health and family welfare expressed concern over the fact that there is negligible prosecution of medical negligence cases in India. But the committee's observation draws attention to an even more shocking fact — there is no centralised collection of data on negligence cases filed in India or their outcome.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online (Kanpur)

Date: December 14, 2013

Headline: [Awareness key to check spread of HIV/AIDS](#)

Synopsis: District health department organized an awareness workshop on HIV and AIDS at Ursula Horseman Memorial Hospital (UHM) on Friday. District magistrate Sameer Verma as head of the district AIDS control cell was also present in the workshop attended by several doctors and AIDS counsellors. Chief Development Officer (CDO) Rajendra Singh Yadav, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr RP Yadav and District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) Dr AK Saxena also attended the workshop coordinated by 'Pragati Seva Sansthan'.

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National (*contributory*)

Date: December 14, 2013

Headline: [The lasik way to see world in a better light](#)

Synopsis: LASIK surgery is now the latest and by far the best option for correcting eyesight problems, reckons Dr Balakrishna Shetty. Have you always dreamt of waking up and being able to see clearly, without having to grab for your glasses? Well, the good news is that there is a solution and it could change your life dramatically: LASIK surgery.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Journalist: Marilynn Marchione

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Fighting cancer with genes](#)

Synopsis: In one of the biggest advances against leukaemia and other blood cancers in many years, doctors are reporting unprecedented success by using gene therapy to transform patients' blood cells into soldiers that seek and destroy cancer. A few patients with one type of leukaemia were given this one-time, experimental therapy several years ago and some remain cancer-free today. Now, at least six groups have treated more than 120 patients with many types of blood and bone marrow cancers, with stunning results.

Publication: The Telegraph

Edition: Online

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Life cover hope for HIV-infected](#)

Synopsis: India's insurance regulator has asked the industry to throw open life insurance policies to HIV-infected people. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has indicated that insurance firms are likely to do this from April next year using guidelines developed by a panel of underwriting and claims experts last year. Under the guidelines, patients on anti-HIV drugs and without any symptoms or with only mild symptoms may be offered life insurance policies with a maximum assured sum of Rs 10 lakh under a regular premium and Rs 20 lakh under a single premium. The premiums would be higher than those for other clients and will depend on the HIV-infected person's age and the number of years he or she has been taking anti-HIV drugs.

Publication: Ndtv.com

Edition: Online

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Delhi: Free insulin for poor children](#)

Synopsis: Many diabetic children from the economically weaker sections of the society in the national capital will be provided insulin free of cost, said a Delhi based diabetic centre on Sunday. Delhi Diabetic Research Center (DDRC) will provide insulin free of cost to 150 poor children suffering from Type 1 diabetics. The initiative was announced by DDRC at a day-long event at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.

Publication: Health India

Edition: Online

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Incredible Pharmaleaders, Billion Dreams – Pushing India's Growth](#)

Synopsis: The stage is set for the 6th summit among doctors, drug makers and regulators on Mumbai later this month that will not only discuss issues concerning the \$17-billion Indian pharma industry but also honour top doctors and firms in 40 categories. Organised by Network 7 Media Group's Pharmaleaders, an analytical healthcare media in Asia, the 6th Annual Pharmaceutical Leadership Summit Dec 27 will provide a platform for greater interaction among Indian medical practitioners and drug makers.

Vaccine

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: Online (Islamabad)

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Pak visitors to India must produce proof of polio vaccination](#)

Synopsis: This week, India announced restrictions on travellers from Pakistan. Visitors will now be required to possess evidence of polio vaccination because India wants to maintain its polio free status. The announcement by the Indian government is the first step in what is being seen as a move to isolate Pakistan internationally by requiring travellers to produce evidence of polio vaccination. This move comes after polio virus discovered in Syria and Egypt was traced back to Pakistan in June this year. This was confirmed by August. Global isolation is nothing new to Pakistan. Already the country is seen by many as a source of terrorism and restrictions are placed on those travelling there or coming from Pakistan. While many Pakistanis are angered by the latest move, many say that they saw it coming.

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Journalist: Sanchita Sharma

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Polio vaccine is not the threat, its opponents are](#)

Synopsis: Unidentified gunmen killed one vaccinator and two policemen in two separate attacks on polio vaccination teams in northwestern Pakistan on Friday. In Swabi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, two policemen were killed as they headed to provide security for a vaccination team. The other attack happened in Jamrud, in the outskirts of Peshawar, where a vaccinator was shot dead on his way home. All three killed were part of a three-day inoculation campaign in Pakistan's tribal region to vaccinate around 727,000 children under the age of 5 by Sunday. The two attacks follow a series of attacks on polio vaccinators in Pakistan and Nigeria over the past one year. More than 20 polio workers have been killed in Pakistan over the past year, while nine women vaccinators were killed in two shootings in Kano, northern Nigeria in February this year.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Journalist: G Rajiv

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: [Polio vaccine is not the threat, its opponents are](#)

Synopsis: The latest batch of pentavalent vaccines that reached the state was not the only one which didn't have a valid manufacturing date printed on it. Sources in the health department confirmed that during the past one year several batches of pentavalent vaccines without the valid manufacturing date were supplied to the state. Shockingly, neither the drugs control department nor the health department initiated any action to stop the practice. Instead, they distributed the vaccines sans the manufacturing date to government hospitals across the state. It was during this period that suspected pentavalent deaths

were reported in the state triggering a huge controversy. But the central expert committee had termed the vaccine as safe and had ruled out the possibility of the jab as the reason behind the alleged seven deaths of children in the state.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online (Thrissur)

Date: December 15, 2013

Headline: ['They have made my child a lab material'](#)

Synopsis: The silence said it all. Rajesh, an autorickshaw driver who lost a 42-day-old baby girl on January 10 after she was administered the pentavalent vaccine, was reacting to the state health authorities' decision against using vaccines brought to state without manufacturing or expiry dates. Rajesh's child was inoculated at the Koorkenchery PHC at Nedupuzha here. The post-mortem report he received had said that the death was due to natural disease, injury and asphyxiation and said "death as a result of post-vaccination sequelae could not be ruled out".

Innovation

Publication: Business Standard *(Also appeared in The Hindu Business Line Print On the 15th December, 2013, Reproduced from PTI)*

Date: December 16th, 2013

Headline: [New drug target brings malaria cure closer](#)

Synopsis: Scientists have discovered a chemical modification in the DNA of human malaria parasite, a discovery that could help develop a new drug to kill the deadly parasite that is becoming resistant to existing drugs. Researchers from the University of California, Riverside trying to understand the biology of the parasite have discovered a potential weakness - low levels of DNA methylation in Plasmodium's genome. The weakness "may be critical to the survival of the parasite," said Karine Le Roch, an associate professor of cell biology, who led the research.