



News Updates: December 17, 2013

Drug Pricing

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Value-addition must for Indian API makers to take on the Dragon challenge](#)

Synopsis: In 2012, India reportedly imported active pharma ingredients (APIs) and drug intermediates worth \$4.6 billion, a rise of about 58% compared to \$2.9 billion in 2011. China was one of the major exporters of APIs and intermediates into India. The rapid rise in imports of APIs from China in the last few years is raising a major concern among Indian API manufacturers. Agrees Jagdeep Singh, Secretary General, SME Pharma Industries Confederation, India (SPIC), "Of course, it is of major concern as competition has increased and market for Indian manufacturers has become unhealthy in many APIs."

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

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [GSK to bring in \\$1B to Increase Stake in Indian Offshoot](#) (online: **GSK to spend \$1 billion to raise stake in Indian drugmaker unit)**

Synopsis: GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK) said on Monday it plans to raise its stake in its Indian pharmaceutical unit to up to 75 per cent from 50.7 per cent through an open offer in a deal worth about 629 million pounds (\$1.02 billion). With the latest deal, GSK is set to spend close to \$2 billion in roughly a year to increase its holdings in two listed Indian companies, underscoring the British drugmaker's drive to deepen its footprint in emerging markets. In February, GSK lifted its stake in its publicly-listed Indian consumer healthcare subsidiary, GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Ltd, to 72.5 per cent from 43.2 per cent for \$901 million.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [GlaxoSmithKline offer signals MNC appetite for Indian menu](#)

Synopsis: Flush with funds, multinational corporations (MNCs) are snapping up shares in their Indian subsidiaries, clearly convinced the India growth story is only going to get better. With access to cash easier in a global economy awash with liquidity, MNCs evidently foresee better returns on investments in markets like India and are putting their money to work here. After Unilever Plc said, in April, it was ready to spend as much as \$5.4 billion to buy shares in its Indian outfit, GlaxoSmithKline Plc announced on Monday it was willing to fork out \$1 billion (R6,400 crore or £629 million) to buy shares of GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals from non-promoter shareholders; the price offered was a mouth-watering R3,100 apiece, a 26% premium to its closing price of R2,460.15 on Friday. GSK Plc's cash flow statement for the nine months ended September 30, puts its cash at £2.906 billion (about \$4.5 billion); the firm said it is looking to fund the offer with its existing cash resources.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Booster shot for GSK Pharma](#)

Synopsis: GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals (GSK Pharma) surged to a historic high on Monday after the parent

company, GlaxoSmithKline, surprised the Street by announcing to increase stake in the Indian subsidiary to 75%. Posting the biggest single-day gain in more than 23 years, share of GSK Pharma surged nearly 20% on Monday. The scrip touched an intraday high of R2,952, before ending at R2,927.40, up R459 or 18.6% from Friday's close. "Since almost 13.5% shareholders are individuals and based on previous experience individual participation in the open offer will be anywhere between 50-60%. However, as far as institutions holding is concerned, company has almost 34% institution holding and it is very difficult to predict whether institutions will participate in open offer or not. Hence, we designed different scenarios and come up with different acceptance ratios along with expectation return," said a report by Anand Rathi Securities. Trade volumes spiked 16.1 times their 30-day average daily volume. As many as 6.39 lakh shares exchanged hands on Monday compared with 30-day average volume of 39,615 shares.

Publication: Mint (Also appeared in Hindustan Times, Financial Chronicle and The Pioneer)

Edition: National

Journalist: P.R. Sanjai and Malvika Joshi

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [GSK Pharma parent makes Rs.6,400 crore open offer](#)

Synopsis: GlaxoSmithKline plans to raise its stake in GSK Pharma to as much as 75% from 50.7% at a price of Rs.3,100 per share. GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK) has decided to spend as much as Rs.6,400 crore to increase its stake in its Indian pharmaceuticals unit to 75%, seeking to strengthen its presence in the world's second most populous nation as sales in developed countries slow with patents of brand-name drugs nearing expiry.

Publication: Mint (Also appeared in Hindustan Times, Financial Chronicle and The Pioneer)

Edition: National

Journalist: Ravi Ananthanarayanan

Date: December 17th, 2013

Headline: [GSK Pharma: the options for investors](#)

Synopsis: If shareholders have a long-term horizon in mind, then this open offer should just give them more reason to hold on. In June, shareholders of GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Ltd who may have accepted the parent company's open offer had reason to feel miserable. GSK Consumer's share had risen to Rs.5,830 or nearly 50% higher than the open offer price of Rs.3,900. Subsequently, the pain would have lessened as the share now trades at a much lower level of Rs.4,460. In Hindustan Unilever Ltd's (HUL's) case, the open offer price was Rs.600; the share shot up to Rs.700 in July but now trades at Rs.558.

The Economic Times: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/analysis/gsk-pharmaceutical-offer-attractive-for-short-term-investors/articleshow/27493295.cms>

Business Standard: http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/gsk-pharma-provides-exit-opportunity-113121600176_1.html

DCGI

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Journalist: Suja Nair Shirodkar

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Pharmexcil to meet commerce ministry, DCGI to discuss on issuance of WC post inspection](#)

Synopsis: The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) is soon planning to meet officials from the commerce ministry and the drug controller general of India (DCGI) to deliberate over the next course of action regarding issuance of Written Confirmation (WC) certificate post inspection as per the EU directives. Through this meeting the Council hopes to work closely with the centre to help them transition into the second phase as per the directives which includes issuance of WC by the DCGI after inspection of the new sites.

Company News

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Journalist: Vijay C Roy

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Govt intervention in the import of lifesaving reagents is crucial: Ameera Shah](#)

Synopsis: Having a network of more than 85 state-of-the-art laboratories across India, UAE, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Bangladesh, and with over 700 collection centres, Metropolis Healthcare Ltd has come a long way since its inception three decades ago. Over the past dozen years, it has grown from just one diagnostic centre in Mumbai to a chain of laboratories. Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Ameera Shah, in an interview with Vijay C Roy, speaks about the challenges the industry is facing, the government interventions required and the company's expansion plans.

Vaccine

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Journalist: G Rajiv

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: ['Dateless' vaccines baffle doctors](#)

Synopsis: The controversy over the pentavalent vaccines reaching the state without manufacturing date, flouting the drugs and cosmetics act, has caused serious apprehensions. The doctors in the state are concerned since they fear that they would be held responsible for any untoward incidents following the administration of the vaccine. When no drugs are allowed to distribute or sell without the manufacturing and expiry dates, how pentavalent vaccines got away with it is what baffles the doctors.

General Industry

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Journalist: Kalyan Ray

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Indian researchers see leads in developing Aids vaccine](#)

Synopsis: Indian researchers have stumbled upon a handful of early leads in their pursuit of a vaccine against HIV, but it would probably take decades before these leads are translated into a commercial vaccine against Aids. Analysing blood samples of 128 HIV positive persons, a group of young Indian scientists found four "neutralising antibodies" that can block entry of the human immunodeficiency virus in a human cell. Scientists are analysing if any one of these four antibodies or a combination of them can be used as a vaccine against HIV.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Journalist: Saikat Neogi

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Costlier Cover](#)

Synopsis: Premium rates for the mandatory third-party motor insurance are likely to rise again as the sector regulator has modified the provisioning norms. In a recent notification to all non-life insurers, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Irda) has asked the provisioning (the money non-life insurers have to set aside for meeting high claims) to be raised from 110% of the claims to 210%. Insurers say the new norms could push up the premium rates for the mandatory cover. Non-life insurance companies will have to provide around Rs 400 crore as additional capital; the hike in provisioning would impact the solvency ratio of some insurers who would be required to infuse additional capital. As it is, third-party motor insurance is a bleeding portfolio due to higher claims from commercial vehicles. The rates are fixed by Irda and, due to a high claim ratio from commercial vehicles, insurers provide them cover from the declined pool and not from their own books. The size of the declined pool is around R210 crore currently.

Publication: Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Journalist: Trushna Udgirkar

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Irda sees good H2 for life, non-life insurance sectors](#)

Synopsis: The Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (Irda) hopes the industry would see good growth in the second half of this financial year with the non-life insurance segment witnessing a 16-18 per cent growth and the life insurance segment growing by less than 10 per cent. "The total premium income is now at Rs 4 lakh crore in both the sectors. Although the overall rate of growth is lower, it is sustainable and should be good," said TS Vijayan, chairman, Irda. "The health insurance information grid will help the health insurance industry develop a rationalised system of insurance claims management which will ultimately lead to a regime of transparent treatment costs and efficient pricing of products," Raghavan said.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Journalist: Nandita Iyer

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Faking it? Not really](#)

Synopsis: A sudden change in accent or a feeling of dizziness after seeing something breathtaking could be real disorders that require counselling and care. They are used in movie plots, crime and medical TV series and psychological best-sellers to shock and awe viewers and readers. We list some unusual psychological disorders that make us wonder about the intricacies of the human mind and shudder at the range of disturbances possible. According to Thomas M.J., consultant and coordinator in psychiatry, Sagar Hospital, Bangalore, such syndromes are indicative of some form of abnormality in thinking and there can't be uniformity in treatment even for two people suffering from the same syndrome. Psychotherapy, gaining insight into the thinking process of the suffering person and precisely tailoring a treatment to match his problem, is what works.

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: Online (Bangalore)

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Govt for revisiting pharmacology curriculum](#)

Synopsis: Minister for Medical Education Dr Sharan Prakash R Patil on Monday said there was a need to re-look the curriculum in pharmacology colleges. A proposal for the same has been put before Medical Council of India for consideration. Inaugurating the 46th Annual Conference of Indian Pharmacological Society IPSON-2013, he said, since most of the drugs were patented outside the country, the cost was high here. He added that there was need to focus on research and clinical trials to ensure that cost-effective drugs could be availed.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Online (Mumbai)

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Doctors and NGOs to draft guidelines on cancer soon](#)

Synopsis: Oncologists and NGOs from across the country will draft a white paper comprising guidelines on cancer treatment and submit it to the Planning Commission at a conclave to be held in Tata Memorial Hospital, Parel after six weeks. To create an organised structure for cancer treatment, more than 300 NGOs from across the country will be called for 'Can-India Conclave' — a conference aimed at uniting all sources for better health care facilities for cancer patients and their relatives.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online (Jaipur)

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Jaipur to get 9 hospitals, healthcare costs to dip](#)

Synopsis: The healthcare segment in the Pink City is set to witness fresh competition with nine companies planning to set up as many hospitals adding 3,000 more beds. But the good news is that the new capacity will bring down healthcare costs benefitting the patients. Moreover, the quality of treatment and patient care will see improvement bringing it closer to the standards prevailing in metro medical facilities, a study on 'healthcare landscape in Jaipur' said. "The cost of heart related surgeries has already declined in the city. With the addition of 3,000 new hospital beds, the healthcare service providers will face further competition. This will not only bring down costs for patients but also raise the quality of treatment significantly," said Deepak Sharma, director of strategy, Kanvic.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online (Raipur)

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Recruitment of 133 super specialists at AIIMS begins](#)

Synopsis: With All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) advertising 133 posts of super specialists, specialized health services for patients would be available soon at the institute. According to information, the Institute recently invited applications for 133 posts of super specialists for various departments, including cardio-thoracic, burns and plastic, neuro, oncology, paediatrics and urology. Once the posts are filled, the institute would commence super speciality treatments, which are not commonly available in the city.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online (Trichy)

Journalist: R Gokul

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [New treatment cuts several HIV positive cases among newborns](#)

Synopsis: The number of HIV positive babies born to AIDS-infected mothers has come down drastically thanks to the new type of treatment at anti-retroviral therapy (ART) centres. In 2013, 38 babies born to HIV positive mothers tested negative in Trichy. Since the beginning of this year, 'Nevirapine' tablets were administered to HIV-positive mothers 76 hours before delivery while babies were administered Nevirapine syrup from the time of their birth at all ART centres.

Similar report: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-12-16/lucknow/45254489_1_hiv-earlier-start-medical-university

Disease

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online (Trichy)

Journalist: Tarini Puri

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Temp swing behind rise in viral infections: Doctors](#)

Synopsis: Viral fever, cold and cough accompanied by body aches and even asthmatic attacks have made a comeback in the city for the second time in just two months, resulting in large-scale absenteeism from work and schools as well as long queues at clinics. Doctors across the city blame the spate of complaints on the wide gap between maximum and minimum temperatures over the past fortnight. With temperatures hovering above 28 degrees Celsius during the day, and falling to an average of 7 degrees Celsius in the night, doctors say the body finds it difficult to adjust to the changes, making it susceptible to infections and ailments.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Journalist: Prafulla Marpakwar

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Maharashtra 2nd only to Uttar Pradesh in no. of cancer cases among women](#)

Synopsis: Despite the implementation of a national prevention programme and state-of-the-art infrastructure for treatment, Maharashtra has witnessed an alarming rise in cases of cancer among women in the last four years. In fact, after Uttar Pradesh, the largest number of cases have been detected in the state (see box). A week ago, during a debate in the Lok Sabha on cancer cases among women, Union minister for health and family welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad told the House that in Maharashtra, the number of such cases had increased from 47,757 in 2010 to 51,747 in 2013, while in Uttar Pradesh, they had increased from 83,778 to 92,787. At the all-India level, the number of cases had gone up from 5.15 lakh to 5.65 lakh in the corresponding period. "According to the Indian Council of Medical Research data, the number of various types of cancer, mainly breast cancer, among women has increased over the past few years," Azad said.

Innovation

Publication: Reuters (Also in The New Indian Express)

Edition: Online

Journalist: Ben Hirschler

Date: December 17, 2013

Headline: [Fight for Cheap Drugs Shifts from Aids to New Hepatitis Pills](#)

Synopsis: A new battle is looming over access to antiviral medicines in developing countries - this time for treating hepatitis C - more than a decade after a global showdown over the price of AIDS drugs in Africa. Modern pills being launched in western markets could cure the liver-destroying infection in tens of millions of people from China to Congo, or even eradicate the disease entirely. But that will only happen if the cost falls dramatically. Drugmakers like Gilead Sciences, whose product Sovaldi won U.S. approval this month with a \$1,000 a day price tag, are under mounting pressure to strike deals to avoid a rerun of the disputes that stalled early access to HIV therapy.