News Updates: December 21- 23, 2013

FDI / Foreign Investment / M&As

Publication: Mint
Edition: National
Interview: Mark Mobius, Executive chairman - Templeton Emerging Markets Group at Franklin Templeton Investments
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: 2014 will be good for emerging market equities: Mark Mobius

Synopsis: The Indian economy is beginning to show signs of growth, says Mark Mobius, the US-born expert on emerging markets. But much will depend on the outcome of the general election and the reforms the winning political outfit is willing to implement. If you look at our portfolios, you will see that Tata Consultancy Services is the big one. We are looking at some consumer stocks, but I can't give you the names yet. In addition, we are looking at stocks in the pharmaceutical area as well and in steel.

Publication: Nagaland Post
Edition: Online
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: US Fed decision may lead to severe outgo of funds from India

Synopsis: It is not at all rosy for Indian economy. Despite high inflation, not only in food but even in the general wholesale price index, a breather by Reserve Bank in holding on to the interest rate, is being seen as the possible beginning of a new era though that may not be a great hope. As the US Fed move is aimed at boosting flow of funds to the US, it might create a difficult situation for the Indian economy particularly in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI). At the share market banking, capital goods, oil and gas stocks declined the most. It is a sign of the fear that has gripped the market. It fears in the coming days there would be large exit particularly by foreign institutional investors from the Indian market. The IT and pharma companies gained as their exports are expected fetch more in rupee terms.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Financial Express
Edition: National
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Base business getting better

Synopsis: Base business drivers: The share of faster-growing domestic formulations, insulin and immunosuppressants and contract research is rising in Biocon's overall sales, which should foster midteen earnings growth for the next two-three years, in our view. We expect flat margins, as we anticipate rising research spend. We also note that Biocon is an API supplier to a few pharma companies for the upcoming sirolimus patent expiry in the US. Steady progression in bio-similar portfolio: The company has met primary (Hba1c level) and secondary (hypoglycemia) endpoints in the EU insulin phase III trials. However, Biocon plans its EU regulatory submission in harmony with its US submission, which could happen in 2015.

Publication: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Journalist: Nandita Vijay
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: ICMR to approve formation of clinical researchers' network to strengthen capacity building of experts

Synopsis: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) may soon approve formation of a network of representatives from the clinical research fraternity in the country. These could include experts from medical colleges, pharmacy colleges, government medical centres, private hospitals and research centres across the country. This network of professionals could be engaged in providing the required support and assistance for the conduct of drug monitoring and human studies in country. The move is expected to bolster efforts to register the disease registries in the country to be able to get a direction on the kind of novel drugs required in the country to tackle some of the infectious diseases.

Publication: IndiaPRWire
Edition: Online
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Prakash Guha of Zuventus Healthcare in close competition with Mankind Pharma's Rajeev Juneja for the coveted Dynamic Entrepreneur Award at 6th Annual Pharmaceutical Leadership Summit & Business Leadership Awards 2013

Synopsis: The Indian pharmaceutical industry currently ranks third in terms of volume of production (10% of global share) and is the 14th largest by value (1.5%). Its turnover has grown from a mere $0.3 billion in 1980 to about $21.73 billion in 2009-10. The industry consists of more than 5,000 small, medium and large manufacturers. The domestic market is valued at $9.44 billion, while pharmaceutical exports in 2009-10 amounted to some $8.79 billion in value terms. Industry is facing a difficult times as the new price regime is halting the pace of drugmakers & host of other issues like regulatory challenges, clinical trials & faulty policy logzam by the government. Against the background of the prevailing medical practice & market conditions, the image of pharma companies are of utmost importance says Satya Brahma, Chairman & Editor-In-Chief of Pharmaleaders, " the leadership style of all these five nominees has been spectacular & each leader has a unique style in meeting the challenges & leading the team from front.

FDA / Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: Chennai
Journalist: Gireesh Babu
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Now, Hospira under US FDA's lens

Synopsis: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has served a Form 483 - a list of objectionable conditions identified during its inspection -to Hospira Inc's pharmaceutical manufacturing facility at Irungattukottai, Sriperumbudur, near here. The FDI is the regulator for all drugs sold in the US. The company said the observations were primarily related to processes and procedures and it would address the issue in the next several weeks. In a filing with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, Hospira said the FDA had completed an inspection of the Irungattukottai facility on December 10. "The company is making this disclosure because this facility has been subject to an FDA warning letter since May. At the close of the inspection, the FDA issued a Form 483, with 23 observations. They relate primarily to processes and procedures, and the company does not anticipate any impact to product supply from this plant as a result," went the filing.

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: National
Journalist: Sushmi Dey
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Govt may soon ban use of PET bottles for drug packaging

Synopsis: Pharmaceutical companies may soon have to phase out the use of plastic or polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles for packaging medicines such as syrups and liquid orals. The health ministry is considering a ban on the use of such bottles for packaging pharmaceutical products due to concerns of possible adverse effects on health. Even as the government lacks enough scientific evidence confirming a risk to health from the use of plastic bottles, the Drug Technical Advisory Body (DTAB), the top-most advisory body on health-related matters, has suggested that the government must immediately ban the use of such bottles for some specific categories where risks are high, an official said.

Publication: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Journalist: Ramesh Shankar
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Health Ministry to allow use of banned dextropropoxyphene for cancer pain

Synopsis: After six months of its ban in the Indian market on patient safety, the Union health ministry will soon lift the ban on dextropropoxyphene and will be allowed to be used in cancer pain subject to certain conditions including that the dose of the drug should not be more then 300mg per day. According to health ministry sources, the Drugs and Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the highest decision-making body in the Union health ministry on technical matters, has already recommended to the ministry that the use of the drug can be continued in cancer pain only subject to some conditions. Other conditions are that the package insert, promotional literature, labeling of the drug, etc. should clearly mention the "Use of drug for cancer pain only"; the firm should sensitize doctors for use of drug in cancer pain only; and the firm should also submit the safety data from Indian population within period of six months.

Publication: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Journalist: Joseph Alexander
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Parliamentary panel shoots down CDA concept, wants crucial changes to D&C Bill

Synopsis: Parliamentary standing on health has shot down the concept of Central Drug Authority (CDA) and suggested many crucial changes to the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill 2013. The panel recommended the creation of professionally-managed Central Drugs Administration, instead of creating CDA that would centralise the licensing in 17 categories of drugs. "Neither the Mashelkar Committee Report nor the Committee on Health and Family Welfare in its 30th Report on the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2007 presented to the House on the 21st October, 2008 recommended for constitution of a Central Drugs Authority (CDA) as proposed in the Bill. Instead, both the Reports recommended for strengthening of the existing Drugs Regulatory Body i.e. CDSCO and a strong Central Drug Administration," the report of the panel said.

Publication: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Journalist: Suja Nair Shirodkar
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Guj FDCA proposes to share its XLN software with CDSCO under tri-party agreement

Synopsis: The Gujarat Food and Drug Control Administration (Guj FDCA) recently made a proposal to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) urging him to consider entering into a tri-party agreement between the state regulatory body, DCGI and Gujarat National Informatics Centre (NIC) for sharing its self-licensing software Xtended Licensing and Laboratory Note (XLN) with interested parties. Through this initiative, which will put this unique software into public domain, Guj FDCA hopes to share its benefit with other drug regulators for ensuring good governance across country through the use of IT. This software, an integral part of the e-governance programme adopted by the Gujarat drug authority was developed by NIC, to help the regulators perform their duties more effectively. This software enables speedy disposal of various applications while bringing in transparency to the system.

Vaccine

Publication: The Asian Age
Edition: National
Journalist: Teena Thacker
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: India to get polio free certificate from WHO

Synopsis: Almost 2 years after India was Struck off the list of Polio – free countries, it will soon achieve another feat. Having successfully completed almost three polio free years, and if no polio virus is identified till January 2014, India will receive the coveted 'Polio – free tag from the WHO early next year. The last polio case was reported in 2011.

Publication: The Times of India
Edition: Pune
Journalist: Umesh Isalkar
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: 'Rubella free Pune' from January 2014

Synopsis: Niramay, a Pune-based non-governmental organisation that works for the noble cause for slum children's health, and Rotary International District 3131, have jointly undertaken an initiative to give free Rubella vaccine to adolescent girls from slum areas in Pune. The activity will start from January 2014 from Janata Vasahat. This was announced by advocate Sohanlal Jain, chairman, Niramay, and Deepak Shikarpur, district governor, R I District 3131 at a press conference. Rubella, also known as German measles, can cause serious damage to the unborn child or even cause miscarriage. Rubella can also lead to damage to the heart, hearing and sight. Hence Rubella Immunization is highly recommended for every girl in her adolescence irrespective if class, creed and caste.

Publication: Deccan Chronicle
Edition: Bangalore
Journalist: Joyeeta Chakravorty
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Rabies cases on rise due to poor awareness

Synopsis: With increasing number of rabies cases being reported from various parts of the city and low awareness among the public, hospitals are even considering setting up dedicated dog bite clinics. The corporation hospitals in the city annually records around 25,000 animal bite cases, while other hospitals treat 5,000 odd cases. Chinmaya Mission Hospital (CMH) has decided to come up with a dedicated dog bite clinic on similar lines as the one at Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences(KIMS). "Pretty soon we will have our own dedicated dogbite clinic, just like KIMS to take care of all class-3 dog bite cases, which require hemoglobin dosage along with the vaccination," said Dr Murali Kumar, Casualty Medical Officer, Chinmaya Mission Hospital.

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: National
Journalist: Prashant Mahesh & Nikhil Walavalkar
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Infotech, pharma and banks may turn out to be 2014's dream themes

Synopsis: Pundits are busy identifying the big themes to dominate the stock market in 2014. The recent fund offers of mutual funds suggest that fund houses believe that small and midcap segments are likely to lead the next rally. However, many experts now believe that the US tapering would be the ruling theme in the coming months. On the back of it, many are betting on IT and pharma sectors that a weak rupee is good news for these sectors. Some others are betting on an economic infrastructure sector in the next year, while there are many who are already betting on banking sector.

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: New Delhi
Journalist: Soma Das & Mitul Thakkar
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Elder deal will boost sales, market share: Torrent Pharmaceuticals

Synopsis: The acquisition by Torrent PharmaceuticalsBSE 1.16 % of the local branded formulations business of Elder PharmaceuticalsBSE -0.91 % in the largest domestic deal in the sector will help the buyer enter the top 10 in India by prescription market share from 13th place now, its management said in a presentation on Saturday in the face of investor concern. The deal, announced earlier this month, will increase Torrent's overall market share to 2.7% in the highly fragmented domestic drug market from 2% now, taking it to 12th rank from 17, according to IMS Health data.

Publication: The Times of India
Edition: National
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: Kidney transplant gives 27-year-old chance to be mom

Synopsis: Two years ago, when Navneet was diagnosed with irreversible kidney failure, life seemed to be all but over for the 27-year-old. A successful transplant helped her bounce back to life and she recently delivered a baby. This is considered rare for a transplant patient and doctors say Navneet's case would serve as a hope for others. "Conceiving and successful childbirth with renal complications is rare but possible. It requires meticulous planning, daily monitoring of vitals (blood pressure and creatinine levels) and ensuring that there is no drug reaction," said Dr Dinesh Khullar, head of the nephrology and kidney transplant medicine unit at Max Hospital, Saket. He said that Navneet's foster parents (she lost both her parents in childhood), approached him two years ago for transplant.

Innovation

Publication: The Hindu
Edition: Hyderabad
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: '60 per cent of cancer cases curable'

Synopsis: Senior surgical oncologist Praful B. Desai has said most of the cancer diseases among humans are caused by their habits and lifestyle and about 60 per cent of all cancers are preventable. Speaking on the sidelines of a live surgical workshop on Esophagectomy organised at Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital & Research Centre here on Sunday, Dr. Desai said oesophagus (food pipe) cancer was mostly caused by consumption of tobacco in different forms – chewing, smoking and others. It was one of the first four common cancer diseases in India after cervix, breast and mouth/throat cancers. "We give oesophagus cancer ourselves by using tobacco in different forms and it can be controlled with high survival rate, if detected in early stages", Dr. Desai said, adding that it was more prevalent in north-eastern States, Kashmir and Karnataka.

Publication: The Indian Express (also appeared in The Pioneer)
Edition: National *(Reproduced from Press Trust of India)*
Date: December 23, 2013
Headline: First artificial heart transplant performed (Online Heading: First human artificial heart transplant performed in France)

Synopsis: For the first time, an artificial heart that may give patients up to five years of extra life has been successfully implanted in a 75-year-old French man. The artificial heart, designed by French biomedical firm Carmat, is powered by Lithium-ion batteries that can be worn externally. The heart that was put into the patient at Georges Pompidou Hospital in Paris uses a range of "bio-materials", including bovine tissue, to reduce the likelihood of the body rejecting it, 'The Telegraph' reported.

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

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: National, Online
Date: December 21, 2013
Headline: Are pharma MNCs good for Indian consumers? - YES - Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, OPPI
Are pharma MNCs good for Indian consumers? - NO - S. Srinivasan, All India Drug Action Network and LOCOST, Vadodara

Synopsis: YES - At the heart of the FDI debate in India is the concern that this would result in the country losing control over the medicines that are needed to serve the poorest sections of society. As a national concern it deserves full respect, but to link foreign investment as an obstacle to its fulfilment is somewhat far-fetched. Recent examples from the past do not bear this out. In fact they serve to underscore the fact that MNC pharmaceutical firms, some of which have been in India for almost 100 years, have played, and will continue to play a pivotal role in healthcare access and delivery.

NO - The news item that Glaxo is proposing to raise its stake in its Indian subsidiaries has been greeted with cheer by the market. Naturally, those who have shares in GSK are happy. The first rule is to invest in manufacturing facilities here. Make the medicines in your own plants than in sub-contracted micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Second, invest in manufacturing of new molecules and not trade or import from your parent plants elsewhere and profit through transfer pricing. Third, manufacture rational products, price them affordably. Do not make exaggerated claims on the R&D and therapeutic uses of the product even as you provide transparent information on the side-effects of the product.

Publication: NDTV Profit
Edition: Online
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: The week ahead: Markets to seek higher levels as Raghuram Rajan triggers another rally

Synopsis: The week ahead should see the markets seek new highs as strong foreign flows and improved sentiment drive stocks higher. The Raghuram Rajan effect again played out as the RBI Governor did the unthinkable and left lending rates unchanged on expectation that food inflation would moderate, and instead focused on reviving growth. Foreign investors continue to repose faith in Indian stocks and their buying has been the main reason for the index to be at new highs. This was also corroborated this week with global pharma major GSK Pharma announcing a buyback of its stock at 25 per cent premium to the current price, which means an investment of $1 billion.

Publication: MoneyControl
Edition: Online
Date: December 20, 2013
Headline: See reinforcement of India growth story: HSBC India

Synopsis: Q. Within inbound deals, the trends are suggesting merger and acquisition (M&A) activity was largely concentrated in sectors where the government has opened foreign direct investment (FDI).
A.As far as inbound is concerned you can put them into three buckets. The bucket one which is existing companies where the promoter are increasing their stake so the three transactions this year GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare , GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals now and Hindustan Unilever falls in that category.
Q.A word on GSK Pharma's open offer. Do you expect it will be as successful as Hindustan Unilever (HUL)?
A.You heard GSK management talking about in media yesterday that it is a fair price, 26 percent premium to last closed. The stock had run up quite a lot, if you see the stock went up by 20 percent last year on the top of 26 percent premium. So, it is a fair price from the investor's perspective. It gives an opportunity for investors to book some gain and get some liquidity in the stock. We hope that it gets good response.

Publication: MoneyControl
Edition: Online
Interview: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director, Biocon
Date: December 20, 2013
Headline: Don't see immediate revenue impact from Quark deal: Biocon

Synopsis: Biotechnology firm Biocon informed the stock exchanges on Wednesday it had entered into a tie-up with California-based Quark Pharma for developing small interfering RNA (siRNA) based medicines. In an interview with CNBC-TV18, Chairperson and Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said the area of medicine covered in the tie-up involved inhibiting gene expressions with RNA molecules and promises to be useful in treating several acute and

chronic conditions.

Publication: Orissa Diary
Edition: Online
Date: December 21, 2013
Headline: 255 stalled projects with Rs 10 lakh crore investment to be fast-tracked: Cabinet Secretary

Synopsis: The government has identified 255 stalled projects, involving an investment of Rs 10 lakh crore and initiated the process of unclogging the projects that are brought before the Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI). The Cabinet Secretary said that not only have procedures been simplified for attracting FDI in retail, telecom, pharma and other sectors, but also for mergers and acquisitions to enable India absorb investments from overseas.

Clinical Trials

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: National, Online
Interview: G V Prasad, chairman, Dr Reddy's Laboratories
Date: December 21, 2013
Headline: We tweak & improvise but there is little to celebrate: G V Prasad

Synopsis: G V Prasad, chairman, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, does not agree with those who say Indian pharma companies are being targeted by regulators in the US or the UK. On the contrary, in an interview with Manu Balachandran, during the recently concluded Strategic Management Society Conference in Mohali, he says there are very few Indian companies on the regulators' warning lists. R&D budgets in India today range between five and eight per cent and very few companies' budgets are in double digits. But even with little money we have been able to do a lot of great work over the years. Also, there are some constraints in terms of talent and we also suffer from policy inaction. There are price control limits today and clinical trials are a essential towards R&D. We are not able to do clinical trials as a result of misguided activists who believe people are being made guinea pigs. As far as product innovation is concerned, we are still at the primary level.

Publication: Hindustan Times
Edition: National
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: Medicine getting up close and personal

Synopsis: 2013 may well be the year of the death of the preventive health examination as we know it. "The physical", which is the staple of medical diagnosis the world over, does not reduce disease or death, either overall or from heart disease and cancers, reported the British Medical Journal (BMJ) late last year. What it did do was increase new diagnosis of underlying chronic diseases, like diabetes or high blood pressure, found a review and meta-analysis of 16 randomised trials. This means that while it added to referrals and got more people in the sphere of disease management, it made no difference to overall outcomes.

Publication: Daily News and Analysis
Edition: National
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: Bonus of the little blue pill

Synopsis: According to a recent study, viagra could help women to treat period pain without the side-effects. We spoke to experts to check the same. In this new study, researchers from the Penn State College of Medicine, US, say one of the most popular treatments, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, don't work well for all women. Ladies, before you give into the urge to try out this method to relieve yourself of menstrual pain, here's what you need to know. Dr Shefali Pandey, consultant gynaecologist, BSES Hospital says that there's still insufficient evidence for use of this drug. "Sidenafil is a drug with many side-effects when used orally. Vaginal delivery route may bypass some of these but detailed pharmacokinetic studies need to be done for this route of administration. Also, unless we get data from larger clinical trials its large scale clinical use in primary

dysmenorrhoea or menstrual cramps is not appropriate right now," warns she. In order to relieve period pain, usually women resort to taking paracetmol and/or Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) that available Over-The-Counter (OTC).

Patents / IPR Pharma / Compulsory Drug Licensing

Publication: The Financial Express
Edition: National
Date: December 21, 2013
Headline: Two faces of India's growth story

Synopsis: There seems to be two disparate takes emerging on the India Growth Story — a depressing visage painted by credit rating agencies and a much more optimistic view being taken by investors putting their money on the ground. This is perhaps amply exemplified by credit rating agency Standard & Poor's approach to India. Significantly, the move by GSK was despite two major reverses that it faced in its India operations — the patent on the company's cancer drug, Tykerb, being revoked by the patent controller's office earlier this year and its blockbuster antibiotic brand, Augmentin, being recently placed under price control. Significantly, the move by GSK was despite two major reverses that it faced in its India operations — the patent on the company's cancer drug, Tykerb, being revoked by the patent controller's office earlier this year and its blockbuster antibiotic brand, Augmentin, being recently placed under price control.

Publication: VC Circle
Edition: Online
Date: December 20, 2013
Headline: AstraZeneca to buy Bristol-Myers Squibb's stake in diabetes JV for up to $4.1B

Synopsis: India is a huge market for diabetes drugs and the deal will potentially boost sales of AstraZeneca's local public-listed arm. AstraZeneca Plc, a global bio pharmaceutical company, has announced an agreement to acquire entire stake of Bristol-Myers Squibb Co (BMS) in their global diabetes joint venture for $4.1 billion. Once the transaction is completed, it will have intellectual property and global rights for the development, manufacture and commercialisation of the diabetes business, which includes drugs such as Onglyza, Kombiglyze XR, Komboglyze, Dapagliflozin, Byetta, Bydureon, Metreleptin and Symlin.

Drug Pricing / Price Control

Publication: Financial Express
Edition: National
Date: December 21, 2013
Headline: Chronic disorder drug sales outpace acute drug sales

Synopsis: Increased incidence of lifestyle-related disorders had led to a sustained higher growth in sales of medicines meant for managing chronic disorders in the Indian market over the past few years compared with those indicated for acute conditions. The trend of relative higher growth in the chronic drugs segment has continued in the current calender year, going by the January-October figures. However, the economic slowdown has decelerated the growth in both segments since 2012. The recent policy decision imposing price regulations on all "essential medicines" has also had an adverse impact on both segments, although a bit more on acute therapies. The new price regulations are, however, not rigorous enough to undermine the market expansion for long. Whatever marginal negative impact of the policy due to a transient adjustment phase in the market could also wither off soon, analysts say. The size of the market for chronic therapies is still about 40% of that of drugs meant to treat acute disorders.

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: National
Date: December 20, 2013
Headline: Drugs mkt slowed to 9.8%: PwC

Synopsis: Growth in India's domestic pharmaceuticals market slowed to 9.8 per cent this year from 16.6 percent in 2012, PwC India said. A 2013 government drug price control order slowed revenue growth of pharmaceutical companies and free medicine programs introduced in some states also dented growth in the domestic market, Sujay Shetty, the firm's leader of pharmaceuticals and life sciences, and Krishnakumar Sankaranarayanan, an associate director, said in a e-mailed statement yesterday.

Publication: Washington Bangla Radio
Edition: Online
Date: December 20, 2013
Headline: Jan Aushadhi - to Make Quality Medicines Available To all at Affordable Price

Synopsis: The Government of India is taking fresh measures to bolster the Jan Aushadhi Campaign, as a public welfare programme, to supply quality medicines at affordable prices to the common man through dedicated outlets. It is also a part of direct market intervention strategy by making generic medicines easily available and accessible in the market. A key initiative under the campaign is opening of 'Jan Aushadhi Stores', where quality generic medicines, which are equivalent to the expensive branded drugs, in terms of their potency and efficacy, are sold at cheaper prices. To know what these generic drugs are, we have the definition by the World Health Organization (WHO). According to it, a generic drug is a pharmaceutical product that is manufactured without a license from the innovator company and marketed after the expiry date of the patent or other exclusive rights.

FDA / Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

Publication: The Telegraph
Edition: National
Journalist: G.S. Mudur
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: Prescribe and swipe, Doc. All prepaid

Synopsis: Many doctors across India have been offered prepaid cash cards as gifts by drug industry representatives over the past three years to try and influence prescriptions for patients, pharmaceuticals sales executives have said. While drug companies have long used largesse as "brand reminders" for doctors, a prepaid cash card leaked by an industry whistleblower appears to be the first evidence to suggest doctors are also being offered cash cards that can be preloaded with up to Rs 50,000. Pharma sales representatives and bank officials have said several drug companies have procured hundreds to thousands of such prepaid cards over the past three years. The cards are not illegal but these transactions occurred at a time two regulatory arms of the government — the Medical Council of India and the Central Board of Direct Taxes — have been trying to discourage drug companies from offering gifts to doctors. The MCI in December 2009 had notified a code of ethics that prohibits doctors from accepting gifts, travel assistance or hospitality for any purpose amid concerns that such practices could influence doctors to prescribe inappropriate or unnecessary

Publication: Reuters
Edition: Online
Date: December 20, 2013
Headline: FDA delays decision on wider use of Amarin's Vascepa

Synopsis: Amarin Corp Plc's shares jumped 38 percent following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's surprise move to delay a decision on approval for an expanded use of the Irish drugmaker's blood fat-lowering drug. Analysts expected the FDA to reject the wider use of the drug, Vascepa, after a panel of advisors in October said it should not be approved for a broader population until results from an additional study were analyzed. Amarin's stock has lost nearly 63 percent of its value since then. The FDA in October also revoked an agreement that guaranteed that the design of a late-stage trial of Vascepa was adequate to support a marketing application. Amarin appealed for a review, and the agency held up the decision on approval as it was still considering the appeal.

HIV

Publication: Mint
Edition: National
Journalist: Nikita Mehta
Date: December 21, 2013
Headline: Studies by US scientists suggest possibility of new HIV drug

Synopsis: Previous studies have established that HIV's deadly attack on CD4T cell is caused by apoptosis, commonly called cell suicide. American scientists have for the first time shown how the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) causes immune cells to self-destruct, and suggested that an enzyme that can block this process could lead to a new anti-HIV drug. Previous studies have established that HIV's deadly attack on its main target, the CD4T cell, is caused by apoptosis, commonly called cell suicide. HIV infection in the body is marked by the dying of CD4T cells of the immune system, and the development of chronic inflammation which can lead to progression of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, or AIDS.

Vaccine

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: Kochi
Journalist: George Joseph
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: Hotels in Ernakulam ban beef

Synopsis: The Ernakulam district unit of the Kerala Hotel and Restaurants Association (KHRA) has directed its members to stop the sale of dishes prepared with beef, as the foot-and-mouth disease was spreading in the district and other areas. The disease is highly prevalent in Ernakulam, Thrissur and Palakkad districts and death toll now rose to 5,000. While various cattle farms in Idukki district reported the attack of the disease, around 30 cows died in a farm in just one week. In this context, the KHRA had directed its members to stop serving beef as a precautionary step. A huge drop in milk production was also reported from various parts of Kerala.

Publication: Financial Chronicle
Edition: Mumbai (Online)
Journalist: Meghna Maiti
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: Godrej increases its production capacity

Synopsis: Godrej Appliances has expanded its appliance and manufacturing capacity by around 30-35 per cent in a move to drive customer demand and innovation at a time when the entire consumer durable industry is reeling under pressures of high input cost and low consumer sentiment. As part of this, the company has increased capacity of its manufacturing facilities in the expensive environs of Shirwal plant near Pune and at its plant at Mohali in Punjab. George Menezes, CEO, appliance division, Godrej & Boyce, told Financial Chronicle, over the past one year, the company has increased capacity of both its plants with large investments or restructuring of manufacturing and supply chain. "This has been accomplished by re-configuring the manufacturing operations that allow us to produce even smaller quantities of multiple models of a product in a reasonably quick response times," said Menezes.

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu
Edition: National
Journalist: Aarti Dhar
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: Family Health Survey to focus on lifestyle indicators (Online: National Family Health Survey to focus on lifestyle indicators)

Synopsis: The fourth round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS), to be launched early next month, will provide district level data on India's demographic and health indicators covering all 640 districts. District level estimates from all States and Union Territories will be included in the Survey for the first time. Consequently, the sample is

expected to be 5,68,200 households, up from about 1,09,000 households in the previous round of NFHS in 2005-06 which provided only national and State level estimates. This is expected to yield a total sample of 625,014 women and 93,065 men. In these households information on 265,653 children below age 5 will be collected in the survey. To be launched with two specific goals of providing essential data on health and family welfare needed by the government for policy and programme purposes and to ascertain information on important emerging health and family welfare issues, the NFHS will focus on life style indicators this time. The domain of clinical, anthropometric and biochemical testing (CAB) is being further expanded to include blood glucose and hypertension measurements.

Publication: The Indian Express
Edition: Online
Date: December 21, 2013
Headline: Indian scientists develop insulin pill for diabetics

Synopsis: Nearly a century after the crucial discovery of insulin, Indian scientists have developed a long-sought insulin pill that could spare millions of diabetics around the world the pain of daily jabs. In experiments with rats, the "pill" lowered blood glucose levels almost as much as injected insulin. In fact, effects of the 'pill' lasted longer than injected insulin, according to the study published in the American Chemical Society journal Biomacromolecules. For years, researchers have sought a way to transform delivery of insulin therapy from a jab to a pill, but it has been a challenge. The body's digestive enzymes that are so good at breaking down food also break down insulin before it can get to work. In addition, insulin does not get easily absorbed through the gut into bloodstream.

Publication: Mint
Edition: National
Journalist: Sarah Young & Ben Hirschler
Date: December 21, 2013 Date
Headline: AstraZeneca to buy out Bristol stake in diabetes JV (Online: AstraZeneca to buy out Bristol stake in diabetes JV for up to $4.1 bn)

Synopsis: The move will bulk up AstraZeneca's thin drug portfolio and give Bristol more funds to invest in other areas. AstraZeneca Plc. has agreed to buy Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.'s stake in the diabetes joint venture between the two companies for up to $4.1 billion in a deal that will help return the group to growth, sending its shares to a new high. AstraZeneca said on Thursday that it would pay Bristol an initial $2.7 billion plus up to $1.4 billion in additional regulatory and sales-related payments. The move will bulk up AstraZeneca's thin drug portfolio and give Bristol more funds to invest in other areas, such as cancer, where it is developing promising therapies tapping into the immune system.

Publication: Financial Chronicle
Edition: Online
Journalist: Siddhant Khandekar
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: Pharma in good health, but shift to cyclicals will hurt

Synopsis: The BSE healthcare index outperformed the broader market indices in 2013, as was the case in 2010, 2011 and 2012. This was on the back of issues such as subdued domestic growth on the back of implementation of NLEM 2011 and the tussle between distributors and retailers over trade margins coupled with an increased scrutiny and scores of warning letters from the USFDA which undid the robust growth on the back of stronger US traction. On the domestic front, the current sluggish trend is likely to accelerate to 8-10 per cent growth in CY14 (on a lower base) driven by mid-teens growth in chronic therapies such as anti-dietetic, cardiology, neurology, etc. On the flip side, we expect some of the acute therapies like anti-infectives, gastro-intestinal and respiratory to continue to post flat to marginal growth.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: Noida / Delhi

Journalist: Aesha Datta
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: 'Capacity of hospitals to subsidise treatment has gone down'

Synopsis: The country's healthcare problems can be solved by something as simple as a Rs 10-20 contribution from each person, according to Dr. Devi Shetty, renowned cardiac surgeon, philanthropist and Chairman of Narayana Health (earlier known as Narayana Hrudayalaya). Shetty, a Padma Bhushan recipient known for championing the cause of affordable healthcare, told Business Line that accelerating costs and poorly implemented government schemes are making it difficult for hospitals to subsidise healthcare for those who really need it.

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: Online
Date: December 20, 2013
Headline: 'Pharmacists have potential to drive Indian economy'

Synopsis: The pharmaceutical industry has a huge potential to drive the country's economy, Drug Controller General of India, G.N. Singh, said here Friday. "After the IT sector, the pharmaceutical sector has a huge potential to drive the economy of this country and we can achieve this by empowering our pharmacists. There are immense challenges in this sector and we must work hard to become the global leader," Singh said. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the 65th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress (IPC). The theme of the conference is Vision 2020: Empowering Pharmacist. The main objective of the three-day conference is to discuss the role of pharmacists, development of the industry, drug research, issues related to the manufacturing sector, pharmaceutical education, regulatory measures and other allied areas.

Publication: The Sunday Standard
Edition: New Delhi
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: Health Min's Unused Funds Sicken House Panel

Synopsis: At a time when the country's official healthcare infrastructure needs intensive care, underutilisation of budgetary funds by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has invited criticism from a parliamentary committee that reviews its performance. The Ghulam Nabi Azad-headed ministry was found to have utilised only 52.26 per cent of the allocated funds till the third quarter of the financial year of 2012-13, and not taking the parliamentary standing committee's recommendations seriously. "Utilisation status of the Eleventh Plan and for 2012-13 reveals inability of the department to utilise the allocated funds efficiently. During 2012-13, only 52.26 per cent of allocated funds have been utilised till 31.12.2012, thus leaving the balance to be utilised in the last quarter of the financial year," the committee pointed out in its earlier report.

Publication: The Pioneer
Edition: New Delhi
Journalist: Archana Jyoti
Date: December 21, 2013
Headline: Dietary supplements come under scanner

Synopsis: Taking a cue from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), India has warned against the consumption of a dietary supplement, OxyElite Pro products which are allegedly found to be linked to dozens of cases of acute liver failure and hepatitis, including one death and illnesses so severe that several patients required liver transplants abroad. The supplement in its advertisement claims to lose weight and help building muscles. Following action against the products by the US, the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) last week issued a letter to the food safety commissioners and customs officials to bring to their notice the warning against the dietary supplements, deemed to be adulterated.

Innovation

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National
Journalist: Sanchita Sharma
Date: December 22, 2013
Headline: ‘Smartphone clinic: your health is in your 'hands'

Synopsis: Stethoscope-clutching physicians are morphing into Star Trek’s Dr McCoy with his multipurpose tricorder and making this possible is the ubiquitous smartphone, which has arguably become almost as indispensable as air, water and caffeine.An increasing number of apps and peripheral devices are now helping people collect clinically-relevant data using their smartphones. These apps go beyond being simple medical wikis, pill reminders and fitness sensors to record vital signs, instant heart rhythm checks using ECG, and hi-definition images using ultrasounds. And all this can be done by simply hooking handy little gadgets such as arm cuffs, probes and sensors to a smartphone to closely monitor health without having to carry multiple devices.Most of these affordable devices —available online for less than $200 — are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).