



News Updates: December 28-30, 2013

Pharma Industry - 2013

Publication: NDTV Profit (Reproduced from PTI)

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [2013: Few bitter pills, booster injections for pharma sector](#)

Synopsis: Domestic firms coming under increased scrutiny of global regulators, resulting in Ranbaxy paying a record \$500-million fine, and drugs becoming cheaper in India thanks to a new pricing policy marked a roller-coaster year 2013 for the pharma industry. The Indian pharma sector, estimated at around Rs. 1.5 lakh crore, recorded single digit growth for the first time in several years on account of deeper price cuts under pricing policy and selective boycott of companies by the retailers. For the multinationals, it was a year to raise concerns over India's patent regime as Novartis' patent for cancer drug Glivec was rejected by the Supreme Court, while patent for GSK Pharma's popular breast cancer drug, Tykerb was shot down by the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB). It was also a year when the government decided not to lower foreign direct investment (FDI) in existing pharma companies to 49 per cent despite concerns from many quarters over the increased takeovers of Indian firms by foreign companies.

Also appeared in the following:

- **The Financial Express** - [Dose of bitter pills, few booster injections for pharma sector in 2013](#)
- **FirstPost** - [Pharma sector registers single digit growth in 2013; regulators increase scrutiny](#)

Publication: Moneycontrol

Edition: Online

Date: December 27, 2013

Headline: [2013 in review: Pharma's year of quality woes](#)

Synopsis: As 2013 progressed, it unraveled a lot more dirt on corporate governance and oversight and forced the industry to do some serious soul searching. 2013 was a year that will be remembered by the Indian pharma industry for run-ins with global regulators on quality concerns. Companies like Ranbaxy and Wockhardt drew the wrath of the US FDA for violating prescribed manufacturing standards. CNBC-TV18's Archana Shukla takes a snapshot of what the industry has learnt in its hard walk of 2013. 2013 was a year when Indian pharma was in news for all the wrong reasons. The US Food and Drug Administration came down heavily on some of India's biggest pharma companies, issuing the maximum number of warnings in a year for non compliance to prescribed manufacturing standards. Though 2013 was a tough year for Indian pharma, it provided the needed jolt for change. In the coming year, as the beleaguered firms continue their remedial plans, the industry as a whole will also need to work on strong strategies to boost sales in the domestic market after the NLEM-led dip.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Indian pharma views 2013 an year of mixed fortunes, outlook for 2014 appears troublesome with clinical trials issues & new DPCO](#)

Synopsis: Indian pharma views 2013 as an year of both achievements and setbacks. On the one hand, it was an year of several new product launches and on the other industry had to deal with regulatory actions from the US FDA, global economic slowdown and volatile currency fluctuations. However, the outlook for 2014 appears to be somewhat tough because of the slow regulatory clearances of clinical trials, challenges from new Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) and the CDA Bill. From the Union government, in May 2013 the

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy and the new Drug Price Control Order were introduced. There were also a slew of acquisitions: Strides Arcolab's subsidiary, Agila Specialties India and Agila Specialties Asia bought by Mylan Inc. Elder Pharma's generic business sold to Torrent, GlaxoSmithKline Pte., Singapore subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline Plc increasing its stake into GSK Pharma India by 24.33 per cent. Globally, AstraZeneca's agreement to acquire Bristol-Myers Squibb's diabetic portfolio. Delays in approvals for clinical trials as well regulatory issues like restriction on FDI in pharma, uniform code for sales and marketing, compulsory licensing have also had an adverse impact, noted Krishnakumar Sankaranarayanan, Associate Director, Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences, PwC India.

Publication: The Free Press Journal

Edition: Mumbai, Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Ambanis, Mittal, Tata, Sahara face tough 2013 in courts](#)

Synopsis: The year saw several multinational giants like Finish mobile maker Nokia rushing to the high court in a high stake tax dispute while UK-based Vedanta Group, Korean steel major Posco and Swiss pharma firm Novartis were engaged in Supreme Court on issues ranging from industrial pollution, licences and patent. The patent battle saw domestic pharmaceutical firms getting a major boost with the apex court dismissing the plea of Novartis for patent of a cancer drug Glivec, paving the way for Indian companies to manufacture cheap generic drugs. So was the case in the high court where US-pharma major Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) failed to get any relief against Indian Pharma Glenmark which has come up with generic anti-diabetic medicines. An intra-court appeal against the order is pending before a larger bench.

Publication: Health.India.com

Edition: Online

Date: December 27, 2013

Headline: [The good, bad and ugly of Indian healthcare in 2013](#)

Synopsis: 2013 is coming to an end, but it has not been without its fare share of controvercies. Here is a quick roundup of all the happenings this year in the field of pharma, healthcare policies, health insurance, new diseases and healthcare bills. Article recaps. Rumoured HIV cure, Insulin pills discovered, Illegal clinical trials cracked down upon, Maharashtra FDA gets a revolutionary new commissioner and many more issues.

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

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Turning up the volumes: The five biggest corporate deals](#)

Synopsis: As far as mergers and acquisitions (M&A) go, 2013 can aptly be described as a year where a few large deals stood out in a milieu of economic slowdown. Despite a few bright sparks, the overall market of deal-making fell short of its target, hitting a three-year low at \$28 billion in 2013 compared to \$40 billion in 2012. Besides slow economic growth, currency and stock market turmoil and political uncertainty pulled down M&A activity. However, ever optimistic dealmakers expect the pace of M&A activity to pick up in 2014. "Consumer, pharma and healthcare have been the most active sectors in the year," said TN Girdhar, MD & CEO, Lincoln International, a merger advisory firm.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Expect the first signals of taper effect this week](#)

Synopsis: Pharma is a more dicey counter-cyclical. It's a very high-valued industry, with private equity

discounts at twice the market average. Quite a few of the Indian pharma majors are also exposed to regulatory action. For one thing, the US Food and Drug Administration has started checking out quality standards at various exporters. In addition, drug pricing controls in India could be widened in scope. Plus, there are always patent-related disputes and lawsuits in the picture where this industry is concerned. There could be good pickings in the pharma sector but it could also be a very volatile ride.

Publication: Daily News and Analysis

Edition: National, Online

Date: December 28, 2013

Headline: [Subdued M&A activity seen in Jan-Mar; 'big uptick' likely post 2014 elections](#)

Synopsis: Harish HV, partner, India Leadership Team, Grant Thornton, said, "India Inc continued its quest for outbound investments, investing \$11 billion on fewer deals, indicating that the average deal size is up. In-bound investment has suffered compared to previous years, in line with foreign direct investment (FDI), indicating weaker faith of new investors in acquiring companies in India." Typically, M&As happen either in a very buoyant environment or amid too much pain. "People still believe India is a growth market. Robust domestic consumption remains. Fast-moving consumer goods or FMCG, pharma, healthcare, financial services and information technology saw most M&A activity. Because of debt overhang in sectors like infra, companies were looking to offload stake or restructure. When your home market is stretched and there is so much pain, there is no question of going out. Domestic consumption story will remain; pharma, IT will continue to see activity" said Avinash Gupta, national leader and head - financial advisory services, Deloitte. Experts feel 2014 will be very much about inward M&A.

Clinical Trials

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [A dose of pharma industry lingo](#)

Synopsis: Indian pharma views 2013 as an year of both achievements and setbacks. On the one hand, it was an year of several new product launches and on the other industry had to deal with regulatory actions from the US FDA, global economic slowdown and volatile currency fluctuations. However, the outlook for 2014 appears to be somewhat tough because of the slow regulatory clearances of clinical trials, challenges from new Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) and the CDA Bill. Among the accomplishments were the country's access to Biocon's in-house developed monoclonal antibody AlzuMAb which is world's first novel anti-CD6 antibody for Psoriasis. Abbott too unveiled and developed the next-generation Nepro with KidneyCare and CarbSteady, a complete renal nutrition to decrease progression of chronic kidney disease and replace nutrients lost during dialysis treatment.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [CDA Bill to be redrafted in line with Parliamentary panel recommendations](#)

Synopsis: The Central Drug Authority Bill, which was virtually rejected by the Parliamentary panel, will be redrafted in line with the recommendations of the panel pertaining to the exclusion of exports from its purview. Sources in the health ministry said that the bill would be amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and the suggestions from the stakeholders. The recommendations of the Prof Ranjit Roy Chaudhury expert panel on clinical trials will be taken into consideration while revamping the bill, sources said. Commenting on the report of the Parliamentary panel report, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr G N Singh also felt that the bill had to be redrafted now. "In the definition of clinical trial in respect of medical device provided in (af) (iii) line 2, after the words "study of a" the words "medical device" should be omitted as the medical devices are approved in the country after ensuring their safety and effectiveness. Clinical trials of all medical devices may not be required to be regulated. Therefore, Committee recommends that clinical trials of only new

medical devices should be regulated," it added.

Patents / IPR Pharma / Compulsory Drug Licensing

Publication: The Economic Times (Interview)

Edition: New Delhi

Journalist: Divya Rajagopal

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [UK patients are not overconcerned about Indian drug quality](#) (Online Headline: UK patients are not overconcerned about Indian drug quality: Gerald Heddell)

Synopsis: Indian companies are by and large good suppliers of generic drugs, but some bad apples might spoil the reputation of the entire industry, says Gerald W Heddell, director - Inspection, Enforcement and Standards Division of UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). In an interview to Divya Rajagopal, Heddell who was in India last week, spoke about some Indian generic drug makers' issues with compliance, the import alert on Wockhardt and what Indian drug makers need to do to keep up with regulatory changes. Edited excerpts.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Law and order: Key verdicts and legislations of 2013](#)

Synopsis: Patients over Patents: In a verdict hailed around the world, the Supreme Court thwarted the attempt of a pharmaceutical MNC to obtain a fresh patent on a cancer drug adopting the strategy of "evergreening". The verdict authored by Justice Aftab Alam upheld the enhanced-efficacy test for granting fresh patents on old drugs that have been tweaked. In the process, the apex court endorsed the legislative breakthrough made by India in 2005 to help keep life-saving drugs accessible to the poor.

Drug Pricing / Price Control

Publication: Financial Chronicle

Edition: Mumbai

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: Pharma industry looks to rebound in '14 (*link not available*)

Scan of the report:

Publication: Political and Business Daily

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: DPCO may impact revenue of pharma cos in '14: D&D (*link not available*)

Scan of the report:

Also appeared online in Outlook: [DPCO May Impact Revenue of Pharma Cos in 2014: D&B](#)

Publication: NDTV Profit (Reproduced from PTI)

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [New pricing policy may impact domestic revenue of pharma firms in 2014: Dun & Bradstreet](#)

Synopsis: Implementation of the new pricing policy is likely to translate into weak domestic revenue generation for pharma companies in 2014, according to a report by global research firm Dun & Bradstreet. "Implementation of the Drug Policy Control Order (DPCO) 2013 by the New Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) with effect from May 15, 2013, which put a cap on the prices of 348 essential drugs, is likely to impact domestic revenue generation of both homegrown and multinational drug companies in 2014," the report said. The impact of the new drug pricing policy and regulatory intervention has already started influencing the growth performance of the overall pharma industry.

Also, appeared in **The Economic Times** - [DPCO may impact domestic revenue of pharma companies in 2014: Dun & Bradstreet](#)

FDA / Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [UK patients are not overconcerned about Indian drug quality: Gerald Heddell](#)

Synopsis: Indian companies are by and large good suppliers of generic drugs, but some bad apples might spoil the reputation of the entire industry, says Gerald W Heddell, director - Inspection, Enforcement and Standards Division of UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). In an interview to Divya Rajagopal, Heddell who was in India last week, spoke about some Indian generic drug makers' issues with compliance, the import alert on Wockhardt and what Indian drug making companies are doing.

Publication: The Economic Times *(Reproduced from PTI)*

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [IT, pharma industries to be key job creators in 2014: Assocham](#)

Synopsis: Information technology (IT), pharmaceutical, agri-based industries and banking sectors will remain the largest employment generation sectors in 2014, industry lobby Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) said in a recent report.

Publication: The Economic Times *(Reproduced from IANS)*

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: ['Virtual SEZ' status sought for Goa pharma, IT units](#)

Synopsis: The Goa industry is lobbying with the union finance ministry for a "virtual Special Economic Zone (SEZ)" status to new eco-friendly industries. A petition to Finance Secretary Sumit Bose from the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) also demands duty-free import facilities for Information Technology, Electronics and Pharmaceutical industries in Goa, where the SEZ policy had been scrapped because of popular opposition.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [2 pain-killer drugs set for a comeback, but with riders](#)

Synopsis: Pain-killer drugs Dextropropoxyphene and Analgin may be set for a comeback, albeit with warnings and suggestions of restricted use. The drugs had been suspended by the Health Ministry earlier this year. But following a safety review of these medicines by an expert committee, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) has now recommended that they be permitted for use, as they are given in smaller dosages and over few days, respectively. However, the Board did not recommend revoking the suspension

on anti-depressant Deanxit, whose manufacture and sale had also been discontinued this year. In fact, Deanxit, along with Analgin and diabetes drug pioglitazone had been suspended in June over safety concerns. But the suspension of pioglitazone has already been revoked, and the drug is back in the market with warning – labels and riders of restricted use. The drug had been suspended on possible links to urinary bladder cancer.

Publication: DNA

Edition: National

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Substandard, and not spurious, is the problem with drugs in India](#)

Synopsis: With international and national reports alleging that India is home to the biggest fake-drug market, spurious and poor-quality drugs are two major causes of concern. In some reports, more than 25% of medicines available in India have been declared spurious or fake. But statistics by the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), an ombudsman under the government of India, show that the percentage of spurious drugs is quite low and substandard drugs are a far bigger cause for worry. “Spurious drugs in India account for just 0.046% as per the survey of 2009. I don’t know why there has been a lot of emphasis on them. The real challenge is substandard medicines in the country, the percentage of which is around 6%,” said a highly placed source in the ministry.

Publication: Firstpost

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Pharma sector registers single digit growth in 2013; regulators increase scrutiny](#)

Synopsis: Domestic firms coming under increased scrutiny of global regulators, resulting in Ranbaxy paying a record USD 500 million fine, and drugs becoming cheaper in India thanks to a new pricing policy marked a roller-coaster year 2013 for the pharma industry. The Indian pharma sector, estimated to be around Rs 1.5 lakh crore, recorded single digit growth for the first time in several years on account of deeper price cuts under pricing policy and selective boycott of companies by the retailers. For the multinationals, it was a year to raise concerns over India's patent regime as Novartis' patent for cancer drug Glivec was rejected by Supreme Court, while patent for GSK Pharma's popular breast cancer drug, Tykerb was shot down by the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB).

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Taking off: India's successful forays in 2013](#)

Synopsis: In May 2013, a team of Indian scientists announced that they had finally achieved a breakthrough in developing a vaccine for the dreaded dengue virus. For nearly five decades, top pharma scientists had been unable to come up with an effective vaccine. There are four types of dengue viruses and any vaccine needs to be able to fight all four simultaneously. While other researchers were trying the usual path of using a weakened virus to develop the vaccine, scientists from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in New Delhi developed the first phase of a vaccine from yeast.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: December 28, 2013

Headline: [A dose of pharma industry lingo](#)

Synopsis: To start with, understanding the broad business segments will help you appreciate companies better. The pharma industry may be classified into three segments – Active Pharma Ingredients (APIs), finished dosage formulations (FDF) and Contract Research and Manufacturing Services (CRAMS). So, what

are these. API is the key active chemical or biological substance in a drug. However, an API is not directly consumable. It has to be processed into a formulation of appropriate dosage strength to be absorbed by the human body. APIs being low-value products, the margins of companies operating in this segment are typically in the 10-15 per cent range. However, margins may vary across products. For instance, the operating profit margins for companies supplying niche APIs or those that are vertically integrated with their own captive raw material capacities may be much higher.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [In pink of health: Pharma gets right dose of PE interest](#)

Synopsis: If a three-fold rise in private equity investments since 2005 is any indication, the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry is among the top bets for investors, irrespective of the highs and lows of the markets. The industry has raised \$1.14 billion across 67 deals in 2013 alone, according to data provided by audit and consultancy firm Grant Thornton. PE firms have been keen on investing in the industry because of its traditional popularity as a defensive sector. "There is no doubt that pharmaceuticals and healthcare are recession-proof. Unlike in most developed countries, over 70% of the healthcare delivery in India is handled by the private sector," said GSK Velu, founder of medical devices manufacturer Trivitron Healthcare.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Pune's health rests in private hands](#)

Synopsis: The year 2014 is likely to change the city's health care scene for the better. While the entry of big corporate hospitals should expand the reach of private sector, those who cannot afford expensive treatment should benefit from the state scheme that promotes tie ups with private hospitals. Besides, Aundh district hospital, one of the 35 government hospitals in the state, will start rendering high-end radiology services at nominal rates.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Industry objects move to phase out PET containers for liquid formulations](#)

Synopsis: With the ban on plastic and PET containers impending, the industry has raised concern over the step that would hamper the transportation of medicines more than the impact on the profitability. The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) had recommended the phasing out of the use of plastic and PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) containers for liquid formulations from the market on a gradual base, in line with the recommendations of an expert panel. It has also suggested six months time to the pharmaceutical manufacturers for transition.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Pharma units will soon be asked to set up exclusive patient safety monitoring cells](#)

Synopsis: Every pharmaceutical manufacturing unit in the country will have to set up patient monitoring cell, in the line of quality cells, with a view to share the onus of patients' safety by the manufacturers. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) will issue direction in this regard any time in January to direct the pharma companies to set up the cells. "We are going to observe 2014 as the year of patient and animal safety and creation of monitoring cells will be part of this," Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr G N Singh told Pharmabiz. "We have to fix the onus of patient safety also on the manufacturers.

These cells will have dedicated people and they will report to the chief executive officer of the company. We will also make several initiatives as part of the patients' safety year," he said. The move will also aim at creating additional job opportunities in the pharmaceutical sector, especially for the trained pharmacists. The cells would continuously monitor the quality of the products, apart from tracking the adverse reactions of medicines once in the market.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Pharma plans hollow: Govt drug testing lab defunct](#)

Synopsis: The state government is busy drawing up plans to streamline processes related to pharmaceutical industry. It is also trying to become consumer-friendly by promising to post information on fake medicines online but it does not have a functional drug testing lab till date. It has been three years since the state government constructed a building for the proposed drug testing lab but till date it has only two employees and all the other 98 posts, under various categories, are lying vacant. Moreover, Rs 4 crore were sanctioned under the NHRM in 2012 for purchase of equipment worth Rs 2 crore but only Rs 50 lakhs have been spent so far.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: December 28, 2013

Headline: [BSE Healthcare index at life-time high as market improves](#)

Synopsis: BSE Healthcare Index, which tracks healthcare service providers and pharmaceutical companies, closed at its new all-time high on Friday with broader markets also rallying amid improvement in US jobs data, a key indicator of US economy. According to analysts tracking the sector, apart from strong growth seen in US markets, the index is reflecting the improvement in domestic market. "Domestic pharma market has shown signs of improvement. Domestic growth rate has improved from -1.7% in October to 6.9% in November," said Ranjit Kapadia, senior vice-president, pharma, Centrum Broking.

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Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Chhattisgarh docs in big govt hospitals prefer branded medicines to generic](#)

Synopsis: While the Chhattisgarh government is trying hard to promote use of generic medicines, majority of doctors in bigger state run hospitals like the Raipur Medical College are still prescribing branded drugs to their patients. Preliminary data of an on going survey conducted by the Health Department reveals that though nearly two-third of doctors (62%) in state run hospitals are prescribing generic medicines, the

majority of them are from primary and community health centres. While in the primary and community health centres 80% doctors are prescribing generic drugs, their numbers in bigger hospitals in urban areas falls to less than 50%, with the majority still opting for the branded medicines.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Orissa healthcare system faces major setback](#)

Synopsis: Nine newborns deaths within 22 hours at VSS Medical College and Hospital at Burla in July and dengue spreading its tentacle across the state were the biggest blows to the healthcare system in 2013.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Checking medical negligence](#)

Synopsis: Though Indian courts are stingy in awarding compensation in medical negligence cases, a record was set this year when the Supreme Court awarded Rs 6 crore to an Indian doctor, Kunal Saha, in the US whose wife died in a Kolkata hospital. The woman was a child psychologist and Columbia University graduate. She contracted a rare skin disease but was wrongly diagnosed and given an overdose of steroids. The judgment shook the medical community in the country.

Publication: Daily News and Analysis

Edition: National, Online

Date: December 20, 2013

Headline: [Substandard, and not spurious, is the problem with drugs in India](#)

Synopsis: With international and national reports alleging that India is home to the biggest fake-drug market, spurious and poor-quality drugs are two major causes of concern. In some reports, more than 25% of medicines available in India have been declared spurious or fake. But statistics by the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), an ombudsman under the government of India, show that the percentage of spurious drugs is quite low and substandard drugs are a far bigger cause for worry. "Spurious drugs in India account for just 0.046% as per the survey of 2009. I don't know why there has been a lot of emphasis on them. The real challenge is substandard medicines in the country, the percentage of which is around 6%," said a highly placed source in the ministry. In a separate survey conducted between April to July 2012, a total of 18,262 samples were tested, out of which only 25 were found spurious whereas 677 were inferior in quality.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Dilip Shanghvi: Sunny Side Up](#)

Synopsis: After founding Sun Pharma in 1983, Shanghvi has slowly built the company into the second largest drug maker in the country today. He nudged Azim Premji (\$13.8 billion) out of the 3rd richest Indian spot with an estimated wealth of \$13.9 billion. Shanghvi also acquired Swedish Pharma major Meda for \$5 billion. In July, he took over as chairman of Israeli generics firm Taro Pharmaceuticals, a Sun subsidiary. He was also named as the top dollar gainer in the country this year. The company's \$210 million loss failed to make a dent in the company's position as the country's top drug maker.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: December 27, 2013

Headline: [Bitter American medicine](#)

Synopsis: Are the US FDA sleuths culturally insensitive? It seems so. Of late, there has been a lot of discussion around US drug regulator FDA's FD-483 notice. This is especially in the wake of a few Indian pharma companies receiving a warning letter on deficiencies found in inspections. The regulator issues such notices as part of its efforts to ensure quality of drugs under its Good Manufacturing Practices. In a way, it's a performance audit. As and when the FDA slaps an FD-483 on an Indian pharma company, it becomes big news, while most of the good work undertaken by the same pharma companies goes unnoticed. Many products of Indian companies have received global acclaim for their high quality standards. As a matter of fact, some Indian pharma companies overdo their testing processes by employing extensive testing at various stages.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: December 28, 2013

Headline: [Storm brews in medicine container](#)

Synopsis: A health controversy is brewing in the plastic container that holds your cough syrup or medicine. Plastic container makers have urged the Health Ministry to reconsider the plan to ban plastic bottles used in packaging medicines. Their plea follows a recent Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) recommendation to replace plastic containers with glass bottles. The DTAB suggestion came after concerns were raised from some quarters over plastic leaching from the containers onto the medicine. Unhappy with the recommendation, the PET Container Manufacturers Association (PCMA) said: "While recommending the ban, the DTAB has totally ignored the fact that PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is a legally accepted packaging material globally."

Fire in The Blood

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Legislation | The year we said yes to patient rights but no to gay rights](#)

Synopsis: Four years on, India—"the pharmacy of the developing world"—was bound by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to bring its patent law into line. Many of these transcontinental currents are captured in Dylan Mohan Gray's powerful new film, *Fire in the Blood*. "This was an area of work that was completely mystifying to people," Divan says. "We needed to break it down. We needed to make people aware of the implications of 2005 (the looming patent law amendments). We needed to create a groundswell of support." He had several reasons to be excited.

Vaccine

Publication: Mint (Byline by Bill Gates)

Edition: National

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [The emerging world's vaccine pioneers](#)

Synopsis: Vaccines work wonders. They prevent disease from striking, which is better than treating it after the fact. They are also relatively cheap and easy to deliver. Yet millions of children do not get them. This has always been stunning to me. When we started the Gates Foundation 15 years ago, we assumed that all of the obvious steps were already being taken, and that we would have to go after the expensive or unproven solutions. In fact, delivering basic vaccines is still one of our top priorities. As I look ahead to 2014, I am more optimistic than ever about the progress that we can make using the power of vaccines to give all children—wherever they live—a healthy start to life. We have new resources from generous donors

worldwide. We are developing new and better vaccines to protect kids from deadly diseases. And we are finding innovative ways to deliver them, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: New Delhi

Journalist: Padmaparna Ghosh

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Guj's maternal health scheme is a failure](#) (Online Headline: Gujarat's maternal health scheme is a failure: Study)

Synopsis: Gujarat's much-touted Chiranjeevi Yojana, launched in 2006 to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in BPL households, has not had any significant impact, says a new study by Duke University. The programme, which subsidizes the cost of delivery at designated private sector hospitals, has not led to increased probability of institutional child-delivery. Also, analyses of household expenditure of women who used the subsidized delivery scheme in private hospitals either did not fall or fell only marginally. The findings were published online this month by the peer-reviewed international public health journal, Bulletin of the World Health Organization.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Decade saw maternal deaths decline](#)

Synopsis: Maternal mortality ratio - the number of mothers dying due to pregnancy or childbirth complications - has declined by over 40% in the past decade in India, but remains worryingly high in the poorer states, a report released on Friday by the Census office shows. Among eight poorer states called the 'empowered action group' or EAG states, and Assam, the MMR declined from a staggering 438 maternal deaths per 1 lakh live births in 2001-03 to 257 in 2010-12. The eight EAG states are Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Publication: MINT

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [India's maternal mortality rate falls, but still a long way to go](#)

Synopsis: Pregnancy-related and infant deaths in the country have declined significantly from a few years earlier, according to the latest data released by the Registrar General of India, but experts say there's not much to cheer in the numbers given that India still lags behind developed nations and even its poorer neighbours.

India's maternal mortality rate (MMR), or the rate of deaths among women during or after pregnancy, declined by 16% in 2011-12 from 2007-09, according to the data released on Friday. Although the MMR dropped from 212 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007-09 to 178 in 2010-12, India is behind the target of 103 deaths per live births to be achieved by 2015 under the United Nations-mandated Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Thin kids are prone to heart diseases](#)

Synopsis: If you thought only obese children run the risk of developing heart diseases; think again. A study conducted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and

Research has established a link between variability of thinness and cardio-metabolic risk factors in school children. The cross-sectional study was conducted between January 2005 and March 2007 among 16,245 children from about 100 public and private Delhi schools, which included the municipal schools. "The prevalence of cardio-metabolic risk factors technically should be zero in thin children. But the research reveals there is a high prevalence of metabolic over-nutrition in school children from Delhi. There can be discordance between the nutrition profile as assessed by the body size (thinness) and the nutritionist profile assessed from bio-markers (metabolic over-nutrition)," said Prof HPS Sachdev, senior consultant paediatrics and clinical epidemiology, Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research, who was part of the research team.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [IT, pharma industries to be key job creators in 2014: Assocham](#)

Synopsis: Information technology (IT), pharmaceutical, agri-based industries and banking sectors will remain the largest employment generation sectors in 2014, industry lobby Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) said in a recent report. "These sectors will stand out despite the fact that the present state of economy where in a large majority of sectors, net employment is being lost and not created does not support large scale employment," the study said.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Raipur

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Pharma plans hollow: Govt drug testing lab defunct](#)

Synopsis: The state government is busy drawing up plans to streamline processes related to pharmaceutical industry. It is also trying to become consumer-friendly by promising to post information on fake medicines online but it does not have a functional drug testing lab till date. It has been three years since the state government constructed a building for the proposed drug testing lab but till date it has only two employees and all the other 98 posts, under various categories, are lying vacant. Moreover, Rs 4 crore were sanctioned under the NHRM in 2012 for purchase of equipment worth Rs 2 crore but only Rs 50 lakhs have been spent so far.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: December 28, 2013

Headline: [Go for critical illness policy](#)

Synopsis: Treatment for critical illnesses often cost more than what basic health policies provide. A critical illness insurance policy can help here. Many of us get basic health insurance cover from our employers. But when a major illness hits, we are often hard-pressed for funds. What's more, given the rapid changes in lifestyles, the incidence of serious illnesses has increased. Why get it: Treatment often costs much more than what a basic health cover provides. Also, the time taken to recoup from such illness can be long and a person will be hard-pressed to take leave from work without loss of pay. Monthly expenses, such as children's school fees, house and car EMIs, provisions and credit card payments mount higher even as income dwindles. In such a case, people are forced to break into their savings. This is where a critical illness insurance policy can help.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 28, 2013

Headline: [Stings, scams and science](#)

Synopsis: The global landscape for scientific research is fast changing. Going by criteria such as national spending on research and development (R&D) and scientific publishing, the axis appears to be shifting from America and Europe to Asia and elsewhere. India, China, Brazil and Korea have significantly stepped up their efforts in the scientific arena in the past decade or so. China and India are among the top 10 countries in terms of the number of research papers published annually. China has surpassed the UK and other European countries to emerge as the second most prolific publisher of research papers, next only to the US. India ranks seventh in this list.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: December 28, 2013

Headline: [‘Biotech sector’s ability to raise funds in US will enthuse Indian firms’](#)

Synopsis: With over 50 IPOs raising about \$7.5 billion in the US during the year, companies in the biotech sector have reason to cheer, according to the Association of Biotech Led Enterprises (ABLE). The Indian Biotechnology industry is expected to accelerate towards the anticipated \$100-billion mark by 2025. That would need a growth rate of 30-35 per cent. This seems to be a difficult task at a time when there are a quite a few fundamental issues, both at the macro and micro levels, the association said. Investment trends in India seem to indicate that the optimism of the US firms has not made much difference to the Indian investment scenario in the short term. According to P.M. Murali, President, ABLE, “The Indian biotech sector holds the potential to address various challenges including healthcare, agriculture and pharma. With the new Environment Minister M. Veerappa Moily considering approval for GM crops, this is a good sign for attracting investment into the agriculture sector.”

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: December 28, 2013

Headline: [27% UP kids are malnourished](#)

Synopsis: The Akhilesh government’s assurances of proper nutrition for children seems to be proving hollow with more than 24 per cent of the school-going children found to be malnourished and 17 per cent found to be anaemic. These facts emerged at a state-level orientation programme on Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) organised by the department of health. Principal health secretary, Pravir Kumar, said that this was based on the data gathered in the course of implementation of the RBSK in UP. He stated that more than 1 crore children have been covered under the programme in the state.

Access, Affordability, Innovation

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: December 29, 2013

Headline: [Setback for pharma MNCs](#)

Synopsis: The judgment in the Novartis case, upholding denial of patent to a cancer drug by the Swiss firm, created furore in the pharma circles. The company has been fighting its case for nearly six years in various forums, but failed at the apex court. According to the court, small improvements ("ever-greening") did not amount to innovation deserving of a patent. While the NGOs hailed the verdict as it would make drugs cheaper, the foreign companies cried foul.

Publication: The Times of India (Reproduced by The Press Trust of India)(also appeared in Deccan Herald)

Edition: New Delhi

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [New device allows scientists to operate on living cells](#)

Synopsis: Scientists have developed a device that can take a "biopsy" of a living cell, sampling minute volumes of its contents without killing it. The new tool, called a nanobiopsy, uses a robotic glass nanopipette to pierce the cell membrane and extract a volume of around 50 femtolitres, around one per cent of the cell's contents. It will allow scientists to take samples repeatedly, to study the progression of disease at a molecular level in an individual cell. It can also be used to deliver material into cells, opening up ways to reprogramme diseased cells.

Publication: The Pioneer (Byline by Dr Akash Malik)

Edition: National

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Tool to fight pneumonia exists. Use it](#)

Synopsis: India is one of the last countries which has not introduced the HIB-containing Pentavalent vaccine in its immunisation programme. Yet every year, hundreds of children die from diseases caused by Hemophilus Influenzae type B, writes Dr Akash Malik. Pneumonia is one of the most solvable problems in global health. We have safe, effective and affordable tools necessary to help prevent children from contracting pneumonia and to treat those who have it. However, in India we continue to lose over tens of thousands children every year to pneumonia and also meningitis, caused by Hemophilus Influenzae type B. Those that are lucky to survive meningitis, are susceptible to life-long disability which result in long hospital bills. This not only takes a toll on the child but also on the family and the community. But even as the death toll rises, we keep debating whether to make vaccines that can prevent pneumonia in children.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: Online

Date: December 30, 2013

Headline: [Torrent Pharmaceuticals gets 'Hold' rating, consolidation phase almost over: Edelweiss](#)

Synopsis: Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd (TRP) has acquired Elder Pharma's India business (sales of R4 bn and 35% Ebitda margin) for Rs 20 bn. The deal valued at 4.8 times EV/sales and 14x EV/Ebitda (enterprise value/earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation), gives TRP a ready brand portfolio to aggressively entrench in new focus specialties of women care, pain management and nutraceuticals. Acquisition offers deep synergies and established brands: Elder's specialty portfolio offers multiple synergies to TRP such as addition of leading brands—Shelcal, Chymoral, Carnisure—strengthening its presence in gynecology, pain and vitamin segments. It also renders deeper access to tier II-IV markets with 1,100 market representatives and adds distribution network of 2,900 stockists to its existing base of 1,700, thereby enabling better penetration in North and West India. However, we believe it comes at a dearer value (five times sales) with projected payback of over ten years and additional strain on balance sheet, limiting future expansion capacity.