



News Updates: February 04, 2014

Cancer

Publication: The Australian

Edition: Online

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: ['Tidal wave' of cancer threatens world](#)

Synopsis: The number of cancer cases will surge by more than 70 per cent in a global "tidal wave" of the disease, the World Health Organisation has said. Cancer cannot be beaten by treatment alone and research must shift towards preventing the disease in the first place, a group of 250 scientists say in the WHO's latest five-yearly World Cancer Report. They call for taxes, health warnings and advertising restrictions on alcohol and junk food to protect the world against the disease. In 2012, there were 14 million new cases of cancer worldwide, and this is likely to rise to 25 million within 20 years as the world population ages. Deaths will rise from 8 million (including 43,000 in Australia) in 2012 to 13 million.

Publication: FirstPost

Edition: Online

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [World Cancer Day: Debate on affordable drugs must focus on life or death for millions](#)

Synopsis: Marijn Dekkers, the Chairman of German drug MNC Bayer AG, is a powerful man but not a name that many Indians had heard before. Things would probably have continued that way, if not for a recent episode. Speaking at an industry forum a few days ago, Mr Dekker characterised India's compulsory license to Bayer's "blockbuster" cancer drug Nexavar as "essentially theft", and added, "We did not develop this medicine for Indians. We developed it for western patients who can afford it." This outburst (reported in the 21 January edition of Businessweek) was followed by an explanation. The comment, said Mr Dekkers, had been a "quick response" to the Nexavar issue but added that he had been "particularly frustrated" by the Indian regulator's decision, the first time a so-called compulsory licence of a patented drug had been awarded in India. Bayer, said Mr Dekkers, wanted "all people to share the fruits of medical progress regardless of their origins or income". The fact that the wolf has finally come out from under its rather moth-eaten sheepskin disguise probably calls for a round of (slow) clapping. But the explanation actually explains nothing. If Nexavar was not developed for India, why is Bayer so upset about someone else making and selling a cheap copy to poor Indians who can't afford the real thing? Why is Bayer trying to sell Nexavar in India anyway? Is it because the rich people it was made for are now shopping for the next generation of drugs, and India looks like a good place to squeeze the last drops of profit out of Nexavar before it becomes a has-been?

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [World Cancer Day: Taking stock of India's rising burden](#)

Synopsis: Experts say equitable, quality and affordable cancer care in New Delhi remains a dream. By 2030, India will have 1.6 million cancer patients. Experts say the country is ill-prepared to deal with the cancer burden due rapidly ageing population, increased life expectancy and limited health infrastructure.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Cancer is curable: Demystifying many cancer myths](#)

Synopsis: Some believe cancer is incurable, quite a few think it is contagious and many others feel it can be caused by hair-dyes and antiperspirants - myths like these expose our little knowledge about the much-feared disease which, if addressed timely, can be cured, doctors say. According to health experts, many myths are associated with cancer, but adapting a healthy lifestyle can help people keep it at bay. India has more than three million cancer patients, and these figures paint a pale picture of our understanding of the disease.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Cancer incidence to rise five-fold in India by 2025?](#)

Synopsis: With a million new cases being reported every year, cancer seems to be tightening its grip on India. Experts say the incidence of the killer disease is expected to rise five-fold by 2025. According to medical professionals, lung and oral cancers were the most common among men while cervix and breast cancer were striking more and more women. Cancer is one of the leading causes of deaths in India, which has nearly three million patients suffering from the disease, they said.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Cancer cases growing at an alarming pace: WHO agency](#)

Synopsis: Effective prevention measures are the only way to prevent cancer crisis, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) stated on Monday. The agency, which is part of the World Health Organization, also shed light on the alarming pace at which cancer cases are growing. According to IARC, in 2012, the worldwide burden of cancer rose to an estimated 14 million—a figure expected to rise to 22 million annually within the next two decades. Over the same period, cancer deaths are predicted to rise from an estimated 8.2 million to 13 million per year.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Awareness is better, 70% cancers preventable: TMH director](#)

Synopsis: In keeping with the theme of World Cancer Day on Tuesday - Debunk the Myth - doctors at Tata Memorial Hospital in Parel said cancer awareness among Indians is no longer poor. "In the 80s, the average size of the lesion when women came for breast cancer treatment to Tata Memorial Hospital in Parel was 6cm. Today the average is 2.5cm," said director Dr Rajendra Badwe, one of India's leading breast cancer surgeons. The day is not far when the lesion's size would be 1cm, he added.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Small Ideas, Big Difference | A mobile solution to medical care](#)

Synopsis: The number of breast cancer and cervical cancer cases is high and awareness is still poor—leading often to very late detection, and high mortality. According to 2012 statistics of the World Health Organization (WHO), India, China and the US collectively account for almost one-third of the global breast cancer burden. In 2012 alone, 144,937 new cases of breast cancer were detected in India. But the worse news is, more women in the subcontinent die of breast cancer; for every two women newly diagnosed with breast cancer in India, one is dying (compared to one in every four in China and one in five-six in the US).

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: February 04, 2014

Headline: [Aviation, Drug Sectors Need Better Regulation](#)

Synopsis: Two recent incidents have adversely affected India's image and global competitiveness. One, the US Federal Aviation Administration has downgraded India's civil aviation safety rating and the other, small Indian cars have failed the safety tests of the European new car assessment programme. Earlier, the US health care regulator had put a ban on India's pharma giant Ranbaxy, which is now owned by the Japanese. The reasons for these setbacks differ but coming as they are in succession, they tell a story of the failure of regulation and thus, by extension, of governance. This does not redound to the credit of a nation which aspires to be the third largest economy in less than two decades.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [CCI warns chemists against unfair practice](#)

Synopsis: After penalising several chemist associations for anti-competitive activities, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has warned them to desist from indulging in unfair practices such as restricting discounts or fixation of trade margins at different levels of sale. These activities, the competition watchdog said, can lead to severe penalties and even prosecution.

Publication: Mumbai Mirror

Edition: National

Date: February 3, 2014

Headline: [FDA cracks whip on state chemists](#)

Synopsis: Licences of those chemists who are found to be selling drugs without prescription will be cancelled, announced Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commissioner Mahesh Zagade on Sunday. Despite protests and strikes by various chemists' associations against FDA's stringent rulebook, Zagade said the crackdown will continue for the sake of public safety. Reportedly, many chemists sell prescription drugs over the counter, many of which are habit-forming and often misused by addicts.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Make clinical trials data public](#)

Synopsis: Last week, Johnson & Johnson announced that it was making all of its clinical trial data available to scientists around the world. It has hired my group, Yale University Open Data Access Project, or YODA, to fully oversee the release of the data. Everything in the company's clinical research vaults, including unpublished raw data, will be available for independent review. This is an extraordinary donation to society and a reversal of the industry's traditional tendency to treat data as an asset that would lose value if exposed to public scrutiny.

FDI

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: February 02, 2014

Headline: [FDI in pharma jumps to \\$1.25 billion during Apr-Nov period](#)

Synopsis: Foreign direct investment in the pharma sector has more than doubled to \$1.25 billion during April-

November period of the fiscal even amid concerns about the spate of acquisitions of domestic firms by MNCs. FDI in drugs and pharmaceuticals was \$581 million during April-November 2012, according to the latest data of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

General Industry News

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Mylan launches breast cancer drug in India](#)

Synopsis: Drug major Mylan Inc today said it has launched breast cancer drug Hertraz Herceptin in India. The company's subsidiary Mylan Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd has launched the world's first trastuzumab biosimilar, which will be marketed by Mylan under the brand name Hertraz Herceptin, a company statement said.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Gilead, local generic players in talks to bring hepatitis C drug into India](#)

Synopsis: California-based drug-maker Gilead Sciences Inc is in discussions with a handful of local pharmaceutical companies to bring its much anticipated oral Hepatitis C drug Sovaldi (sofosbuvir) into India. "We are going to give licence to Indian companies, so there will be Indian production of our hepatitis C product. We are in discussions right now. We hope to announce those in the next couple of months," Gregg H Alton, Gilead's Executive Vice-President, Corporate and Medical Affairs, told Business Line.

Gilead's move comes at a time when the patent on sofosbuvir is being contested at the Kolkata patent office. The opposition was filed late last year by US-based legal group I-MAK (Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge).

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Genetic make-up analysis to prevent diseases](#)

Synopsis: Xcode aims to build a reference data system on Indians by targeting and studying specific groups of population.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [India slips in rankings as slowdown hits pharma](#)

Synopsis: Conventional wisdom suggests that healthcare sector is recession proof and does not necessarily mirror the lows and highs of the economy. But surprisingly, India's attractiveness as a pharma market has suffered a blow with its growth forecast being revised downwards by a global market research firm, amid a slowdown in the economy. India has slipped from the 8th rank as forecast in 2016 to the 11th position in 2017, figures culled from IMS Health said. The downgrade suggests that the market may not be growing at the pace projected earlier, and has lost value due to the currency fluctuation, impacting the country's global ranking, experts say.