



News Updates: January 1-2, 2014

Patents

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: [Cephalon files patent infringement suit against Glenmark](#)

Synopsis: The US-based Cephalon Inc has filed a patent infringement suit against Glenmark over Indian company's plans to sell generic version of leukaemia treatment drug Treanda in the US. "Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited and Glenmark Generics Inc, USA confirms Cephalon Inc has filed a patent infringement suit on 26 Dec 2013 in the US District Court for the District of Delaware seeking to prevent Glenmark from commercialising its Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) bendamustine hydrochloride product, their generic version of Treanda, prior to expiration of the Orange Book patents. A complaint against Glenmark has been filed on US patent 8,445,524. This lawsuit was filed under the provisions of the Hatch-Waxman Act," said the company in a BSE filing.

Also appeared in:

The Times of India: [US company files case against Glenmark on Treanda](#)

The Financial Express: [Glenmark Pharmaceuticals faces patent infringement suit for cancer drug in US](#)

The Hindu Business Line: [US co sues Glenmark over patent breach on leukaemia drug](#)

Mint: [Glenmark faces patent infringement lawsuit for cancer drug in US](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: [Generics and enforcement make an impact](#)

Synopsis: The pharmaceuticals sector, otherwise known for its undeterred growth, isn't hoping for much in 2014. Faced with increasing enforcements and slowing product approvals in many international markets and regulatory hurdles and pricing pressure in India, the drug manufacturing industry is conservative in its approach and estimate for the year ahead. Market research agency IMS Health revised down its growth estimates for this year to 10 per cent from 17-18 per cent. "This is mainly due to a downward revision in economic forecasts (gross domestic product and private & government consumption) and lower-than-expected growth in the first half of 2013," said Amit Backliwal, the agency's South Asia general manager. For 2014, the estimate is 11.6 per cent, as pricing pressures and trade issues continue to act as hurdles.

Clinical Trials

Publication: Outlook

Edition: National (Reproduced from PTI)

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: [2013: Tough Laws Sought for Drugs, Clinical Trials](#)

Synopsis: As India inches towards being a polio-free country, the health sector made some rapid strides in strengthening regulations for drugs and clinical trials, and saw stronger food laws and re-establishment of an elected medical regulator during 2013. Despite the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare taking some initiatives in bringing new bills for having stricter drug laws and regulation of clinical trials, and for putting rules in place for rights of mentally ill, these could not get Parliament nod. The proposal of having a common entrance examination for admission to all medical colleges in the country was, however, struck down by the Supreme Court during the year gone by and the matter is under review of the apex court after the government challenged the verdict. The endeavour of providing universal healthcare for all in the country remained much on paper, despite the launch of an initiative to provide free medicines in government hospitals, albeit on a small scale in some

states.

Drug Pricing

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: December 31, 2013

Headline: [Top midcap bets from Ashwani Gujral that can return upto 37%](#)

Synopsis: Pfizer India chief Aijaz Tobaccowalla's apprehension that the domestic drug industry was headed for single digit growth was usually met with disbelief in the past. But the challenges were there for all to see, he said, as the drug price-control policy, its implementation hiccups and, of course, the broader slowing down of the economy, took their toll. As anticipated, growth hit single digits, at a struggling 6 per cent, according to industry estimates. Despite this, India will be at the top of the growth charts, indicated Tobaccowalla, as he outlined Pfizer's local growth plans and moots a coalition on CSR (corporate social responsibility) spending to target access to healthcare.

Pharma Industry: 2014

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: December 31, 2013

Headline: [Looking Ahead: 2014: Full of promise](#)

Synopsis: The year 2013 has been eventful, particularly for the pharmaceutical industry. It was a year full of uncertainty — high inflation and low GDP growth worsened matters. Capital investments were deferred due to the uncertainty. The air was filled with trepidation as the media speculated on more compulsory licenses to come. Lack of an ecosystem which encouraged innovation was defined by various indicators including denial of patents and patent infringement. Clinical trials all but came to standstill. The Drug Price Control Order when finally announced brought with it a series of court cases as companies grappled with having to recall and re-label stocks with new prices. While revenues were impacted, the trade was unhappy over the impact on their margins, adding to the atmosphere of uncertainty. Then there was the debate over FDI in the industry. These multiple uncertainties, spread through the year, only served to act as a dampener.

FDI

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: [Top midcap bets from Ashwani Gujral that can return upto 37%](#)

Synopsis: What makes you bullish on Natco Pharma? Ashwani Gujral: First of all let me give the time frame for these stocks. I recently met people who have told me that they do not have the time to day trade and hence would like to stick with stocks for five to six months. So, these ideas are for those sorts of people who have a little longish time frame for their investments.

FDA / Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Repackaged drugs likely to be labelled 'new'](#)

Synopsis: Drug makers that improvise on existing formulations — by using new delivery mechanisms, like time-release, modified release, etc, and branding those as more efficient products — are likely to face roadblocks. The government is considering a proposal to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act's rule 122 (E) to include products with new drug delivery systems (NDDS) under the "new drug" category. Time-release drugs are a class of therapy that release medicines at a measured pace to improve efficacy and compliance with patients. The proposed

move means that these companies, like in the case of new drugs, will not be able to bypass clinical trials and additional regulatory monitoring. This, in turn, might delay launches and increase the drug development cost for pharmaceutical companies using new delivery mechanisms.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Journalist: C.H. Unnikrishnan

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy turns focus to domestic market](#)

Synopsis: Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, after being hauled up frequently by the US drug regulator in recent years, is turning its focus back onto the Indian market, which currently contributes only about 20% of its revenue. "India, our home market, continues to be a focus for us...and in terms of business performance, we have set ourselves a sales target of Rs.130-135 billion (Rs.13,000-13,500 crore) for the 15-month period ending March 31, 2014," Ranbaxy chief executive and managing director Arun Sawhney said in an email on Tuesday. Ranbaxy had set a target of Rs.12,000 crore for January-December 2013, but is changing its fiscal year to April-March. Ranbaxy, majority owned by Japan's Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd, has been under pressure in the US since 2008, when the US Food and Drug Administration banned its manufacturing plants in India from exporting to the US.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: [Rupee, FDA compliance risks for pharma industry in 2014](#)

Synopsis: The pharmaceutical industry did not disappoint investors in 2013 with the BSE healthcare index returning 22.7% compared with a 9.7% increase in the broader market. But it was not smooth sailing always as the industry had its share of unpleasant surprises. There was one positive surprise, however. The industry benefited from the sharp depreciation in the rupee, with the currency falling to as low as Rs.68-levels against the dollar in the second half. A weak rupee boosted export realizations in rupee terms and yielded translation gains for revenues of overseas subsidiaries. The worry is that a stable rupee, or even a stronger one, could affect financials in the current fiscal (especially in the second half).

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Mumbai

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Software to track HIV+ pregnant women](#)

Synopsis: Taking healthcare a step forward, the Karnataka state aids prevention society (KSAPS) is all set to introduce a software to track HIV positive pregnant women; the purpose being to eliminate chances of an unborn child getting afflicted while in the womb. The software is currently under trial in Bellary, Kolar and Udupi districts, and will be put in place at the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) in all 30 districts of the state. "It's mandatory for all pregnant women to go to ICTCs and get themselves tested. If any would-be mother is diagnosed HIV positive, we'll start monitoring her from the 14th week of gestation. Thereafter, she goes to the Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) centres and gets herself treated. The software will help us keep track of the mother and the child till the infant turns 18 months old," said Dr BV Karur, additional project director, KSAPS.

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: December 31, 2013

Headline: [US FDA to continue focus on India's pharma companies](#)

Synopsis: The US health regulator — Food and Drug Administration — which cracked the whip against many Indian pharmaceutical companies in the year gone by including Ranbaxy Laboratories and Wockhardt, will continue to focus its attention on non-compliant companies. "We will continue to focus our attention on non-

compliant companies and facilities that are engaging in unacceptable quality and data integrity practices,” Christopher C Kelly, spokesperson, USFDA told HT via e-mail. “We will use all available enforcement tools to bring these facilities into compliance to ensure the public health is protected.” The FDA’s concern is understandable, considering that nearly 40% of the generic drugs and over-the-counter products sold in the US come from India.

Publication: Financial Chronicle

Edition: New Delhi

Journalist: Anna Edney

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [FDA gave approvals to 27 novel drugs in 2013](#)

Synopsis: Gilead Sciences’ hepatitis C pill Sovaldi led 27 new US drug approvals in 2013, a breakthrough therapy being chased by competitors this year. Gilead pill, designed to cut treatment time by about half, was approved under the FDA’s new program that prioritizes reviews of promising medicines. All told the FDA cleared 12 fewer novel drugs in 2013, than the year before, though the rate was in the line with historical averages.

Publication: Financial Chronicle

Edition: Mumbai

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: [Lupin, Cipla gain on drug approvals](#)

Synopsis: Shares of Lupin gained 1.8 per cent intra-day after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave a tentative approval for generic version of cholesterol drug Niacin. Cipla also gained 1.3 per cent intra-day after getting tentative approval from FDA for a combined HIV drug. “Tentative approval” means that FDA has concluded that a drug product has met all required quality, safety and efficacy standards, but is not eligible for marketing in the US because of existing patent protections. Lupin’s share touched an intra-day high of Rs 925.40 while Cipla touched an intra-day high of Rs 406. On Wednesday, Lupin stock gained after it received tentative approval on Monday to sell Niacin oral tablets, a form of vitamin B, of strength 500 mg, 750 mg and 1000 mg in the US market. The generic name of Niacin is Niaspan.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Safety of Pet Bottles](#)

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General Industry

Publication: Mint

Edition: New Delhi

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [The great Indian sanitation crisis](#)

Synopsis: New data released by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) have once again underlined the abysmal state of sanitation in the country, particularly in rural India where two-thirds of the country lives. Only 32% of rural households have their own toilets, according to the recently released results of a large-scale survey conducted by NSSO in 2012. An additional 9% have access to toilets although the access figure could be an

overestimate. The results of the last census had also highlighted India's gaping sanitation deficit. Census results showed that less than half of Indian households had a toilet at home; there were more households with a mobile phone than with a toilet. The woefully inadequate progress in sanitation makes India an outlier even among developing countries. Of the estimated billion people who defecate in the open, more than half reside in India. Poor sanitation impairs the health of Indians, leading to high rates of malnutrition and productivity losses. India's sanitation deficit leads to losses worth roughly 6% of India's gross domestic product (GDP), according to World Bank estimates, by raising the disease burden in the country. Children are affected more than adults. The rampant spread of diseases inhibits children's ability to absorb nutrients, stunting their growth.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: New Delhi

Journalist: Aarti Dhar

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [A programme to address malnutrition](#)

Synopsis: The Centre has finally approved the rollout of the Multi-sectoral Nutrition Programme to address the problems of maternal and child under-nutrition in the country. The programme, recommended by the Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges in 2010, will be implemented in 200 high-burden districts in two phases at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,213.19 crore. It will be a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the National Nutrition Mission, with the Centre-State cost sharing ratio 90:10 for all components in the north-eastern States and special category States, and 75:25 for the other States and the Union Territories. The first phase will begin in 100 districts in 2013-14, and the rest will be covered in the second in 2014-15. The National Mission Steering Group and the Empowered Programme Committee constituted for Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Mission will be the highest administrative and technical bodies for ensuring effective planning, implementation, monitoring and supervision.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National (*Reproduced from Reuters*)

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: [Doctors, hospitals expect confusion about Obama healthcare plan](#)

Synopsis: Hospitals and medical practices across the United States are bracing for confusion and administrative hassles as new insurance plans under President Barack Obama's healthcare law take effect on Wednesday. More than 2 million people enrolled in private plans offered under the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, during the initial sign-up period for health benefits starting January 1. Enrollment began in October and lasts through March, but Americans in most states had to had to enroll by last week to get coverage that takes effect with the start of the new year.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National (*Opinion*)

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Oh doctor, you're in trouble](#)

Synopsis: Aam aadmi (and aurat) at the high table in Delhi has buoyed the hopes of citizens' groups across the country. As 2014 kicks in, be prepared to hear a lot more from one group whose interests have been long-neglected — the harried aam patient. Over the past year, a series of developments suggests that patient activism is on the surge, and could be shaping the practice of medicine in this country. People for Better Treatment (PBT), a citizens' group which started on December 30, 2001, in Kolkata, is fanning out across the country. Last month new PBT branches sprung up in Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad. Next on the list is Ahmedabad and possibly Lucknow. PBT's goal is to raise public awareness about medical negligence. It is the brainchild of US-based. Dr Kunal Saha, whose wife Anuradha died due to negligence of doctors in a Kolkata hospital. Dr Saha fought a long, protracted battle for justice for nearly 15 years, boning up on toxic epidermal necrolysis in the process, and mobilising an international panel of experts to bolster his arguments. Last October, the Supreme Court gave its judgment. The apex court's ruling found three doctors of the private hospital, Advanced Medical Research Institute (AMRI), negligent in the civil case but dismissed the criminal complaint. The judgment grabbed headlines because of the

unprecedented compensation amount in a medical negligence case in India — `5.96 crore plus interest for each of the 15 years — awarded to Dr Saha.

Publication: DNA

Edition: Mumbai

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [4000 doctors across Maharashtra to strike work from today in protest against police brutality](#)

Synopsis: Around 4,000 resident doctors across Maharashtra have decided to mass bunk from Thursday to protest against the manhandling by policemen of a fellow resident doctor in Solapur Medical College and Hospital. Dr Santosh Wakchare, president, central MARD, said: "We are going on an indefinite strike from 8am on January 2. Three policemen assaulted general surgeon Prashant Patil, who was on duty at the state-run Solapur Medical College and Hospital at 2am on December 31. He was accompanying a patient to CT scan department for running a test when the three policemen demanded that he attend to a pregnant woman patient. Dr Patil checked the patient and explained to the policemen that her condition was not serious and that she should be shifted to the delivery ward."

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: New Delhi

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Mother care](#)

Synopsis: India's maternal mortality rate continues to fall. There's more work to be done. One of India's most shameful scandals has been the number of women who die daily from childbirth complications — human tragedies that could have been so easily averted with better pregnancy monitoring and access to safer delivery. While childbirth-related deaths occur around the world, countries with poor public health infrastructure find it harder to identify and manage complications like eclampsia and sepsis. Adequate nourishment is another problem. In India, more than half of married women were found to be anaemic, in 2006. Now, new data from the Registrar General of India shows that the maternal mortality rate has fallen to 178 per 1,00,000 live births, a remarkable drop over the last decade. It was 398 in 2002-04, and has declined steadily since, even though the millennium development goal commitment of 108 remains unmet. States with better demographic and socio-economic indicators like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have long outpaced the national average, but it turns out that the most impressive changes have been achieved in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Assam, the worst-performing state for a long time, has also registered a sharp fall in such deaths.

Publication: Deccan Chronicle

Edition: Online

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Medical Council of India may cancel extra seats](#)

Synopsis: The state government's negligence in upgrading facilities in government medical colleges and teaching hospitals may cost AP 400 MBBS seats this year. The Medical Council of India had granted additional seats after the then chief secretary Minnie Mathew gave a written undertaking in April that all deficiencies will be rectified by December. The MCI may withdraw the additional seats if there is no improvement of facilities by April. Currently, there are 15 government medical colleges that offer 2,400 MBBS seats. The intake was increased by 400 last year. Seats were increased in colleges in Kakinada, Guntur, Warangal, Vijayawada, Kurnool, Tirupati, Hyderabad and Nizamabad.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [A new dawn: India to be certified polio-free this year](#)

Synopsis: Later this month, India will clock three polio-free years, a milestone that will be officially certified in

2014 by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The last case of polio was reported from West Bengal in January 2011. A WHO-appointed independent body is evaluating the ground situation and an announcement is expected possibly in February-March, says Ashok Mahajan, who heads Rotary's Ulema Committee. The committee played a key role in getting a handle on polio in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and parts of Malegaon (Maharashtra), where there was resistance against polio-vaccination in some minority pockets. The fear was that polio-vaccination would affect the child's health.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: [Piramal opts for online course to train medical staff](#)

Synopsis: Online course platform EdX, the not-for-profit joint venture between Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which had teamed up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay in July 2013, has made further inroads into the country. What was touted to be the first-of-its-kind initiative in India in terms of education has now moved into corporate boardrooms. The course on clinical research, called Quantitative Methods in Clinical and Public Health Research, has become a regular drill at Piramal Life Sciences. "The EdX platform is open to all. We trained our whole medical staff, which was part of the clinical department, with the course on 'Biostatistics Clinical Trial Design', which is part of the curriculum," said Swati Piramal, Vice-Chairperson of the Piramal Group. EdX's platform is used by global universities to develop innovative online, on-campus courses, which blend both teaching and learning models.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: New Delhi

Journalist: Pallavi Ail

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Pvt hospitals' focus on small towns yields big dividends](#)

Synopsis: SOME of India's privately-held hospital chains are growing much faster than the listed Apollo Hospitals, the second-largest player in the space, signalling a growing fragmentation in the upper strata of the \$46-billion industry. Fortis Healthcare, however, appears well-ensconced at the top slot for now. According to filings with the Registrar of Companies, among the unlisted firms that have increased their market share between FY11 and FY13 are two Bangalore-headquartered firms — Narayana Hrudayalaya and Manipal Health Enterprises.

Publication: The Tribune

Edition: New Delhi

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: Free medical scheme launched (No link Available)

Scan:

Free medical scheme launched

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FATEHABAD, JANUARY 1

Chief Parliamentary Secretary (CPS) Prahlad Singh Gillankhera today launched the Mukhyamantri Muft Ilaj Yojna at the General Hospital here. Gillankhera said under the scheme launched across the state from today, all kinds of surgeries would be conducted free of cost.

Patients would get medicines free of cost and all kinds of laboratory tests and indoor facilities would be free, he added. He said all kinds of surgical packages that were performed against nominal charges earlier would now be free for the patients.

Gillankhera said the government now intends to widen the scope of the scheme. There would be a provision of all types of surgeries under the surgery package programme, as a total of 229 surgeries would be provided free of cost under this scheme now, the CPS added.

Publication: The Statesman

Edition: National

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline: Health Indicators show positive trend for 2013

Scan of the report ([Link not available](#))

Health indicators show positive trend for 2013

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 31 December

Healthwise, 2013 was a good year for the government as several health indicators showed a positive growth.

Infant survival improved by 12 per cent with the Infant Mortality Rate coming down to 42 in 2012 from 58 per 1,000 live births in the year 2005. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declined from 301 per 100,000 live births in 2001-03 to 254 in 2004-06 and further declined to 212 in 2007-09. The pace of decline has shown an increasing trend from a 4.1 per cent annual rate of decline during 2001-03 to 5.5 per cent in 2004-06 and further to 5.8 per cent in 2007-09. The total fertility rate, too, has been recorded as down to 2.4 per cent in 2011 from 2.9 per cent in 2005.

The World Health Organisation has removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission.

The last polio case in the country was reported from the Howrah district of West Bengal, with the date of onset being 13 January, 2011. India completed 35 months (as on 18 December, 2013) without any polio case, which is a remarkable achievement, globally acknowledged.

As the government declared 2012-13 as Year of "Intensification of Routine Immunisation (IRI)", several drives to immunise children aged 12-24 months against seven vaccine preventable diseases - diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, severe form of childhood tuberculosis and hepatitis B - were carried out throughout the year.

Japanese encephalitis vaccination drives are being carried out in 113 districts in 15 states. In addition, there is a plan to cover another 64 districts in the next two years.

Health indicators are

expected to keep up a positive trend as new vaccines have been introduced, of which the Hepatitis B vaccine and the second dose of the measles vaccine are part of the programme.

New vaccines like one for Hepatitis B, second dose of measles vaccine and pentavalent, a combination vaccine, which includes DPT + Hep-B + Hib, have been introduced in eight states: Kerala and Tamil Nadu in December, 2011 and Puducherry, Goa, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka and J&K in 2012-13, to ensure complete immunisation against five diseases and also reduce the chances of an adverse event following immunisation due to less injection load.

Maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination was carried out in 18 states and a plan to eliminate measles and control rubella by the end of 2020 has been initiated.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Kochi

Date: January 1, 2014

Headline:

Scan of the report (*Link not available*)

Anti-inflammatory drug raises hope of blocking AIDS

Washington: Scientists have identified an existing anti-inflammatory drug that in laboratory tests blocked the death of immune system's cells which occurs as an HIV infection leads to AIDS.

Researchers are planning a Phase 2 clinical trial to de-

termine if this drug or a similar drug can prevent HIV-infected people from developing AIDS and related conditions. Scientists at the Gladstone Institutes identified the precise chain of molecular events in the human body that drives the death of most of the im-

mune system's CD4 T cells as an HIV infection leads to AIDS.

Two articles, published simultaneously in Nature and Science, detailed the research from the laboratory of Warner C Greene, who directs vi-

search at Gladstone, an independent biomedical-research nonprofit.

His lab's Science paper revealed how, during an HIV infection, a protein known as IFI16 senses fragments of HIV DNA in abortively infected immune cells. *AGENCIES*

Publication: Mint

Edition: New Delhi

Journalist: Nicole Ostrow

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Vitamin E found to help slow effects of mild Alzheimer's](#)

Synopsis: Vitamin E can help slow the effects of mild to moderate forms of Alzheimer's disease, a finding doctors should consider for treating patients. Patients given high doses of vitamin E for about two years delayed progression of the degenerative brain disease by about 6.2 months, compared with those given a placebo, according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Doctors may want to discuss vitamin E as an option in early-stage Alzheimer's treatments, the researchers said. Vitamin E acts like an antioxidant, which may prevent or delay cell damage, and boost the immune system. The new study builds on findings that showed vitamin E seemed to slow disease progression in patients with moderately severe Alzheimer's and is the first to show it may help stall functional decline in those with milder forms, said lead author Maurice Dysken.

Vaccine

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: January 02, 2014

Headline: [Experts lambast govt for discrepancies in causality assessment reports on pentavalent immunisation](#)

Synopsis: Experts on pentavalent vaccine on children have demanded exemplary action against the adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) experts for discrepancies in causality assessment reports on pentavalent immunisation submitted by them to the union health ministry. In the causality assessment of 15/2/13, the AEFI committee had reported that 'the clinical manifestations, age group, season, and time of the death in eight infants were consistent with presumptive diagnosis of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). Apparently the majority of the deaths happened around December and in the night, and these facts were assumed to be sufficient evidence to buttress the conclusion of SIDS.

Access, Affordability, Innovation

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: New Delhi

Journalist: N. Gopal Raj

Date: January 2, 2014

Headline: [Shining light through skin to diagnose malaria](#)

Synopsis: Researchers in the U.S. have come up with a way to rapidly diagnose malaria simply by shining brief pulses of light from a laser through the skin. "This method is distinct from all previous diagnostic approaches,

which all rely upon using a needle to obtain blood, require reagents to detect the infection, and are time- and labour-consuming,” noted the scientists in a paper published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). Rugged and inexpensive microlasers exist that could be modified to create portable devices capable of operating in harsh conditions. Non-medical personnel would be able to operate these devices and obtain a diagnosis in seconds, according to their paper.

Publication: Bangalore Mirror

Edition: Bangalore

Date: January 01, 2014

Headline: [Will robotic arms administer the flu shot?](#)

Synopsis: Annual flu shots to the rescue. Worried about falling sick often and skipping office last year? You can now think about getting those annual flu vaccines. These vaccines, which are very popular in the West, are likely to gain popularity and made widely available in Bangalore. These vaccines are either administered as an injection (a flu shot) or as a nasal spray. Chances are, your doctor is likely to recommend the vaccine given that its effect lasts one year and helps you avoid the contagion throughout the flu season. Competition for da Vinci robots: The popular da Vinci Surgical System made by an American company (Intuitive Surgical) has a monopoly in robotic surgeries across the world. But it's likely to see competition this year. The system's minimally invasive method where robotic arms are manoeuvred by a surgeon to perform surgery has often been criticised for its high cost and difficult learning curve.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: December 31, 2013

Headline: [Looking Ahead: Adieu 'Annus Horribilis'](#)

Synopsis: Affordable innovation: Healthcare for all is a critical need which can only be addressed through access to affordable medicines. The Government needs to enable affordable innovation by defining a smarter regulatory pathway that cuts the cost of drug development. Regulatory reforms that address issues related to Intellectual Property and clinical development coupled with use of technology for procurement will enable better access to drugs.