



**News Updates: January 11-13, 2014**

**Drug Pricing / Price Control**

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Sushmi Dey**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [Wockhardt's review petitions](#)** (Online Headline: Wockhardt's review petitions on drug pricing rejected)

**Synopsis:** The department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) has turned down three review petitions filed by drug maker Wockhardt against the prices fixed for its drugs by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), saying the company should comply with the norms fixed by the regulator. Wockhardt had filed review petitions for three different medicines, insulin injections, povidone iodine ointment and solutions used as antiseptic for treatment and prevention of infection in wounds. According to an official, "The company had raised concerns that while fixing price of povidone iodine ointment and solutions, NPPA had taken only the retail price into consideration, whereas the product was widely supplied to hospitals directly and at a different price."

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Chennai**

**Journalist: Gireesh Babu**

**Date: January 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Pharma industry to see lower growth this fiscal: IDMA president](#)**

**Synopsis:** The pharmaceutical industry in the country, which has been recording a growth of around 15% over past few years, would see a lower growth of 10-12% this fiscal year, owing to the current economic slowdown and the new Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), expects the pharmaceutical manufacturers' association. With the prospects increasing in exports, the association is planning to tie up with its counterparts in various countries including China, Japan and Britain, said S V Veeramani, who recently took over as the president of Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA).

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Kaushal shroff**

**Date: January 11, 2014**

**Headline: [No need to relabel stock in market: Pharma cos to HC](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Delhi High Court has directed the National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA) to submit reply in respect of a proposal made by a slew of pharmaceutical companies who have argued that re-labelling of new prices notified as per the Drug Pricing Control Order, 2013, on the stocks available in the market is not required as long as drug companies publish and distribute revised price lists of their medicines. The ministry of chemicals and fertilisers, through the NPPA, on May 15 last year, issued the new DPCO and granted a period of 45 days to Cipla and other pharma companies to revise downwards the prices of 348 drugs in the market as per the ceiling prices fixed by the government. Subsequently, the pharma companies challenged the 2013 DPCO notification before the high court.

**Patents / Intellectual Property Rights / Compulsory Drug Licensing**

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Rod Hunter: Why India needs to take intellectual property seriously](#) (Scan attached)**

**Synopsis:** Dr Reddy's Laboratories' chairman, G V Prasad, called for the Indian pharmaceutical industry to move up the value chain from generics through investing in research and innovation, reported the Business Standard last week. Mr Prasad's aspirational call to action is, however, a sad reminder of how the government's policies create a hostile environment for investment and hobble Indian creativity. A salient example of these counterproductive policies are the attacks on some 15 medicine patents over the past 18 months. While hailed often as victories, these manoeuvres jeopardise the investment India needs to build intellectual capital, foster growth and employment, and develop medicines relevant to Indian needs.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Chandigarh**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [Jab to replace polio drops next year](#)**

**Synopsis:** As India gains freedom from polio on Monday, it will no more be "do boond zindagi ki". From next year, the high risk states, including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar and Haryana, will have polio vaccines instead of the oral drops for children. This will subsequently be followed in rest of the country. Informing about the polio virus elimination from the country, R K Saboo, founding member of the Polioplus programme, said, "We have achieved this milestone after perseverance and consistent efforts. However, we will not get complacent. The polio drops will be replaced by the injectable IPV (inactivated polio vaccine) next year in the high-risk states." As IPV is not a 'live' vaccine and is an intramuscular injection, it carries no risk of vaccine-associated polio paralysis, he said here on Sunday.

**Publication: The Hindu Business Line**

**Edition: Chennai**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [Bafna to launch chewable iron tablet](#)**

**Synopsis:** Come February, pregnant women with iron deficiency will have a chewable tablet to supplement the nutrient. Chennai-based Bafna Pharmaceuticals has applied for a patent to develop and market in the country a chewable mango-flavoured iron tablet under its Raricap brand. The product will not trigger gastric irritation, a common concern in taking iron tablets, according to Bafna CMD Bafna Mahaveer Chand. He said: "Our product will not have that side-effect. We are working on the packaging and the launch will take place in February. It will be the first chewable iron tablet in the country." The product will be manufactured at the company's factory near Chennai.

## FDI

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: New Delhi (Reproduced from PTI)**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [FIPB to decide on GSK's Rs 6,400-crore FDI plan today](#)**

**Synopsis:** FIPB will take up on Monday GlaxoSmithKline's Rs 6,400 crore FDI plan, the largest foreign investment proposal in the pharma sector this fiscal. There are seven other FDI proposals related to the pharma sector that are scheduled to be taken up by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), headed by economic affairs secretary Arvind Mayaram. According to sources, the Singapore subsidiary of the UK-based GlaxoSmithKline proposes to buy 24.33% stake or 2.06 crore equity shares in GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals through an open offer. The acquisition would result in foreign exchange inflows to the tune of R6,400 crore, they added.

Also appeared in **The Economic Times**: [FIPB to decide on GlaxoSmithKline, other pharma FDI proposals](#)

**Publication:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** January 13, 2014

**Headline:** [Planning Commission consents to create a central fund to compensate clinical trial participants](#)

**Synopsis:** The Planning Commission will soon create a central fund that would be operated only to compensate clinical trial participants in the event of injury during the course of a human study. The creation of such a fund is seen to be a major support for the clinical research industry. It is a positive move in the right direction as the government has now turned around to recognize the need to chip in financial assistance for patient compensation, Prof. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, chairman of expert committee on clinical trials told Pharmabiz on the sidelines of the 7th ISCR annual conference. The funds will not cover any compensation coming under academic research and pharma related drug development activities. It will only be provided to human studies which have been approved by the Technical Review Committee (TRC) constituted under Directorate General of Health Services and therefore it does not dilute the focus of compensation.

**Publication:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** January 13, 2014

**Headline:** [Expert panel to examine essentiality of trial of injectable contraceptive cyclofem & NET-EN by ICMR soon](#)

**Synopsis:** The Union health ministry will soon constitute an expert committee, consisting of at least three gynaecologists and three endocrinologists, to examine the essentiality of conducting the clinical trial of an injectable contraceptive Cyclofem and NET-EN by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The NET-EN is norethisterone enanthate 200 mg as a two monthly injectable hormonal contraceptive. The issue of granting permission for this controversial clinical trial came up for discussion during the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)'s meeting on November 25, 2013. In the meeting, the DCGI Dr GN Singh, who is the member-secretary of the Board, informed the members that the office of DCGI had received an application from an ICMR scientist Dr Malabika Roy for conducting study entitled "Pre-programme introduction of injectable contraceptive Cyclofem and NET-EN through district hospitals and NGO clinics- An ICMR Task Force study."

#### FDA / Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Journalist:** Soma Das

**Date:** January 13, 2014

**Headline:** [Drug companies facing an overdose of penalty](#) (Online Headline: Drug companies likely to face penalty for overcharging)

**Synopsis:** Drug manufacturers could be forced to cough up hundreds of crores of rupees in penalties following the price regulator's move to start calculating the amount the firms have overcharged over the past decade by selling off their old stocks of price-controlled drugs at unrevised rates even after the grace period set by the government lapsed. The exercise comes following a Supreme Court ruling against global drug major GlaxoSmithKline Pharma last month which clarified that unsold medicine stocks of previous batches cannot be sold at higher unrevised prices in the country after the cut-off date fixed by the National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA) elapses.

**Publication:** The Hindu Business Line

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Date: January 11, 2014**

**Headline: [Dr Reddy's Labs launches anti-hypertension drug](#)**

**Synopsis:** Pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd will be launching anti-hypertension drug, Optidoz, in the domestic market. The drug was approved by the Drug Controller General of India, Alok Sonig, Head of India Generics, Dr Reddy's told newsmen here on Friday. It is a single pill combination of three anti-hypertensive drugs - amlodipine, telmisartan and hydrochlorothiazide with optimal dose of individual drugs. "Efficacy and safety of Optidoz has been established through Control-hypertension clinical study approved by DGCI," the company said.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Sushmi Dey**

**Date: January 11, 2014**

**Headline: [Litmus test for Ranbaxy unit as FDA begins inspection](#)**

**Synopsis:** The US drug regulator's team is inspecting Ranbaxy's active pharmaceutical ingredient or API manufacturing factory at Toansa in Punjab, it is learnt. The outcome of the inspection could be crucial for the company because 70-75 per cent of the APIs used in its formulations are understood to be manufactured at the factory, sources said.

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Pallavi Ail**

**Date: January 11, 2014**

**Headline: [Pharma companies rope in third-party advisors to deal with compliance issues](#)**

**Synopsis:** Inadequate resources, coupled with rising demand, has proved to be a stumbling block for Indian pharmaceutical companies, which are struggling to meet compliance standards laid down by the US and UK health regulators. Third-party consultants are being increasingly sought after to rectify problems, which, if not done, could lead to a ban on drug exports to western countries. Contract research company Quintiles Transnational Holdings is the world's largest provider of drug development services and has helped develop or market the top-50 best-selling drugs on the market. It also consults pharmaceutical companies that face regulatory issues in the US and its team consists of former USFDA officials.

**Publication: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Journalist: Joseph Alexander**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [Three-member panel formed to finalise guidelines for good distribution practices](#)**

**Synopsis:** A three-member committee has been formed to finalise the guidelines for good distribution practices (GDP) for pharmaceutical products and to suggest methods for the implementation of the same by the state drug control authorities. The panel consists of director general of drugs, Andhra Pradesh, drug controller of Odisha and ADC (I) North Zone Naresh Kumar as the convener. Rubina Bose, ADC(I), HQ, New Delhi will assist the committee in providing necessary documents for consideration. The CDSCO had prepared guidelines on GDP for pharmaceutical products and the draft had been published for comments. Official sources said large number of comments had since been received from various stakeholders like chemists and druggists associations, individuals, manufacturers associations etc. The committee will now finalize the guidelines after consideration of the comments received and suggests methods for implementation of the guidelines by the states.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Harsha Subramaniam**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: We are moving out of defensive sectors such as consumer goods and Pharma to more of utilities** (No online link available, scan attached)

**Synopsis:** Andrew Holland chief executive officer of Ambit Investment on Indian Stocks and industries that is likely to benefit from lower interest rates and pickup in economic growth in 2014. Edited excerpts from the interview.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Vidya Krishnan**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [India to get polio-free status amid rise in acute flaccid paralysis cases](#)**

**Synopsis:** Government, in its rush to get polio-free certification, has ignored increasing cases of similar ailments, say activists. India will on Monday be accorded "polio-free" status by the World Health Organization (WHO), with not a single case of the crippling disease being reported in the past three years, but studies show the alarming rise of another similar paralytic condition that experts suspect may be a result of increased dosage of polio drops. The last case of polio in the country was reported on 13 January, 2011, from West Bengal. Following the "polio-free" status, India will be certified as a polio-free nation by March, leaving Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria as the remaining polio endemic countries.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Author: Dr. Nata Menabde**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [A landmark achievement for the country](#)**(Online Headline: Polio eradication—a landmark achievement for India)

**Synopsis:** The South-East Asia Region will be the fourth WHO region in the world to be certified as polio free, leaving just two regions yet to be certified. Unprecedented progress has been made towards the goal of polio eradication in India. The last case of polio due to wild poliovirus in the country was detected on 13 January 2011 in Howrah district of West Bengal. This monumental progress in polio eradication brings India and the South-East Asia Region of WHO, comprising 11 countries (including India), very close to the polio-free certification.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Praveen Bose**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [Providing hospital-quality healthcare at home](#)**

**Synopsis:** While there is potential for this relatively new concept, Portea will have to invest a lot in technology and training to succeed in the long term. Ramli Pradhan is in advanced stage of cancer. But she is not in hospital; she's at her home in trained hands, which know how to take care of cancer patients and are sensitive but can sometimes be irritable. Pradhan's daughter has engaged Portea Medical to look after her mother at home. Portea Medical provides in-home healthcare, a new concept in India and a blessing for families like the Pradhans. "For home visits, we provide doctors, nurses and physiotherapists who have passed our rigorous hiring standards and have had their backgrounds and medical knowledge verified by senior doctors," says the company. It also provides nurses for long durations and trained attendants for the old and sick those have difficulty moving around.

**Publication: The Times of India**  
**Edition: New Delhi**  
**Journalist: Kounteya Sinha**  
**Date: January 11, 2014**  
**Headline: [Malaria strain with max risk found](#)**

**Synopsis:** In a discovery that may aid vaccine design for a common form of malaria in India, scientists have found the strain in circulation that attacks human red blood cells by clamping down on them with a pair of proteins. Earlier studies had suggested only one P vivax protein binds to one protein on the surface of red blood cells. The new study reveals the binding is a two-step process that involves two copies of a parasite protein coming together like tongs around two copies of a host protein. Its a very intricate and chemically strong interaction that was not easily understood before, said the study at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis. More people live at risk of infection by this strain of malaria than any other, said senior author Niraj Tolia, assistant professor of molecular microbiology and of biochemistry and molecular biophysics. We now are using what we have learned to create vaccines tailored to stop the infectious process by preventing the parasite from attaching to red blood cells. We have had hints that other forms of malaria, including the African strain, may be binding in a similar fashion to host cells, but this is one of the first definitive proofs of this kind of attack.

**Publication: The Hindu Business Line**  
**Edition: New Delhi**  
**Author: Dr. Nata Menabde**  
**Date: January 13, 2014**  
**Headline: [Vaccines can change children's future](#)**

**Synopsis:** A single medical discovery has changed the future of children. Vaccination is a powerful and cost-effective weapon against disabling and life-threatening diseases. In India, nearly two million children still die from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition and birth complications. Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) is a major cause of bacterial meningitis while pneumonia caused by Hib and Streptococcus pneumoniae (S. pneumoniae or pneumococcus) is also a threat to children's health worldwide. Rotavirus-related diarrhoea sends thousands of children to the hospital and kills a large number too. New vaccines are available to protect against these pathogens and India is now gradually moving towards including these latest vaccines in the immunisation programme.

**Publication: The Financial Express**  
**Edition: New Delhi**  
**Date: January 13, 2014**  
**Headline: [Growth drivers intact](#)**

**Synopsis:** We expect our pharmaceutical coverage universe (ex-hospitals) stocks to record a consolidated revenue growth of 20.7% and Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) growth of 36% year-on-year in Q3FY14F (forecast). The domestic formulation market has been impacted by the implementation of the new pricing policy. In this quarter, the full impact of the price cuts will be visible. In addition, the dispute with trade regarding margins on price-controlled products remains, though our interaction with industry suggests the product flow in the channel has improved in the recent past. We expect Glaxo to be most adversely impacted on this count.

**Publication: Financial Chronicle**  
**Edition: New Delhi**  
**Journalist: Trushna Udgirkar**  
**Date: January 13, 2014**  
**Headline: [Dr Reddy's shifts focus on India to boost revenues](#)**

**Synopsis:** NYSE-listed drugmaker Dr Reddy's Laboratories, which counts it among the top five fastest

growing Indian pharma companies, is focusing on India to do much better than market growth rates, as it has strategised to take on this market with differentiated and superior products. "There are 10 therapy areas which we are inspired to improve and pursue leadership position through differentiated and superior products. We hope to do better than the market growth rates at around 8-10 per cent. This calendar year could see much improvement in the growth environment, with next year being better than this one," said Alok Sonig, senior vice president and India business head-Generics for Dr Reddy's.

**Publication: The Hindu Business Line**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: P.T. Jyothi Datta**

**Date: January 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Maharashtra's prescription for doctor shortage creates flutter](#)**

**Synopsis:** Can homeopaths be allowed to prescribe allopathic medicines? The Maharashtra Cabinet has triggered a fresh debate on the subject, having recently approved a decision allowing homeopaths prescribe allopathic medicines, provided they clear a year-long course on the same. The decision is to plug the shortage of regular doctors in rural areas, where people are more likely to run into a practitioner of traditional medicine rather than an allopath. Tug-of-war: As anticipated, the decision has allopathic doctors sore and the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has said it will contest the decision. But traditional medicine practitioners point out that it is a progressive step towards integrated medicine, especially when the shortage of healthcare professionals looms in the Indian healthcare sector.

**Publication: The Asian Age**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Teena Thacker**

**Date: January 12, 2014**

**Headline: Govt plans unbanked blood transfusion (No Online Link available)**

**Synopsis:** In a bid to tackle the problem of non-availability of blood in rural India, Govt is considering a proposal of permitting Unbanked Director Blood Transfusion (UDBT) in these areas with strict safe guard measures.

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: P.V.V. Murthi**

**Date: January 11, 2014**

**Headline: [71 cancer care institutes sanctioned: Azad](#)**

**Synopsis:** 11 lakh new cases and 5 lakh deaths reported every year in the country. The Union Cabinet has sanctioned the setting up of 71 stand-alone cancer care institutes throughout India at a cost of Rs.6,650 crores in order to tackle the problem posed by the increasing incidence of cancer and the increasing deaths due to cancer in the country, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad has said. Inaugurating the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of the Dr. Ida B. Scudder Cancer Centre (Department of Radiation Oncology) and a Conference on 'Leadership in Cancer Care-Excellence with Relevance' at the Christian Medical College here on Friday, Mr. Azad said that as per the Cabinet decision taken a fortnight ago, one of the 71 institutes would be a national institute, 20 State-level, 27 regional and 23 tertiary. The only existing national level cancer institute, viz., the Chitharanjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, would be upgraded at a cost of Rs.535 crores. Tamil Nadu would have one State-level and one or two tertiary cancer care institutes, he said.

**Publication: Mail Today**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: D. P. Bhattacharaya**

**Page No.: 22**

**Date: January 12, 2014**

**Headline: [Polio victim serves poor and old](#)**

**Synopsis:** AS THE evening sets in, octogenarian Kusumaben gets a little restless. Her 'son' is scheduled to bring her food. A little later, she hears a familiar sound of a scooter and her wrinkled face brightens up. Raghu is here, she will not sleep hungry tonight. Kusumaben is not alone. Several others like her wait for Raghu for their daily share of food and affection. Raghu Makwana is the son they had prayed for and never had — an answer to their old age. Raghu, whose lower limbs are polio affected, has turned into a fulltime son of the destitute in Ahmed- By D. P. Bhattacharaya in Ahmedabad abad's Vadaj area. It all started when Raghu saw an old woman, who was begging outside a temple about three years ago. "She was looking distressed and I asked her if she needed any help," Raghu recounts. The elderly woman produced a medical prescription.

**Publication: The Tribune**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Date: January 13, 2014**

**Headline: [Today, India completes three polio-free years](#)**

**Synopsis:** Come tomorrow and India will complete three years without a case of polio -- a landmark achievement for global public health and the worldwide effort to eradicate polio. This will mean that the World Health Organisation would certify the country -- and the entire South-East Asian Region (SEARO) -- polio-free by late March or early April. For a region to be declared polio-free, all countries therein must go without a single polio case for three years in a row. India recorded its last occurrence in West Bengal's Howrah on January 13, 2011. Also, it is WHO regions such as SEARO which are declared polio-free and not individual nations.