



**News Updates: January 8, 2014**

#### Drug Pricing

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Journalist: Sohini Das**

**Date: January 7, 2014 (online)**

**Headline: [Pharma cos in Gujarat to offer old margins for DPCO drugs](#)**

**Synopsis:** As the tussle between pharma companies and trade gets tougher, most of the Gujarat-based pharma companies, small and big, have yielded to the pressure from retailers to offer old margins for the drugs that have come under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013. Big players like Cadila Healthcare (Zydus Cadila) and Torrent Pharma have agreed to offer the old margins to trade. "Zydus and Torrent would be implementing the same from April 1," said Jashvant Patel, president of the Federation of Gujarat State Chemists & Druggists (FGSCDA). Around 130-135 pharma companies in the state are offering old margins to trade.

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

**Publication: The Indian Express**

**Edition: National**

**Journalist: Mihika Basu**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [India sees sharp drop in patent applications](#)**

**Synopsis:** While patent filing at the Indian patent office has seen a rise of 23.97 per cent from 2007-08 to 2012-13, assessment shows that only a meagre 22 per cent of them have been filed by Indian applicants in 2012-13. While 43,663 patents were filed in 2012-13, a majority or 78 per cent were international applications. The trend has been consistent over the years. In 2011-12, out of the 43,197 patent applications filed, 80 per cent were foreign applications. In 2010-11, the total number of applications filed by the Indian applicants was 8,062, which accounts for only 20.46 per cent of the total number of applications filed during that fiscal.

**Publication: The India Express (The Economist)**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [The new drugs war](#)**

**Synopsis:** Patents on drugs are in the interests of the sick as well as the industry. Protection should not be weakened. Of all the goods and services traded in the market economy, pharmaceuticals are perhaps the most contentious.

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

**Publication: Forbes**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Good time to buy this Indian Pill Pusher](#)**

**Synopsis:** While new rules might have a short-term negative impact on companies in the health insurance space, for example, those in the drug production market could see a boost. That's because firms here are expected to see a surge in demand for their products by people who now have medical insurance, potentially lifting drug company bottom lines. In key emerging markets, many consumers are now in the middle class and can, thanks to

generics, afford a variety of new drugs. As more of these consumers reach this plateau, drug demand could rise once again, suggesting companies that have exposure to both American and emerging market consumers may be top picks. One such company that might thrive in this environment, and also be able to play off of trends in emerging markets as well as U.S. ones, is Doctor Reddy's Laboratories (RDY).

**Publication: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Journalist: Joseph Alexander**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Govt considering to make Schedule M on par with WHO-GMP certification soon](#)**

**Synopsis:** The government is planning to revise the good manufacturing practices (GMP) guidelines and would also consider making Schedule M on par with the WHO-GMP certification. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is learnt to have asked for inputs from the experts in the field on revising the GMP in tune with the global standards and asked them to suggest the methodologies that could be adopted. Another persistent demand from the industry is to make Schedule M on par with the WHO-GMP, avoiding the duplication of having both the certifications. At present, WHO-GMP is the mandatory requirement for global markets entry and specifically for countries which had no dedicated regulatory authority. It is also required for supplying drugs under the global diseases control initiatives such as TB, HIV/AIDS, malaria control project funded by World Health Organization and other international agencies. On the other hand, for domestic supply the manufacturers should be Schedule M compliant only.

**Publication: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Journalist: Shardul Nautiyal**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Pharmacists demand setting up of CDSCO for North Eastern states](#)**

**Synopsis:** Udyog Development Foundation (UDF), a not for profit organisation which concluded the Indian Pharmacists Revolution Yatra from Kashmir to Kanyakumari on January 4, 2014 has demanded setting up of a dedicated zonal office of Central Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for the North Eastern states of India on a priority basis. "Licensing of blood banks, vaccines, medical devices and life saving medicines is currently being done only by CDSCO East Zone with its office at Kolkata. Besides this, the scenario in the North Eastern is grim going by the fact that there are only 8 drug inspectors inspecting 12 eastern zone states," says Amitav Joy Choudhury, convener, IPR Yatra. Eastern Zone comprises of states - Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura.

**Publication: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Journalist: Ramesh Shankar**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Centre to amend Rule 96 of D&C Rules for labeling vaccines with specific reference to origin of vaccine](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Union health ministry will soon amend Rule 96 of Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Rules for labeling of vaccines with specific reference to the origin of the vaccine. The ministry's decision in this regard comes after the World Health Organization (WHO) expressed its concern that the vaccines which are manufactured by using different source of antigen have been labeled with the same manufacturing license number without having any unique identification number which otherwise does not provide the correct information in respect of the origin of the vaccine. The WHO expressed its concern on the issue during the National Regulatory Authority assessment conducted some time back at Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in respect of vaccines manufactured in the country.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National** (*Opinion*)

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Arun Maira | A plan to spur manufacturing](#)**

**Synopsis:** India's manufacturing contributes only 16% to India's gross domestic product (GDP). The principal goal for India's manufacturing growth is to create 100 million additional jobs by 2022. Moreover, these jobs should be generated across the country, and rapidly, to fulfil the country's imperative for faster, and more widespread inclusion in GDP growth. Another goal that must be achieved simultaneously is to increase value addition and technological depth in India's manufacturing sector.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Journalist: Soma Das**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Dabur's Anand Burman, VC Funds back medical devices start-up](#)**

**Synopsis:** Asia Healthcare Fund (AHF), which was floated jointly by Dabur group Chairman Anand Burman and former Dabur Pharma Chief Executive Ajay Kumar Vij, and venture-capital companies Accel Partners and IDG Ventures are close to investing Rs 50 crore in a Bangalore-based medical devices startup, Forus Health.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Journalist: Prashant Mahesh**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [With attractive valuations, IT & pharma midcap stocks are worth a look](#)**

**Synopsis:** Investors in technology and pharma sectors should partially book profits in their largecap holdings and start investing their money in mid-cap stocks to exploit current attractive valuations, say experts. Technology and pharma stocks have been among the best performing sectors in 2013, with the BSE IT index rising 55% and the BSE Healthcare index gaining 25% last year. Large-cap stocks have run up sharply. While TCS gained 72%, Infosys jumped 50%. In the pharma space, Lupin rose 48%, while Sun Pharma moved up to Rs 588 from Rs 372.

**Publication: Hindustan Times**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [After graft complaints, Govt disband hospital management societies](#) (no online link available)**

**Synopsis:** The health minister has been receiving a lot of complaints regarding corruptions in the samitis and hence ended up disbanding these hospital management societies from functioning in government hospitals. The Govt move comes after the mission director of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) ordered that the Rogi Kalyan Samitis be disbanded as these were functioning under the NRHM.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Nagpur**

**Journalist: Payal Gwalani**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Medical colleges to push spending before March deadline](#)**

**Synopsis:** Medical education minister Vijaykumar Gavit and director of Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER) Dr Pravin Shingare met officials from the city's government-run medical colleges on Tuesday. The aim of the meeting was to assess the infrastructure related work that can be completed till March so as to completely utilize the funds allocated to the colleges for the current financial year. Gavit and Shingare held

meetings with Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) dean Dr Rajaram Powar, dean of Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Hospital (IGGMCH) Dr Prakash Wakode and in-charge of Super Specialty Hospital Dr Sudhir Gupta to discuss the many pending development issues of the institutions. The focus of the discussion was upgrade of infrastructure of the colleges in order to increase the number of post graduation seats to satisfy Medical Council of India (MCI) norms.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Nagpur**

**Journalist: Snehlata Shrivastav**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [WHO trying to prevent cross border migration to prevent animal to human diseases](#)**

**Synopsis:** The World Health Organisation (WHO) is trying its best to maximize the cross-border surveillance in all the south-east Asian countries in order to minimize the risk of transfer of contagious diseases, especially those transmitted from animals to man and then from man to man, said Dr Gyanendra N Gongal, here on Friday. The scientist veterinary public health (VPH) from the disease surveillance and epidemiology in the department of communicable diseases at the WHO regional office for southeast Asia said that in the past 57 years the focused efforts are on this front so that various countries can evolve their own concrete policies and strategies to tackle the problem of import of the animal to man diseases like avian influenza, swine flu etc which in recent past has created havoc in many countries.

**Publication: Reuters**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Returns may suffer as drugmakers compete in crowded cancer field](#)**

**Synopsis:** Pharmaceutical companies including Switzerland's Novartis and Roche are among those developing a treatment for a specific type of lung cancer, a field that is now so crowded it may impact profits. A better understanding of the cause of tumors has drawn resources into cancer research at the expense of antibiotics and cardiovascular disease but over-concentration in certain fields could cut commercial rewards, some analysts say. Both Swiss firms are working on treatments for a specific genetic mutation of metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) called anaplastic lymphoma kinase positive (ALK+), which tends to afflict younger patients and non-smokers.

**Publication: Deccan Chronicle**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [717 chemist shops booked in Hyderabad](#)**

**Synopsis:** Over 717 pharmacies in the state were booked for selling antibiotics without prescriptions in December 2013. The enforcement wing of the state Drugs Control Administration had conducted random checks and found that a large number of people were buying antibiotics directly over the counter. Director of Drug Control Dr B.L. Meena said, "We have found that affluent people too do not carry prescriptions to chemists for buying medicines. When some of them were questioned by our staff, it was found that they were mostly self prescriptions, which is very dangerous." The highest number of offenders were in Hyderabad with 71 shops followed by Nalgonda, 41 shops, and Nizamabad with 40 shops. The abuse is rampant in antibiotics for fever, cough, cold, diarrhoea and infectious diseases.

**Publication: Jagran Josh**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Government launched India's first comprehensive adolescent health programme](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Government of India on 7 January 2014 launched the nation's first comprehensive adolescent

health programme named Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) in New Delhi. The programme will include a sharp focus on adolescents' sexual health. The programme has been launched by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad. The Health Minister also inaugurated a three-day National Adolescent Health Consultation. The RKSK defines an adolescent as a person within 10-19 years of age, in urban and rural areas, includes both girls and boys, married and unmarried, poor and affluent, whether they are in school or out of school. This broad definition helps to address the myriad problems of adolescents across various groups and categories. The programme is committed at promotion of adolescent health mission across India and would address to the health needs of 243 million adolescents constituting 21 percent of the total population in the country. RKSK envisions at help adolescents to realize their full potential by making them informed and responsible decisions related to the health and well-being.

**Publication: The New Indian Express**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Polio Drive from Jan 19](#)**

**Synopsis:** The State Government has decided to conduct intensified pulse polio immunisation (IPPI) drive from January 19 to 21 in a bid to get every under-5 years child across Odisha vaccinated for the virus. The drive would comprise immunisation at the booths on January 19 followed by house to house activity in which all the children shall be administered two drops of oral polio vaccine over next two days. All the departments have been instructed to mobilise their resources and work towards the goal in a coordinated manner. The drive assumes significance as even though the State has not recorded any new polio case within the last three years, reports of wild polio virus (WPV) transmission have raised concern again.

#### Innovation/Access/Affordability

**Publication: The Hindu Business Line**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [Quest takes cancer diagnostic services pan India](#)**

**Synopsis:** After a successful pilot run in New Delhi, Quest Diagnostics is taking its cancer testing services to 25 centres across the country. Quest already has collection centres in 25 locations, including Mumbai, Bangalore, Kochi and Kolkata, providing regular testing services but now cancer-specific testing will be extended to these centres, said Mukul Bagga, Managing Director of Quest in India. Cancer-centric diagnostics have specific requirements, like transporting the sample of bone marrow, for example. The services from Quest will be different both in terms of the proprietary technology and the depth of expertise involved in interpreting the data, Bagga told Business Line.

**Publication: Deccan Herald**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Date: January 8, 2014**

**Headline: [New blood delivery service in Maharashtra](#)**

**Synopsis:** India's first "blood delivery on call" service — Jeevan Amrut Seva — was launched across Maharashtra by Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan at a function held at Sir J J Hospital on Tuesday. The service, accessible by dialling the number "104", will see blood delivered on motorcycles equipped with cold-storage facility to maintain the optimum temperature. Earlier, the project was successfully implemented on a pilot basis in Satara and Sindhudurg, said Maharashtra State Blood Transfusion Council's Assistant Director Dr Sanjay Jadhav. State Health Minister Suresh Shetty said while the service's call centre would be based in Pune at present, "the next four months will see the opening of centres in 10 major cities.