



News Updates: November 21, 2013

Innovation

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: November 21, 2013

Headline: [Tharoor stresses on innovation](#)

Synopsis: Innovation and out-of-the-box ideas can significantly reduce the cost of healthcare, Union minister of State for human resource development, Shashi Tharoor, told graduating students of Sri Ramachandra University on Wednesday. If time and distance can be significantly reduced and quality healthcare provided, then families can be spared 'health catastrophe' he told the students.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: November 21, 2013

Headline: [Conference on adapting Indian innovations in health](#)

Synopsis: At a time when the western world is going through a crisis of sorts in the health care sector, a conference at the University of Oxford will explore adapting Indian innovations for better health services across the world. The conference "Big change: Sustainable healthcare for the 21st century" will be held Nov 22-23, said a statement from the organisers. It will focus on the need for affordable innovation that is both sustainable and can deliver health care to those who need it most.

Drug Pricing

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: November 21, 2013

Headline: [Govt extends 30-day exemption from excise duty to more batches of scheduled formulations with new prices](#)

Synopsis: The government has extended the 30 days exemption of excise duty also to the batches of essential medicines, whose prices were revised in July, August and September by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) as per the new Drug Price Control Order (DPCO).

Earlier in July, the Finance Ministry had given this exemption for repacking and relabeling to the first batches of scheduled drugs whose prices were fixed in May and June, after implementing the new DPCO that mandates the NPPA to bring in the essential medicines under the price control ambit. As per the DPCO, the window period given to the manufacturers to effect the new prices was 45 days.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India (article appeared in DNA)

Edition: Online

Date: November 21, 2013

Headline: [Global spotlight on 'cuts' for medical referrals](#)

Synopsis: Indian medicine's most embarrassing aspect- professional 'cut' practice or 'payment' made to a doctor for referring a patient for consultation, tests or hospitalization -has made it to the latest issue of The Lancet, a premier international medical journal. Dr. Bawaskar has penned an article exposing doctors going on foreign junkets sponsored by pharmaceutical companies as an incentive to the doctor to promote their products. He said there is a need for a watchdog to curb such practices.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: November 21, 2013

Headline: [Pfizer-Wyeth merger may lead to re-rating of entity](#)

Synopsis: India has emerged as a global leader in vaccines with about one-third share of the total market. "India's share in global vaccine market is consistently increasing and at present the country contributes more than 33% in the global market.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: November 21, 2013

Headline: [India emerges as leader in global vaccine market: Govt](#)

Synopsis: Wednesday's rally in the share prices of Wyeth and Pfizer, the Indian subsidiaries of the respective US pharma majors, could be a precursor to the eventual re-rating of the merged entity. Wyeth shot up 20 per cent to hit the upper circuit as soon as the merger plan was announced, while Pfizer hit a fresh 52-week high, closing the day with gains of 5.2 per cent. The respective boards of directors of the two companies will meet on November 23 over the merger.

Publication: The Financial Express (article appeared today in print. It has been reproduced from The Economist)

Edition: All editions

Date: November 21, 2013

Headline: [Give, and it shall be given unto you](#)

Synopsis: JAPAN's pharmaceutical firms are an inventive bunch: only the American and British drugs industries produced more new medicines between 2005 and 2008. But their record on healing the diseases of the poor is not so good. The Access to Medicine Foundation, a non-profit group, tracks drug firms' efforts to serve patients in developing countries; and in its ranking of the 20 biggest ones, Japanese firms occupy four of the bottom six rungs.

Criticism of pharma companies for restricting low-income countries' access to drugs reached a head at the turn of the millennium, when makers of life-saving HIV treatments refused to provide them at affordable prices to patients in Africa. The resulting outrage forced the drug firms to rethink their policies. Today most of the biggest ones tout themselves as allies in the fight against infectious disease. In some cases this means donating medicines, or licensing technology to makers of generic drugs. In others it means collaborating to develop a new vaccine or treatment. For example, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a British firm that tops the Access to Medicine Foundation's index, will next year seek regulatory approval for a malaria vaccine. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (which is also a partner in the GHIT Fund) helped to finance its development.