



News Updates: October 5-7, 2013

OPPI

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Headline: [Below The Line: Revisionist economics](#)

Synopsis: Detailing how the country's "population problem" has morphed into a "demographic dividend", Chanda Kochhar, MD and CEO of ICICI Bank, struck a note of caution at the CII HR summit in Mumbai last week. While highlighting the advantages of large population, she and other speakers urged policymakers to provide adequate employment opportunities for the burgeoning workforce. Twelve million people are being added to the workforce every year and this phenomenon is likely to continue for the next two decades. Jobs, however, are not going to grow at that pace. The old guard gave way to the new at the recent annual general meeting of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, a platform for multinational companies. Injecting humour into this "serious business" was Dilsher Singh Kalha, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals. "Except for Chris, all of us are stepping down," he said, referring to the others on the podium with him; that included Christopher Viehbacher, the global chief executive of multinational drug-maker Sanofi. As the audience burst into laughter, Kalha said: "I will (be stepping down) in about 30 days. I hope Chris remains where he is." Also giving up office were the OPPI president and director-general, Ranjit Shahani and Tapan Ray respectively.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Headline: [Dr. Shailesh Ayyangar](#)

Synopsis: Dr. Shailesh Ayyangar, managing director, India and vice-president, South Asia, Sanofi India Ltd has taken over as the new president of OPPI.

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IPR / Patents

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Headline: [The right cure for pharma frauds](#)

Synopsis: The Indian pharmaceutical sector is the world's third largest in volume and 14th in value; it stands at \$21 billion-plus and expected to grow at 13 per cent CAGR. Drugs estimated at \$116 billion are going off-patent in the next five years (Source: India Pharma IIFL Report 1Q 2009). This presents a huge opportunity for Indian generics players. With an eye on global business, ensuring brand integrity and reputation becomes paramount for Indian pharmaceutical industry.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Headline: [Editorial: What's yours is mine](#)

Synopsis: While MNCs in the pharmaceuticals sector keep complaining about India's patent laws, the traditional argument advanced by Indian authorities is that the policy is WTO-compliant and that India is simply preventing the kind of frivolous patenting that many countries in the West have. The policy on compulsory licensing was a bit more difficult to defend especially since, though the costs mattered a lot to those who were affected by the disease, their numbers were not large enough to justify a compulsory licence—this is usually supposed to be used in the case of a national emergency, say the outbreak of a new virus or something.

US FDA

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Headline: [Indian pharma company in dock over fake medicines in Ghana](#)

Synopsis: Indian drugmakers continue to find themselves on the wrong side of global regulators, with the latest being Maharashtra-based Bliss GVS Pharma which has been alleged by African nation Ghana's health watchdog to be supplying "fake" medicines in the country. Food and Drug Authority Ghana said in a statement that officials of Bliss GVS Pharma of India and Ghanaian drug maker Tobinco Pharmaceuticals have apologised to it for importing 'fake malaria medicine' to Ghana to treat malaria in children.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Headline: [Trial sponsors must reveal payments to investigators: Central Drug Standard Control Organisation](#)

Synopsis: As a part of the effort to bring in greater transparency in the conduct of clinical trials in India, the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has made it mandatory for sponsors of clinical trials to reveal the payments that will be made to the trial investigator when applying for approval of the trial. The circular signed by the Drug Controller General of India G N Singh stated that information regarding financial support, fees, honorarium, payments in kind etc. to be paid to the trial investigator as per the contract between the sponsor and investigator or institution conducting the clinical trial will have to be given to the DCGI office.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: National

Headline: [Allow clinical trials, With checks in place](#)

Synopsis: The Indian clinical trials industry is estimated to be worth \$400 million and trends suggest it will only grow. Considering these factors, the government had ample time and reason to fashion a strong regulatory mechanism to protect its citizens who are the subject patients and ensure that all norms were followed stringently by the CROs and the pharma industry.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: National

Headline: [Govt bracing up to avert shut-down of clinical trials sector following SC order](#)

Synopsis: With the ban by the Supreme Court on all clinical trials is looming, the Government will bank on the recommendations by Prof Ranjit Roy Choudhury committee and the new Drugs and Cosmetic (Amendment) Bill, 2013 to avert the disastrous shut-down of clinical trial industry. Spurred by the recent strictures by the Supreme Court to stay approvals of 162 trial applications, the Health Ministry is learnt to have taken stock of the situation 'with utmost seriousness' and is planning to convince the court about the mechanism in place to monitor the trials. However, the authorities sounded optimistic that no harsh steps would come from the court.

Publication: Zee News

Edition: Online

Headline: [Clinical trials needed to develop new medicines: Industry body](#)

Synopsis: Clinical research would enable India to find newer and better medicines to treat its population and reduce mortality rates for various diseases, according to an apex association of clinical research professionals. We strongly believe in the need to create a sound clinical research ecosystem that encourages local research and innovation said Indian Society for Clinical Research (ISCR) President Suneela Thatte to PTI.

Drug Pricing

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Headline: [Supreme Court raises question on new Drug Price Control Order](#)

Synopsis: The Supreme Court today raised a question on the new Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) of the Centre to fix the ceiling price of essential medicines on the basis of market-based pricing. A bench headed by Justice G S Singhvi said the Centre is being guided by market driven forces and asked an NGO, which challenged the policy, to place before it statistics on comparative analysis of drug prices under the new policy and the existing market price.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Headline: [Torrent Pharma: BOOK PROFIT](#)

Synopsis: Healthy fundamentals and attractive valuations helped mid-sized pharma major Torrent Pharma's stock outperform the BSE Healthcare Index over the last seven months. The stock has gained over 28 per cent since the last buy recommendation in March, compared to a 20 per cent rise in the healthcare index. But it may be challenging for the stock to sustain performance in the near future for three reasons. Pricing pressure in Brazil will temper Torrent's margins.

General Industry

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Headline: [Indian pharma majors step up R&D spend by 19.7% in 2012-13](#)

Synopsis: Expenditures on Research & Development (R&D) by 30 leading Indian pharmaceutical companies have gone up significantly by 19.7 per cent during the year ended March 2013 over the previous year. But the focus of R&D by these companies is on new cost effective generic products in key therapeutic areas and not on new drug discoveries. With higher spending on R&D they are set to tap upcoming opportunities from loss of patent exclusivity in the coming years. The major companies like Shasun Pharmaceuticals, Hikal, Unichem Laboratories, Biocon, Natco Pharma, Fresenius Kabi Oncology has pushed their R&D expenditure over 50 per cent during 20112-13. Sun Pharmaceutical, Piramal Healthcare, Wockhardt, Jubilant Lifesciences, Ipca Laboratories, Glenmark Pharma also registered handsome growth in R&D expenditure. The R&D expenditure of Ranbaxy Laboratories, Torrent Pharma, Panacea Biotec, Venus Remedies, Parabolic Drugs and Divi's Laboratories declined during 2012-13.