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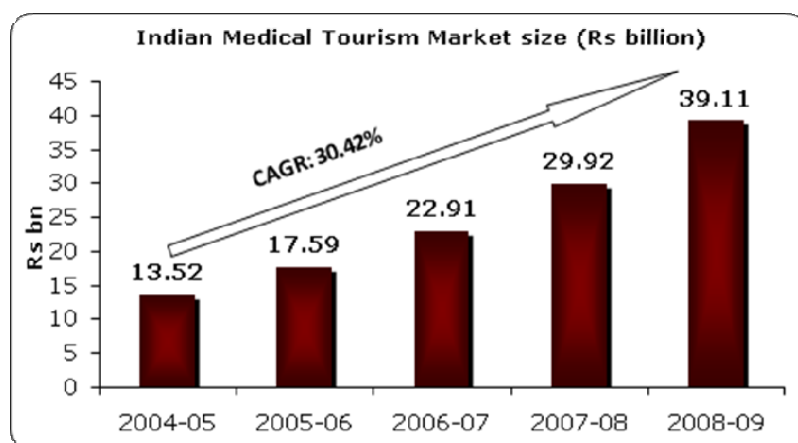
In Focus: Booming Medical Tourism

Introduction

Medical tourism or health tourism is a fast growing industry in India. People from all over the world come to India for medical treatment and traditional therapeutic services. The major treatments offered are heart surgery, knee transplant, cosmetic surgery and dental care. The major reason for India becoming a favourable destination is the availability of infrastructure and technology on par with global standards such as that of the US, the UK and Europe. Some of the best hospitals and treatment centres in the country offer world-class services at low costs.

Market Size

Medical tourism in India has been growing at 30% per annum for the past five years. Cygnus estimates the market size of the industry at Rs39.11 billion for the fiscal 2009, witnessing a CAGR of 30.4% over the period 2005-09.



Source: Cygnus Research

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India – the World's Healthcare Hub

Medical tourism has gained momentum in India over the past few years. Tourists from across the globe have been increasingly flying to India to utilise cost-effective yet superior quality healthcare in terms of surgical procedures and general medical attention. According to a 2008 study by global market research firm Deloitte, India received 0.45 million medical tourists in 2007. Low costs, qualified super-specialty physicians and surgeons, high-quality corporate hospitals, good connectivity by air, train and road, and robust telecommunications facilities are attracting patients from both developing and developed countries. India has virtually become the most preferred destination of medical tourists, enjoying a considerable superiority over countries like Singapore and Thailand.

Following are the factors boosting Indian medical tourism industry:

Low-cost treatment

India offers a gamut of medical treatments from simple dental procedures to complex cardiac surgeries at a cost equal to one tenth of what it costs in the US. Although private healthcare costs may seem expensive to most Indian citizens, they are a great deal lesser than the prevailing costs in most developed countries. The British government, for instance, can cut its healthcare spending by flying down its citizens to India for treatment. By opting for a surgery in India, patients can save 60–95% of their treatment costs.

The cost advantage that India enjoys in healthcare services is phenomenal. An open-heart surgery could cost anywhere between US\$34,000 and US\$70,000 in the UK or the US. In India, the same surgery will cost between US\$3000 and US\$10,000, depending on the institute/hospital. The cost advantage that India enjoys in healthcare services is anywhere between 200% and 800%.

World-class healthcare facilities

The penetration of corporate sector in medical care has given rise to many hospitals of global standards in India. These include Max Healthcare, Fortis, Apollo, and Wockhardt among others. These hospitals offer world-class medical facilities that are comparable with the ones in the US or the UK. The sustained growth of super-specialty hospitals and hospital chains across India will ensure that medical tourists keep coming to India. As significant increase in patient arrivals lies in global accreditation, corporate hospitals have begun factoring this requirement into their medical tourism plans. In addition, Indian doctors have got an expertise in performing successful cardiac surgeries, bone marrow transplants, liver transplants, orthopaedic surgeries and other medical treatments.

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Increasing number of accreditations

The other thing that supports the growth of the sector is the growing number of Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditations being awarded to Indian hospitals. The JCI is an international body that awards accreditations to hospitals across the world. This will reassure foreign patients that they obtain quality healthcare in India.

Initiatives by the Government

The Indian government is taking steps to address infrastructure issues that hinder the country's growth in medical tourism. While the private sector has always been an important source of medical care, since 1991 neoliberal government policies supporting the private sector have created conditions for its rapid growth. Owing to the government's Open Skies policy, India has been better connected with the world in the last few years than ever before. Analysts foresee a growth of 30% in the number of medical tourists visiting India in 2009. This figure has been projected to reach 40% in subsequent years. In order to provide impetus to the industry, the tourism ministry is planning to extend its MDA scheme to cover JCI and National Accreditation Board-certified hospitals. The scheme offsets overseas marketing costs for travel companies earning foreign exchange.

Issues & Challenges

There are certain issues and challenges that need to be addressed to overcome the roadblocks and facilitate faster growth of this industry in India. The issues that need attention are:

- Basic amenities and hospital infrastructure
- Co-ordination between the healthcare and tourism sectors
- Creating a resource pool of highly skilled and cordial human resources
- Standardisation of services and accreditation of hospitals
- Increasing visibility of India on the world map
- Accreditation norms to be adopted by all major hospitals
- Hospitals must conform to a code of ethics
- Provision of a uniform price band for major specialities, especially for health insurance majors
- Handling of medico-legal issues

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Outlook

India is one of the most potential tourism markets in the world. It has expanded rapidly over the past few years and is underpinned by government support and rising income levels. The Indian tourism industry will continue to grow at fast pace in the coming years. Amid the gloom surrounding the tourism sector, a positive development emerging is medical tourism. India's medical tourism sector is expected to grow at an annual rate of 30% to become a Rs95 billion industry by 2015. Wellness tourism, which comprises spa, yoga and Ayurveda, has a very bright future in India as foreigners are increasingly flocking to the country to seek physical and mental healing. Both foreign employers and insurance firms are likely to outsource majority of medical treatments to India. The Indian government predicts that India's healthcare industry could grow 13% annually in the next six years, significantly driven by medical tourism.

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News Briefs

MARKETING

Americas

USA: US FDA approves monthly injectable drug for treating immune-related arthritis

The US Food and Drug Administration approved Simponi (golimumab), a monthly treatment for adults with moderate-to-severe rheumatoid arthritis, active psoriatic arthritis, and active ankylosing spondylitis. All three conditions are chronic disorders in which the immune system attacks multiple joints, causing stiffness, pain, and restricted motion. "Today's approval provides another treatment option for patients with these three debilitating disorders," said director of the Division of Anaesthesia, Analgesia, and Rheumatology Products in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. And the steps we're taking to minimize the risks will give patients the same level of safety protection required for other drugs in its class."

USA: US FDA approves benzyl alcohol lotion for head lice

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new prescription medication for the treatment of head lice (*Pediculosis capitis*) infestation. Benzyl alcohol lotion, 5%, is the first head lice product approved by the FDA with benzyl alcohol as the active pharmaceutical ingredient. "Head lice are a problem that impacts more than a 1 million children each year and is easily transmitted to others," said director FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. This drug is an effective first line treatment to eliminate lice infestation, and minimise disruption in the daily routines of families. Benzyl alcohol lotion, 5%, is distributed by Sciele Pharma Inc., a subsidiary of Atlanta-based Shionogi Company.

Asia Pacific

India: Transasia launches new auto-clavable mechanical pipette range

Transasia Bio-Medicals Limited has launched a new autoclavable mechanical pipette range, the Proline Plus family (Erba Biohit Range manufactured by Biohit, Finland). The new Proline Plus pipettor has combined the basic functionalities of the traditional Proline mechanical with new, state-of-the-art pipettor design and technology. Novelties compared with the regular Proline include a more ergonomic design, reduced pipetting force, autoclavability and improved UV light resistance, as is easier and faster maintenance. Proline Plus is available in both adjustable single and multichannel models and fixed volume single-channel models, in volume ranges from 0.1 µl to 10 ml. Like all other mechanical pipettors from Transasia, Proline Plus is CE/IVD marked and comes with a three-year warranty.

India: Cadila develops a drug, which can prevent cardiac diseases

City-based pharma major Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd (CPL) has developed a medicine Polycap, which will have far reaching repercussions in preventing cardiovascular diseases in the world, claimed company officials. The drug developed by CPL will soon be available in the market in the country and CPL will also launch it abroad after proper registrations, CPL's Indravadan Modi said. Sharing the details with media of the newly developed tablet, CPL chairman Indravadan Modi and senior scientists said that research of Polycap revealed that the tablet reduced the risk of coronary heart disease by 62% and stroke by 48%.

India: Drug retail sales hit 14-month high in Mar

Retail sales of drugs in March registered their strongest monthly growth since February 2008 mainly on the back of an aggressive pitch by companies to clear stocks before the end of the financial year. Sales went up by 18.4% in March compared with 14.7% the same month last year, according to research firm ORG IMS. This monthly growth is the highest in 14 months when sales had grown 19.8% year on year, according to ORG IMS. As late as in October 2008, sales in the Rs350 billion drug retail market had

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dipped by 1.2%, the first time in many years, mostly attributed to consumers shifting to cheaper brands and stockists facing a financial crunch. This had surprised industry analysts as demand for medicines is need-based and considered immune to economic slowdown, which has hit most sectors.

INVESTMENTS

Asia Pacific

India: Ayurveda Hospital launched in Hubli

The new 30-bed hospital for classical Ayurveda medical care offers effective solutions for chronic illnesses and lifestyle disorders. AyurVAID Hospitals, a leading chain of Ayurveda hospitals promoted by Kochi-based Kerala First Health Services Private Limited, announced the opening of its first facility in Hubli. The hospital offers the full range of out-patient and in-patient medical services for treatment of serious medical conditions using classical Ayurveda. The full range of Ayurveda out-patient and in-patient medical management services including comprehensive panchakarma and other classical Kerala Ayurveda treatment procedures under the supervision of senior physicians and trained nurses is now available to the residents of Hubli-Dharwad.

India: Deepam Group firms up Rs600m hospital in Chennai

The 250-bed Deepam Hospitals group (DHG) of Chennai is setting up a 200-bed high-end tertiary care hospital. It has tied up a Rs300m funding with State Bank of India for the multi-speciality hospital project estimated to cost Rs600m. With a target to reach 600 beds by end-2010, Deepam's upcoming greenfield project, 8 km away from the airport, would make it the single largest corporate hospital to dot the city's healthcare landscape after Apollo Hospitals, DHG chairman Dr A Pandian said.

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China: Sanofi-Aventis builds new manufacturing site in Binjiang New Development Zone

Sanofi-aventis announced that the company will relocate its current manufacturing facility from downtown Hangzhou and build a new manufacturing site in Binjiang New Development Zone. This new site represents an investment of 270m Renminbi (€31m). The new site is scheduled to be completed by 2012 and have an expanded capacity of 160m packs. With an area of 44,775 square meters, the new site also allows the potential for further expansion and the creation of an export hub to other Asian countries

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RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Americas

USA: Myriad Pharma gets IND approval for new cancer drug

Myriad Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced that the FDA has approved an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to begin a phase 1 clinical study with its Hsp90 inhibitor, MPC-3100, for the treatment of cancer. The clinical development plan for MPC-3100 is designed to expedite the drug candidate through the clinical development path. The phase 1 trial will assess the safety and pharmacokinetics profile of MPC-3100. In preclinical testing, MPC-3100 has demonstrated potent anti-cancer activity in xenograft models of Her2+ breast cancer, myeloid leukaemia, lung cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, melanoma and gastric cancer.

Asia Pacific

India: Glaxo, Pfizer HIV research JV may harm generic cos

The recent move by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Pfizer to jointly float a new company, focusing exclusively on research, development and commercialisation of HIV medicines, could potentially harm Indian companies that manufacture generic versions of these life-saving medicines and supply them at affordable rates, said top industry officials. Currently, there is no compulsory licensing provision for these life-saving drugs to ensure that big companies sell them at affordable rates, Cipla CMD YK Hamied said. Indian pharma companies are now clamouring for compulsory licence on a 4% royalty basis, so that they can manufacture and sell the drugs at affordable rates. Compulsory licence is a licence given by the government to a third party to use a patent without the authorisation of the patent holder. It permits a government to issue a licence to manufacture and export a patented drug in certain exceptional circumstances.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Americas

USA: US FDA asks OTC drug makers to revise labelling on pain & fever drugs

The Food and Drug Administration issued a final rule that requires manufacturers of over-the-counter (OTC) pain relievers and fever reducers to revise their labelling to include warnings about potential safety risks, such as internal bleeding and liver damage, associated with the use of these popular drugs. Acetaminophen and NSAIDs are commonly used drugs for both children and adults because they are effective in reducing fevers and relieving minor aches and pain, such as headaches and muscle aches, said director, FDA's Office of Non-prescription Drugs in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Under the final rule, manufacturers must ensure that the active ingredients of these drugs are prominently displayed on the drug labels on both the packages and bottles.

USA: US\$32m partnership aims to boost healthcare workforce in California

Aimed toward creating new jobs in California, Govt. Arnold Schwarzenegger had announced the Allied Health Initiative. The US\$32m public-private partnership is aimed at reducing California's critical healthcare worker shortage by adding thousands of professionals to California's hospitals and healthcare facilities over the next three years, according to a news release. This partnership is being led by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and includes several state agencies, the California Community Colleges, along with the University of California and California State University systems, and the California Hospital Association and its member teaching hospitals. The Initiative will begin in the fall with 25 community colleges enrolling more than 700 additional allied health students in their classes.

Asia Pacific

India: Govt plans separate quality norms for drugs and devices

The government has decided to create separate quality guidelines for medical devices and not treat them as drugs. It will also classify medical devices based on the risks involved. The new guidelines are likely to

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be ready by the month-end. At present, medical devices are treated like drugs and are regulated by state drug regulators under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The guidelines would make it mandatory for both domestic, as well as, global medical device makers to get their products certified by notified bodies, such as International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), before selling them in the domestic market. The new norms will help create a level-playing field for Indian manufacturers of medical devices with global makers, such as Siemens, Philips, General Electric (GE) and LG Electronics. Medical device manufacturers, who require a free sale licence from the Indian government to export their products, were facing problems in the absence of clear regulations and necessary licences.

India: Mobile hospitals to come up in country soon

Seeking to cater to areas hit by natural or human-made disasters, the government would soon come out with the first ever mobile hospitals in the country, which can be set up at any calamity stricken region within a short span of six hours. The decision to set up five mobile hospitals, which would cost Rs300m each, was taken by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) three years back, member of the NDMA steering committee said. The work is in progress and would be completed soon, he said. The 200-bedded hospices would have 10-12 units each comprising Intensive Care Units (ICU), blood banks, operation theatres and even kitchens. The project which has been conceptualised by the NDMA would work under the aegis of the Union home ministry with due assistance from other nodal ministries like health and family welfare.

India: Centre to help drug cos meet stringent US quality laws

The government has said that it will prepare the domestic drug industry to meet new regulatory challenges in the US market, which arose due to implementation of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Globalisation Act 2009. An unaware domestic firm may face threat of losing authorisation for marketing its drugs in the US, said a government official. The US market is about 50% of India's Rs300 billion drugs export. Indian pharmaceutical firms export relatively cheaper generics to the country. The US government has recently introduced the new law to strengthen its drug quality control system. As per the new law, all medical and health, including imported drugs and medical devices, are required to be registered with the USFDA. The registration will be reviewed periodically and exporters will be required to pay an annual registration fee. The registration would be done only after physically verifying the manufacturing facilities. Besides, the new Act also creates a dedicated foreign inspectorate to increase the USFDA's ability to monitor foreign facilities producing food, drugs, devices and cosmetics.

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India: Centre to talk MNC pharma cos into keeping a check on prices

A government move to regulate prices of patented medicines imported and marketed in India by multinational drug-makers may come as a big relief to those suffering from diabetes, arthritis, cancer and heart diseases. The proposed mechanism, whereby prices will be regulated in consultation with the drug marketers, is currently being finalised, said a senior official. "After negotiations with the government, companies will sell imported drugs at two different prices—one for bulk medicines sold to the government-run hospitals and the other for the retail market," he said. While the National Pharmaceutical

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Pricing Authority (NPPA) regulates prices of all notified drugs sold in the country, the government finds it difficult to keep a check on prices of imported medicines even if they are under price control. Imported brands often circumvent price control norms as the pricing authority has no means of verifying their production cost. To determine the cost, the NPPA relies on MNCs' version of the production cost and sets profit margins as a percentage of their landed costs. As the margin is decided in percentage terms, raising the landed cost helps MNC drug companies get a higher margin.

India: NPPA sees 12-fold rise in penalties for overcharging from drug companies

A streamlined administrative setup and close coordination with state agencies have helped India's drug price monitoring authority to register a 12-fold increase in collections of penalty from pharma companies for selling medicines at prices higher than approved rates. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) collected Rs565m in 2008-09 by way of penalties, up from Rs45m in 2007-08. "We are closely monitoring prices of medicines and proactively pursuing recovery of overcharged amount from companies," said NPPA chairman. The pricing authority has also intensified its effort to book pharma companies indulging in overcharging. These cases have been referred to respective district collectors, an NPPA official said.

OPERATIONS

Americas

USA: Sequenom adopts cost cutting in Genetic Analysis biz for financial strength

Sequenom, Inc announced that as a result of the continuing weak outlook in 2009 for capital equipment sales, particularly in the USA, the company has implemented cost cutting initiatives in the Genetic Analysis (GA) business to ensure the unit remains financially strong and approaches cash flow breakeven. These measures are expected to generate increased operational efficiencies and reduce costs while continuing to allow Sequenom to serve the needs of its current and future genetic analysis customers.

Asia Pacific

India: Malladi Drugs establishes new R&D facility in Chennai

The Rs1.50 billion Malladi Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (MDP) has established a new state-of-the-art research and development (R&D) centre on two acres at Poonamalee in Chennai. Last October, it also moved into a new corporate office in the city. The centralised unit, which was recently inaugurated ICICI Venture Funds Management Company MD Renuka Ramnath, houses 75 people, Malladi officials told ET. MDP is a leading producer of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine salts. The R&D centre would cater to process development for APIs and advanced intermediates. Apart from the process lab, the facility houses two cGMP-complaint kilo labs and a bio-tech lab.

India: Jubilant and Orion for joint manufacture of drugs

Bangalore-based Jubilant Biosys and Noida-based Jubilant Chemsys have together signed an agreement with Finnish pharmaceutical company Orion for joint manufacture of drugs. In a statement to the BSE, Jubilant Biosys and Jubilant Chemsys - subsidiaries of Jubilant Organosys - said Orion will have the option of using resources from both the companies. "...Jubilant's flexible and hybrid platform of innovative discovery chemistry, biology and insilico services demonstrates its ability to customise and accelerate global drug discovery efforts. It will be our continued endeavor to enable creative partnering models." A team of scientists from Jubilant Biosys and Chemsys will do research on Orion's projects at the two subsidiaries.

India: Regenix Drugs forays into manufacturing

Surgical and medical device marketing company Regenix Drugs has forayed into manufacturing. Following a collaboration with Canadian, American, European and Chinese firms, the Chennai-based entity is gearing up to manufacture USFDA-compliant products like ultrasound, ECG and cardiac machines. It is also bringing to the country for the first time CIN-Tech — a diagnostic equipment — that is aimed at drastically reducing the cost on cervical cancer treatment. "We are planning to launch our

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product array at the state Indian Medical Association-organised conference in Trichy," Dr Ramamurthy said, adding all of them have the US-Food and Drug Authority and CE certifications.

India: GSK stops Actified production to check abuse

Glaxosmithkline Pharmaceuticals India has stopped manufacturing its cold and cough drugs sold under the brand names Actified and Actified Plus after it was found that some people were illegally extracting pseudoephedrine, a narcotic chemical, from the medicines to sell overseas. In January, the Mumbai wing of India's Food and Drug Administration busted a racket, which included two GSK officials, extracting pseudoephedrine and selling it overseas. The FDA officials reportedly seized Actified and Actified Plus tablets worth Rs6.70m during the raid.

IBM announces new Healthcare Industry Solutions lab in China

IBM has announced the opening of a Healthcare Industry Solution Lab in Beijing, where IBM will work with hospitals and rural medical cooperatives to make healthcare "smarter" as the Chinese government enacts widespread healthcare reform. Experts at IBM's new Healthcare Industry Solution Lab — which is one of eight IBM solution labs in China — will work with healthcare providers to adopt digital medical records, which improve patient care while reducing cost and medical errors. Through IBM's software, hardware, services and R&D expertise, providers can better serve patients through collaborative, coordinated health systems based on open industry standards.

India: Sagar Hospitals launches new Dialysis facility

Sagar Hospitals, Banashankari announced the launch of its new dialysis facility at the recently inaugurated 415-bed multi-speciality hospital in Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore. Both inpatient and outpatient services will be provided in the department of nephrology with the newly inaugurated state-of-the-art dialysis centre. The 15-bed unit has facilities for chronic maintenance hemo dialysis, emergency hemo dialysis and ICU dialysis apart from general nephrological care. Separate dialysis rooms are available at the new hospital for private and isolated dialysis.

CORPORATE

Americas

USA: Asterand, Abcam enter collaborative pact for characterise antibodies

Asterand plc, a leading provider of human tissue and services to scientists engaged in drug discovery research, has entered into a collaborative agreement with Abcam plc, the rapidly growing bioscience company that markets antibodies via its own online catalogue. Asterand will undertake the validation and characterisation of a selected group of Abcam antibodies for immuno-histochemistry applications using Asterand's PhaseZERO Human Tissue Services platform. The database consists of quantitative human gene expression profiles that chart the expression topography of more than 2,000 commercially relevant gene transcripts across a panel of 72 human tissues.

USA: Gen-Probe acquires Tepnel Life Sciences

Gen-Probe has completed its acquisition of Tepnel Life Sciences, plc, a rapidly growing molecular diagnostics and pharmaceutical services company based in the United Kingdom, for 27.1 pence (US\$0.40) (1) per share, or approximately £92.8m sterling (US\$136.4m) in total. The company believes this acquisition brings Gen-Probe new growth opportunities in transplant diagnostics, genetic testing and pharmaceutical services, and also accelerates its European expansion strategy, said Carl Hull, Gen-Probe's president and chief operating officer.

Europe

UK:England: Biogen Idec's high titer process for MS drug Tysabri gets US FDA nod

Biogen Idec announced that the US Food and Drug Administration has approved the company's high titer process for the production of its multiple sclerosis drug Tysabri (natalizumab). Biogen Idec received

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similar approval from the European Medicines Agency for the high titer process in December 2008. The new, higher-yield process will be used to manufacture Tysabri at the company's plant in Research Triangle Park. "Developing this high titer process is another example of the world-class expertise and leadership in biologics manufacturing," said Biogen Idec chief operating officer. Biogen Idec is a global leader in biologics manufacturing with capabilities and capacity for protein production that are world-class in quality and scale.

London: GlaxoSmithKline buys US skincare firm Stiefel for US\$3.6bn

British drugs firm GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) said it will buy Stiefel Laboratories, US maker of anti-itching creams, acne treatments and other skincare products, for as much as US\$3.6 billion. The deal for Stiefel, worth the equivalent of €€2.7 billion, had been expected after US media reports over the weekend. GSK and Stiefel Laboratories announced that they have signed an agreement to create a new world-leading specialist dermatology business, the pair said in a joint statement. Under the terms of the agreement GSK will acquire the total share capital of Stiefel for a cash consideration of US\$2.9 billion. "The combination of Stiefel and GSK will create a leading company in global dermatology with a strong presence in the prescription, consumer and aesthetic skin health markets," said Charles W. Stiefel, chairman and chief executive officer of Stiefel. "Along with adding hundreds of marketed dermatology products, this deal will increase the value of Stiefel's unparalleled dermatology pipeline by expanding the customer base to which we will be able to offer these products."

Denmark: Nuevolution, Merck extend collaboration

Nuevolution A/S announced that Merck & Co Inc has chosen to proceed to the second phase of the collaboration agreement announced in June 2008 to apply Nuevolution's proprietary Chemetics drug discovery technology to identify novel small molecule leads against several drug targets. By entering the second phase, Merck gains access to a new multi-million member proprietary library of small molecule drug candidates. In addition, this development triggers the payment of an undisclosed technology access fee to Nuevolution from Merck. Chemetics enables rapid synthesis and DNA-tagging of hundreds of millions of chemically diverse drug-like small molecule compounds and the efficient screening of these, facilitating the identification of potent drug leads at unprecedented quantity, quality and speed compared to existing drug discovery technologies

Asia Pacific

India: Glenmark to stop morphine sales in US

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said it will cease sales of its morphine sulfate product in the US following a warning letter from USFDA. In compliance with the conditions of the warning letter, Glenmark will cease distribution of morphine sulfate product line within the time lines indicated by the USFDA, Glenmark said. Morphine Sulfate is an old drug and had been previously classified as "grandfathered" drug in the US.

India: Aurobindo Pharma gets tentative US nod for HIV drug

Drug maker Aurobindo Pharma said it secured a tentative approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to sell its emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate combination drug in tablet form. The anti-HIV drug is the generic version of Gilead Sciences Inc's branded drug Truvada, Aurobindo said in a statement.

India: Suven all set to raise funds for Alzheimer trials

Suven Life Sciences' molecule for Alzheimer's disease will soon enter phase two trials. The Hyderabad-based contract research company is in the process of raising funds for the trials through a combination of debt, equity and strategic partner, the managing director told ET. "The phase two trials will cost the company US\$20m. The strategic partner we are looking at could be either a private equity player or a pharmaceutical company that wants to in-license the molecule later," said MD Venkat Jasti. The company is expected to announce a strategic partner in the next six months when the company will commence the phase two trials. Typically, phase one trials are done on human beings for the first time on a smaller scale.

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India: Glenmark gets first nod for Zetia generic

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has got tentative approval from the USFDA for the generic version of Schering Plough and MSP Singapore Company LLC's hypercholesterolemia treatment Zetia (ezetimibe). The company's US subsidiary Glenmark Generics, said this is the first tentative approval granted by the FDA for a generic version of the drug. Glenmark said it has first-to-file status on Ezetimibe tablets, giving it a potential of 180-days of marketing exclusivity. Glenmark would have the earliest opportunity among any competitors to gain market share from the branded product Zetia which achieved sales of US\$1.5 billion in 2008.

India: Wockhardt chief sees liquidity easing

Wockhardt Chairman Habil Khorakiwala has assured employees that the company's liquidity problems will ease in "coming weeks and months" as the company undergoes debt restructuring. In a letter to all employees, a day after the company announced corporate debt restructuring to manage over Rs34 billion of debts and his stepping down as chairman, Khorakiwala indicated the company wasn't looking to sell its core businesses. In the letter to all 6,000 employees across the globe, he said the company would divest some non-core businesses. He said CDR would ensure better inventory and cost management practices and in achieving normalcy in cash flows.

India: Zydus files application with FDA for new molecule

Drug firm Zydus Cadila said it has filed an application with the US Food and Drug Administration for its molecule being developed at the Zydus Research Centre for treating a disease concerning the elevation of the level of fats in blood. The disease for which the application has been made is called dyslipidemia. With ZYT1 entering the first phase of clinical trials, it has promising commercial potential because of an absence of effective treatment for dyslipidemia patients, Zydus Cadila Chairman and Managing Director Pankaj Patel said.

India: Piramal shuts UK manufacturing unit

Piramal Healthcare Ltd will have closed its Huddersfield unit in United Kingdom, the company informed the Bombay Stock Exchange. The operation in the unit has been stopped as a part of Piramal's consolidation of global manufacturing assets. This overseas facility was a catering to custom manufacturing requirements of the company. According to Piramal, the closure will result in a one time cash cost of approximately Rs700m which will be incurred in the year ended March 31, 2009. The company believes that the closure of the overseas unit will increase its profitability as India is emerging as a custom manufacturing destination.

India: Pfizer may buy RFCL's veterinary co for Rs2.50bn

Global pharma giant Pfizer has emerged as the frontrunner to acquire RFCL's animal health unit, Vetnex, in a deal estimated around Rs2.50 billion, people familiar with the situation said. This follows the ICICI Venture-controlled RFCL's move to divest its animal health business earlier this year. Pfizer is in advanced talks with RFCL — and possibly close to a deal — to acquire the unit, leaving other potential bidders out of the race. ET first reported on the RFCL (formerly Ranbaxy Fine Chemicals Ltd) decision to sell the unit in March 2009.

India: Roche to tap tissue diagnostic biz in West Bengal

Roche Diagnostics India, a wholly-owned arm of Swiss pharma and diagnostics major F Hoffmann-La Roche, plans to expand its India footprint by foraying into the tissue diagnostic segment. It plans to roll out tissue diagnostic systems, which will help in faster and easier diagnosis of cancer and infectious diseases. This will be in conjunction with substantial investment on clinical research for generating India-specific data for both, new product development, and marketing existing products. Roche plans to consolidate its Indian operations over the next 3-4 years and emerge as one of India's top healthcare diagnostic equipment companies.

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HR

Americas

USA: Cardinal Health to reduce workforce by 800 in six months

Cardinal Health announced that its Clinical and Medical Products businesses that are expected to be spun off later this year as CareFusion Corporation, will reduce its global workforce by approximately 800 over six months and eliminate an additional 500 positions through normal attrition and not filling open roles. In addition, Cardinal Health will implement cost control measures and additional reductions in discretionary spending across all of its businesses, primarily in response to a delay in hospital capital spending and the overall decline in the global economy. "While many companies have taken similar actions to respond to the current economic realities, these are very difficult decisions because of their effect on our employees and their families," said Cardinal Health chairman and chief executive officer. However, these measures are necessary to help offset current economic conditions and will ultimately strengthen its businesses for the longer-term.

EXPORTS

Asia Pacific

India: Pharma exports cross US\$1bn mark in December 2008-09

The exports of pharmaceutical products were valued at US\$1.01 billion in December, the highest in the first nine months of 2008-09. According to Pharmaceuticals Exports Promotion Council, total exports in December surged by 46.3% to US\$1.01 billion from US\$609m in the same month of the previous fiscal. The overseas sales in the first nine months of 2008-09 went up by 21% to US\$8.44 billion against US\$6.97 billion in 2007-08. In the current economic slowdown, the 21% growth in dollar terms in nine months of fiscal 2008-09 was a good growth, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance Secretary General said.

OTHERS

UK

London: GSK, Pfizer sign pact to create a new world-leading HIV company

GlaxoSmithKline plc (GSK) and Pfizer Inc announced they have entered into an agreement to create a new world-leading HIV company focused solely on research, development and commercialisation of HIV medicines. The new HIV business will be more sustainable and broader in scope than either company's individually, and will hold a 19% share of the growing market and have an industry-leading pipeline. GSK will initially hold an 85% equity interest in the new company and Pfizer will hold 15%. The clear focus of the new business will be to invest in research and development of innovative HIV treatments and formulations that improve adherence and overcome resistance to the virus.

Asia Pacific

India: Pharma industry insulated from eco downturn says Biocon Chief

The pharmaceutical industry in the country is insulated from the global economic slowdown, Biocon Chairman and Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said. "The pharma industry in general was not impacted and instead was insulated from the economic downturn," Mazumdar-Shaw told reporters here. "We in India can in fact leverage the global approach to reduce cost of healthcare. India is already a popular health destination because of cost effectiveness," she said. "(US) President (Barack) Obama's call for bio-generics and affordable healthcare heralds a new era for Biotherapeutics. Our pipeline of bio-generic monoclonal antibodies and insulins supported by strong manufacturing base, provides us with a unique opportunity to build partnerships with key players in this segment", she said.

Indian pharma industry may gain US\$18.4bn from global market

With the global pharmaceutical market likely to witness products worth US\$123 billion losing patents by 2012, the generics driven Indian drugs industry could get benefit of around US\$18.4 billion (about Rs915.76 billion) from those products. According to a report of an inter-ministerial task force headed by

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a Joint Secretary of the Commerce Ministry, at a conservative estimate of 15% opportunity, India can garner US\$18.4 billion of all the drugs that would go off patent in the next three years. Approximately US\$123 billion worth of products are at risk of losing patents by 2012. "Even at a conservative estimate of 15% opportunity, this translates into US\$18.4 billion opportunity for India," the report said.

India: Contract jobs to keep pharma cos healthy

Most Indian pharmaceutical and life sciences companies have entered the Crams sector which typically implies outsourcing of manufacturing by global pharma majors to Indian companies, and is expected to become a US\$2.46 billion industry by 2010, from its current size of US\$869m, according to a KPMG-CII study. Swati Piramal, vice-chairperson of Piramal Lifesciences, the R&D arm of Piramal Healthcare, says Crams would account for 30-35% of Piramal Healthcare's revenue in the next fiscal year. The global Crams sector is projected to touch US\$64 billion by 2010, with India, already a leading manufacturer of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) and intermediates. Indian companies can aim for a larger chunk of the market, prompting countries like China to join the bandwagon, say persons familiar with the trend.

India: Pharma industry against safeguard duty on Chinese antibiotics

The small pharmaceutical industry is opposed to imposition of safeguard duty on import of antibiotic bulk drugs 6APA and erythromycin from China. In a letter to the department of pharmaceutical, the small pharmaceutical industry confederation (SPIC) said that a safeguard duty, if imposed, would favour only one manufacturer that produces these bulk drugs in India. A safeguard duty can be imposed by a country on a product if there is an import surge leading to disruption of the domestic market. Recently the commerce ministry had sought the views of department of pharma asking it to examine if there is a need to intervene or impose a safeguard duty on imports of bulk drugs 6APA and erythromycin from China. The move came in the wake of some drug makers asking the government to intervene and protect the local firms against imports from China.

India: Govt to stock up on anti-viral pill

The ministry of health and family welfare will stockpile 10m doses of anti-viral tablet 'oseltamavir' in the next seven days as a precautionary measure against a possible outbreak of swine flu, which has been officially reported in 11 countries so far. The medicine will be stocked in different locations across the country to ensure a quick response to any emergency situation, said Vineet Chaudhary, joint secretary in the health ministry. The ministry had sought price quotations for oseltamavir from five drug makers — Ranbaxy, Cipla, Hetero, Natco Pharmaceuticals and Roche. The government order will provide domestic drug makers a business opportunity of around Rs2.50 billion, said a pharmaceuticals industry analyst who asked not to be named. On an earlier occasion, the ministry had procured the anti-viral medicine at around Rs250 for a strip of 10 tablets.

India: New Delhi rejects American firm's plea to patent Hepatitis B drug

The Delhi Patent Office has rejected American company Gilead Sciences' plea to patent its Hepatitis B drug adefovir dipivoxil sold under the brand name Hepsera. India's largest drugmaker Ranbaxy had filed a pre-grant opposition against Gilead's patent application saying that it is not a new drug and lacked inventions. This is Gilead's second drug to be rejected by the Delhi Patent office in the last two months. Last month, the same patent office turned down the company's patent application for its popular anti flu drug Tamiflu as the patent office found merit in Cipla's opposition that the drug lacked invention to be given a patent under Indian patent laws.

India: Dip in US drug sales may hit Indian cos

The pharma industry tracking body, the US-based IMS Health, has highlighted that pharma sales in the US are likely to decline by 1-2% y-o-y this year. The expected fall in the US, which is the world's largest market, could be attributed to the increasing medical and health-related costs being passed on to individuals. The significance of the forecast is that the US is one of the largest markets for most Indian generic exporters, such as Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's and Ranbaxy. Growth opportunities, according to IMS, for CY09 lie in emerging markets, like China and Latin America, which should help total global pharma sales rise by 2.5-3.5% y-o-y this year. Indian generic players, such as Dr Reddy's and Ranbaxy,

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have already beefed up their marketing network in these emerging markets to take advantage of the opportunities in these markets.

India: Diabetes, anti-fungal drugs to get cheaper

Retail prices of several anti-diabetes and anti-fungal drugs will come down, following cuts in the prices of bulk drugs 'glipizide' and 'tolnaftate' by drug regulator the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Bulk drugs, or active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), are key raw materials used in medicines. Medicines for treatment of diabetes and infections will be cheaper by 11% and 39.4%, respectively, due to the cut in bulk drug prices, said an NPPA official, who asked not to be named. NPPA has fixed the prices of these drugs in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO), and formulators based on these drugs will have to follow its provisions.

India: Drugs with composition change need fresh approval

Drug makers changing the composition of existing formulations to escape price caps will now have to come to the Centre for fresh approvals. In a move aimed at keeping a check on companies, which replace price-controlled ingredients with ones outside price control, the Centre has directed state drug regulators not to allow them to sell such drugs with their old brand names. The move is significant as companies are now likely to think twice before they make any change in the existing composition and approach the Centre for a fresh approval. This would also mean that companies will have to subscribe to a new brand name. The decision comes in the wake of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) seeking action from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) against companies that dodge price control by tweaking ingredients of medicines and then misguide consumers by retaining the original brand name.

India: Healthcare seen as growth driver for IT: NASSCOM

While Infosys CEO Kris Gopalakrishnan predicted recovery of IT sector in the fourth quarter of this year, NASSCOM president Som Mittal has advanced his predictions to the third quarter. The industry has already started showing some positive outlook. The growth will be driven by power, media, utilities and especially health care, he said, at the Emerge Out Conclave organized by NASSCOM. Customers are not questioning the competitiveness of the Indian IT industry and are ready to invest in IT in the long term, he pointed out. According to him, untapped verticals are capable of tripling the IT sector growth rate. Healthcare, a recession proof sector, is a growth opportunity, particularly for Indian SMEs, he said. It will be driven by increased usage of the web for data warehousing and customer portals by health service providers.

India: Medical community network launched

medTitans eServices Private Limited launched the first ever doctors' network recently. medTitans eServices Private Limited has created a space— accessible in seconds, free from the barriers of time and distance. medTitans will provide the ideal platform for doctors, it will help keep them updated with current trends, as it is not possible for the doctors to attend all relevant national and international seminars. Case studies, medical literature and other information will help them enhance their knowledge.

India: Healthcare to get a shot with 'auto-disable' syringes

The country's healthcare delivery system is set to get a safety shot, with a government mandate on the use of auto-disable syringes (AD) coming into effect in end-April. A legislation signed late last year requires all central government hospitals under CGHS to use only auto-disable (AD) syringes to avoid the spread of disease. AD syringes are designed for a single use, with a lock that prevents reuse and eliminates unauthorised packaging or even resale. According to AISNMA, the syringe market in India is currently worth Rs20 billion crore and is growing at 10%. Per capita consumption in India, he said, was low, with a person takes 7-8 shots per year on an average. In rural areas, reuse of conventional syringes is common.

India: More than US\$1.17m funding for Hepatitis C

Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation has announced funding of more than US\$1.17m, focused on Hepatitis C prevention and education and the mitigation of the disease in India, China, and Taiwan. The funding is

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part of Delivering Hope, an umbrella programme for Bristol-Myers Squibb's efforts in the areas of Hepatitis awareness, prevention and care. One of the recipients of the funding is The Liver Foundation (India), which will conduct a survey of the impact of liver disease and Hepatitis C and utilise the findings to inform public health policy and foster prevention and awareness activities in at risk populations. The funding recipients will prepare a report at the completion of their projects. These reports will be shared with the Hepatitis C community to enhance the body of knowledge on Hepatitis prevention, care, and support, added Damonti.

India: SevenHills Hospitals, Mumbai to start from July 09

SevenHills Hospitals Limited, located two kilometers from the Chattrapati Shivaji International Airport of Mumbai, is getting ready to start its operations from July, this year. Located in a sprawling 17-acre land, this ambitious project is being built to house 1,500 beds. The Rs6 billion project is being constructed at a site, where previously Marol Cancer Hospital was located earlier. The funding for the project is a mixture of debt and equity. Additionally, the group is planning for a few more hospitals across the country. All these projects are likely to be Greenfield projects.

India: Two Fortis hospital blood banks get NABH

The blood banks at Fortis Hospital Noida (FHN) and Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre (EHIRC) have been awarded the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Organisations) accreditation from the Quality Council of India (QCI). The blood banks at FHN and EHIRC are amongst the seven NABH accredited blood banks in India, Said President-Medical Strategy & Quality, Fortis Healthcare Limited, The NABH standards for blood banks provide framework for quality assurance and quality improvement for blood banks. The QCI follows a continuous process where regular monitoring and stringent corrective action plan leads to the building of a strong culture at all levels of operations and functions.

India: State to start MBA in healthcare

The Maharashtra government has decided to introduce masters in business administration (MBA) degree in the field of healthcare management from June 2009, said minister for higher and technical education Rajesh Tope. Tope said that as far as the infrastructure was concerned there was no problem in starting the course from this academic year onwards. The minister said the government was facing the problem of shortage of post-graduate doctors in civil hospitals, as a result of which hundreds of posts were lying vacant. He said the state will give momentum to the health management information system, due to which information of a patient treated in one hospital would be available on the net for other hospitals.

CREMA's new PG diploma in clinical research offers management & soft skills module

Clinical Research Education & Management Academy (CREMA) has set up the Advanced Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Research Management (APGDCRM) course. The one year post graduate diploma includes not only Clinical Research module but Clinical Data Management, Pharmacovigilance and Management & Soft skill module as well. It is first of its kind broad course in India will introduce Leap Learning System. In the length of with main courses modules of clinical research, APGDCR programme will incorporate key management topics such as Modern Principles in Management, Organizational Behaviour Studies, Finance, Human Resources Management, and Outsourcing Vendor Management. There also will be special emphasis on Self Management & People Skills, Communication, Project management, Business Communication & Business Etiquette, will be a part of the curriculum.

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Product Focus – Omeprazole

Omeprazole

Introduction

Omeprazole is in a class of drugs called proton pump inhibitors (PPI) that block the production of acid by the stomach. Other drugs in the class include lansoprazole (Prevacid), rabeprazole (Aciphex), pantoprazole (Protonix), and esomeprazole (Nexium). Proton pump inhibitors are used for the treatment of conditions such as ulcers, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and the Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, which are all caused by stomach acid. Omeprazole, like other proton-pump inhibitors, blocks the enzyme in the wall of the stomach that produces acid. By blocking the enzyme, the production of acid is decreased, and this allows the stomach and esophagus to heal. Zegerid contains omeprazole and an antacid (sodium bicarbonate). The FDA approved omeprazole in September 1989.



Preparations: Capsules: 10, 20 and 40 mg. Tablets: 20 mg (Prilosec OTC). Powder for oral suspension: 20 and 40 mg

Storage: Capsules should be stored at 15°-30°C (59°-86°F) and tablets at 20°-25°C (68°-77°F). They should be kept away from moisture and light.

Drug Information	
Brand Name	Omez, Prilosec, Zegerid
Major Manufacturer	DRL, AstraZeneca
Drug Name	Omeprazole, Omeprazole/ Sodium bicarbonate
Therapeutic segment	Anti-ulcerants

Uses

Omeprazole is used for treating acid-induced inflammation and ulcers of the stomach and duodenum; gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD); erosive esophagitis, heartburn; prevention of upper gastrointestinal bleeding in critically ill patients; and Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome. It also is used in combination with antibiotics for eradicating *H. pylori* infection of the stomach.

Drug Interactions: Omeprazole potentially can increase the concentrations in blood of diazepam (Valium), warfarin (Coumadin), and phenytoin (Dilantin) by decreasing the elimination of these drugs by the liver. The absorption of certain drugs may be affected by stomach acidity. Therefore, omeprazole as well as other PPIs reduce the absorption and concentration in blood of ketoconazole (Nizoral) and increase the absorption and concentration in blood of digoxin (Lanoxin). This may reduce the effectiveness of ketoconazole or increase digoxin toxicity. Through unknown mechanisms, omeprazole may increase blood levels of saquinavir and reduce blood levels of nelfinavir and atazanavir, drugs that are used for treating patients with infection caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Accordingly, the dose of saquinavir may need to be reduced to avoid toxicity, and the doses of nelfinavir and atazanavir may need to be increased to maintain efficacy.

Side Effects: Omeprazole like other PPIs is well tolerated. Nervousness, abnormal heartbeat, muscle pain, weakness, leg cramps, and water retention occur infrequently.

Precautions:

- Before taking omeprazole, tell the Physician if the person finds allergic to it; or to similar drugs (e.g., lansoprazole, esomeprazole); or if the person have any other allergies

Side effects

Diarrhoea
Nausea
Vomiting
Headaches
Rash
Dizziness

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- Before using this medication, tell the Physician about the medical history, especially of: heartburn for more than 3 months, heartburn combined with lightheadedness/sweating/dizziness, chest pain or shoulder/jaw pain especially with trouble breathing, frequent chest pain, pain spreading to arms/neck/shoulders, unexplained weight loss, trouble or pain swallowing food, liver problems, persistent nausea/vomiting/stomach pain, blood in vomit or stools (vomit that looks like coffee grounds, black stools), other stomach problems (e.g., tumors)
- This drug may make the person dizzy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Limit alcoholic beverages.
- This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with the physician. It is not known whether this drug passes into breast milk. Breast-feeding while using this drug is not recommended. Consult the physician before breast-feeding

Global Scenario

Prilosec is the principal product from AstraZeneca. Sales of the Prilosec were US\$317.63m in 2007 from US\$145.24m in 2004. It is estimated to reach US\$273.16m in 2008. AstraZeneca almost stopped all promotion for Prilosec and discussed the drug with doctors just to compare it unfavourably with other generic competitor called Nexium.

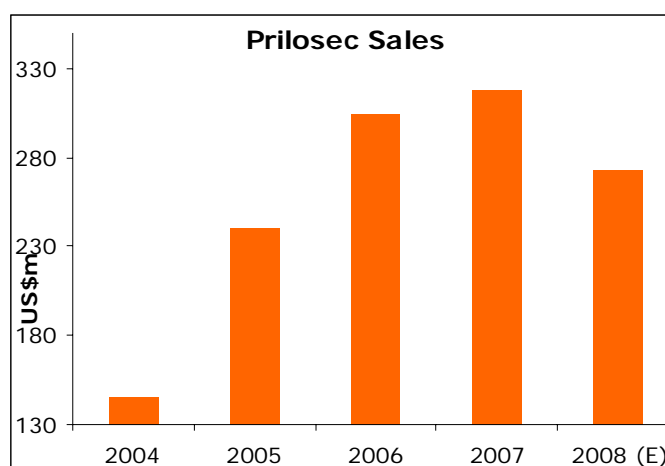
Indian Scenario

Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Inc. (RPI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited (RL), Gurgaon, India has announced that under an agreement with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, it has launched an authorized generic of Omeprazole 40mg Capsules in the U.S. healthcare system. Omez had reached its revenues of about Rs966m in 2007-08 from Rs830m in 2006-07, with hike of 16%. Also it comes under the top 10 brands in DRL. In Russia, revenue of Omez increased to Rs849m in 2007-08 from Rs821m in 2006-07.

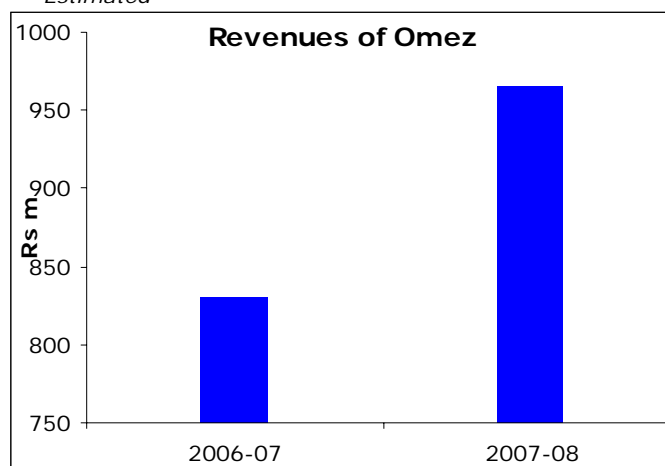
Future Scenario of Omeprazole

Ranbaxy entered into a pact with AstraZeneca under which the former will formulate a significant portion of the global drug maker's US supply of blockbuster medicine Nexium from May 2010. Ranbaxy will also start supplying raw material for manufacture of Esomeprazole magnesium to AstraZeneca from 2009. Esomeprazole is the second largest selling drug in the US with total annual market sales of US\$5.5 billion.

Nexium is brand name used by AstraZeneca. Ranbaxy would also be able to start sales of the ulcer drug from May 27, 2014 under licence from AstraZeneca. During the 180 period following that date, Ranbaxy will distribute the only generic form of the mega drug in the US market. In two separate agreements,



Source: Market Sources; Cygnus Research; E-Estimated



Source: DRL Annual Report; Cygnus Research

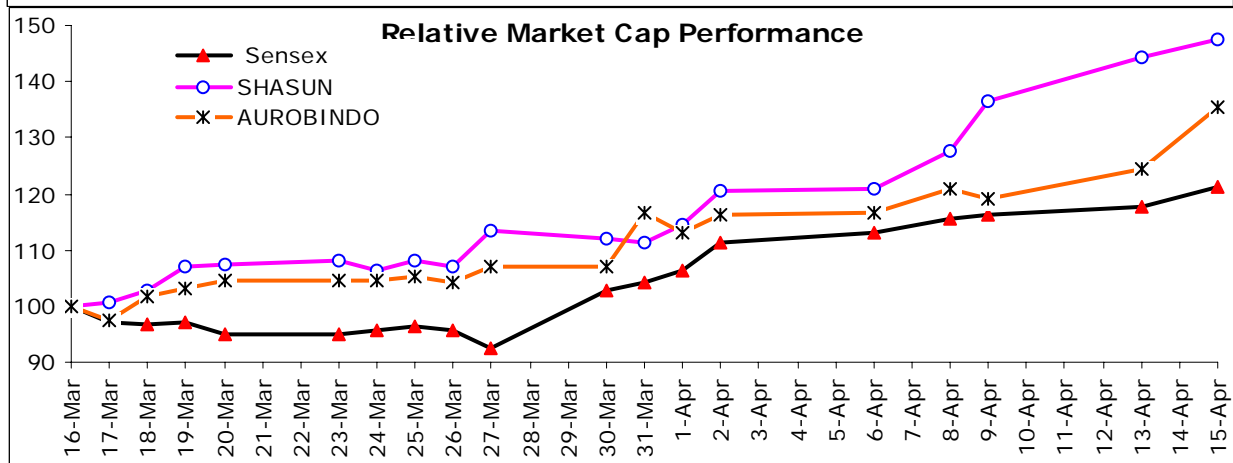
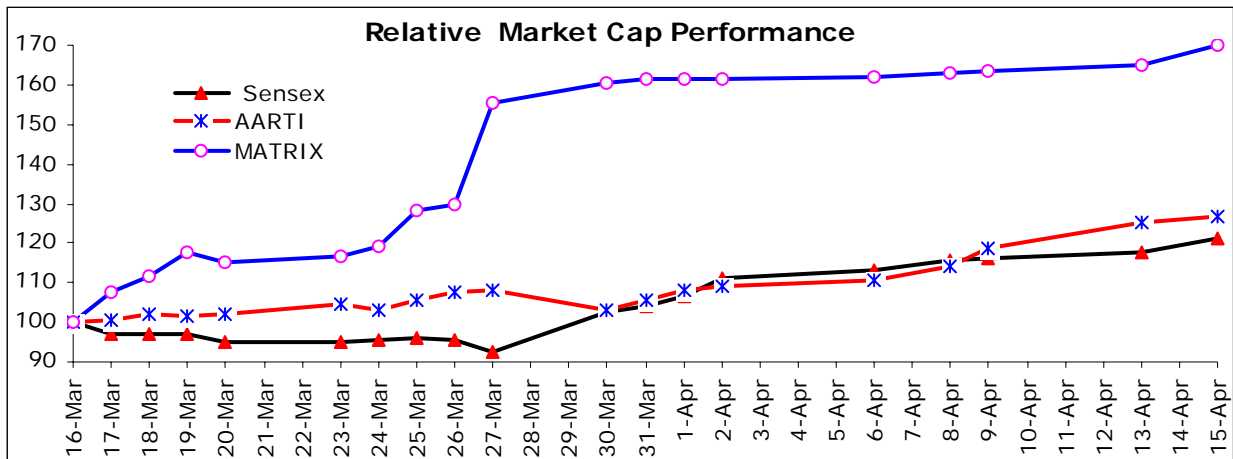
AstraZeneca also designated Ranbaxy as the US distributor for the authorised generic versions of hypertension drug Felodipine and acid-related diseases drug Omeprazole 40 mg.

Outlook

Products indicated for the treatment of GERD/PUD diseases dominate the global (Gastrointestinal tract disorders) GIT market, valued at US\$27.8 billion in 2006. However, sales over the next five years will decline as a result of increased generic competition caused by impending patent expiries.

AstraZeneca's domination of the GIT market is forecast to decline by 5% over the 2006-12 period. The success of Nexium and an impressive launch schedule containing four new products is expected to drive this success. However, past treatment failures and limited etiological understanding have created difficulties in achieving the clinical efficacy and safety profiles required for success.

Stock Scan



Source: BSE India; Cygnus Research

	16 Mar – 22 Mar	23 Mar – 29 Mar	30 Mar – 05 Apr	06 Apr – 15 Apr
Sensex	Sensex gained marginally during this period under consideration.	Sensex posted sharp gains of 12% during the week, aided by global markets. Metal and realty stocks led the rally this week.	The Sensex posted sharp gains during this week aided by positive cues from the overseas markets.	The Sensex posted gains during this period. The index began the week on a strong note, surpassing the 11,000-mark with ease.

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AARTI	This week registered positive trend of 2.22% on par with Sensex.	Share price gained around 3.40% as it moved in tandem with Sensex.	Positive trends in the global market made the share price move up by 3.02%.	Positive sentiments made its share price gain by 16.33%.
MATRIX	Positive sentiments in the market made its share price move up by 15.28%.	Bullish sentiments prevailed in the market. Stock moved in tandem with BSE Sensex.	The share price inflated by 25.86% as the company received the first tentative approval from the USFDA for Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate tablets, used in combination with other medications to control HIV infection, which then attracted the investors during this period.	Increasing demand for shares made stock price move up by 5.14%.
SHASUN	This week registered positive trend of 7.55% on par with Sensex.	The price remained almost stable.	Lively market trends made the share price move up by 11.42%.	Positive investor sentiments pushed the share price up by 22.57%.
AUROBINDO	The share price increased by 4.61% as it received registrations from the Medicines Control Council (MCC) to manufacture and market three products in South Africa. This attracted the investors during the period.	The share price increased by 0.59% as it moved in tandem with Sensex.	Positive trend followed this week. The share price increased by 10.45% on par with Sensex.	Positive trends in the global market made the share price move up by 16.60%.

Regulatory Issues

A New FDA website is going to come soon.

Shortly, New FDA website is going to come soon. From June 1, 2009, FDA will no longer accept paper submissions for Registration and Listing.

The purpose of the FDA Data Standards Council (DSC) is to coordinate the evaluation, development, maintenance, and adoption of health and regulatory data standards to ensure that common data standards are used throughout the agency and the standards are consistent with those used outside the FDA. It is accomplished through strategically focused and systematic analysis of health and regulatory data standards requirements, evaluation of existing standards and adoption or development and maintenance of standards.

The following are the FDA resources for standards

- Structured product labelling
- Individual cases safety report
- Regulated product submission
- CDISC data standards
- Stability data standard
- Substance registration system- Unique ingredient identifier (UNII)
- Federal medication terminology hosted by NCI Enterprise vocabulary services
- FDA terminology hosted by NCI Enterprise vocabulary services
- Xforms
- Validators

FDA approves pancrelipase (Creon Delayed-Release Capsules) for adult and paediatric patents

The USFDA has approved pancrelipase (Creon Delayed-Release capsules) for adult and paediatric patents with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI) due to cystic fibrosis (CF), chronic pancreatitis, and other conditions. The product is from the Solvay pharmaceuticals and they market for gastroenterology doctors.

Asia pacific

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority fixes, revises prices of 296 formulations

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed or revised prices of 296 formulations, including nine imported drugs from global majors like Pfizer, Aventis Pharma, Novartis and Novo Nordic.

According to the notification issued by the NPPA, prices of mono-component insulin formulations -- Lantus 100 IU/ML cartridge and Lantus 100IU/ML solostar -- imported by Aventis Pharma were revised with the former one going up by 12.83% (up from Rs 481 to Rs 543.12 per 3ml cartridge). Three formulations by Pfizer Products India, containing methyl prednisolone also became costlier. Among them, price of Solu Medrol AOV 125mg was revised from Rs 252.46 per 2ml vial to Rs 290.34, up by a whopping 15%.

Prices of three insulin formulations from Novo Nordisk India were also fixed while Vitalux Plus TR tablet by Novartis became costlier from Rs.291.57 to Rs 304.76, making an increase of 4.52%, the notification said. The pricing authority also revised the price of dettol antiseptic liquid of Reckit Benkiser

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from Rs 5671.90 to Rs 6333.18, for 12x5 litre container. Its prices increased by over 11%. Other formulations products came under revision and fixation such as chloroquine tablets, multivitamin syrup, and combination of vitamin C + kojic.

CDSCO flags off the good distribution practices drive through Pharma Zone project in three cities.

In order to promote the concept of Good Distribution Practices, the CDSCO has planned a Pharma Zone project in three cities of New Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad. The Pharma Zones will come up within the international airports. The first of the Pharma Zone's is now underway at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi at a cost of Rs 7 crore. The Pharma Zones will be equipped with cold storage facility, cold chain vans and labs to offer services like the drug sampling, medical device audits, pharmacovigilance and quality control and detect spurious and narcotic drug movement. It will avert the chance of cross-contamination and drugs need to be stored at varied temperatures from -20 deg C to ensure efficacy.

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Upcoming Events

1	Event	Pharmafest Premier Pharmaceutical & Medicine Techno-Trade Event
	Date	May 06-08, 2009
	Venue	Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), South Africa
	Highlights	Pharmafest is purely dedicated to pharmaceutical industry and will bring together all the key players under one roof, providing exhibitors with an astonishing networking opportunity. The exhibition will provide an excellent platform for service providers to showcase their products and services to decision makers from leading pharmaceutical manufacturers. The event will be the pharmaceutical industry's esteemed source of innovation and knowledge.
	Contact details	Event Manager, Vantage Trade Fairs Private Limited, S. C. o 43, Sector 31, D, Chandigarh, India., Tel: +(91)-(172)-5049993; Fax: +(91)-(172)-5046645
2	Event	Diagno & Labfest South Africa
	Date	May 06-08, 2009
	Venue	Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town
	Highlights	The event will be a great opportunity for all associated with diagnostics and laboratory business. It is a unique place to exchange ideas, share experiences, track the new developments and latest technologies. Diagno & Labfest, with its comprehensive product range and its outstanding expertise, is to become one of the most important meeting points for experts from this branch of industry.
	Contact Details	Vantage Trade Fairs (P) Limited. 23/21A, IIInd Floor, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi, India. Tel: +(91)-(172)-30580444; Fax: +(91)-(172)-30581000
3	Event	Interphex China
	Date	May 12-14, 2009
	Venue	Xian International Exhibition Canter, Xian, Shaanxi
	Highlights	Interphex China is a must attend event for Chinese pharmaceutical manufacturers, and the best way to promote company image. It is the most reliable event to ensure your success in China's pharmaceutical industry.
	Contact Details	Reed Exhibitions China Head Office. Unit 4-5, Level 12, Office Tower E1, The Towers, Oriental Plaza, No.1, East Chang An Ave, Dong Cheng, Beijing, China. Tel: +(86)-(10)-851890707; Fax: +(86)-(10)-8518 9060 Email: enquiry@reedexpo.com.cn; Web: www.reedexpo.com.cn
4	Event	INTERPHEX Asia 2009
	Date	Jun 01-02, 2009
	Venue	Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre. Singapore
	Highlights	INTERPHEX Asia 2009 is the only event dedicated to the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in Asia. Bringing together the pharmaceutical manufacturing professionals in the Asia-Pacific region and international suppliers, the event is the platform to network, meet industry suppliers and get updates on industry developments.
	Contact Details	Reed Exhibitions Pte Limited. 51 Changi Business Park Central 2, 07-01 The Signature, Singapore Tel: +(65)-(-)-67898800; Fax: +(65)-(-)-67897711 Email: ask@reedexpo.com.sg; Website : www.reedexpo.com

5	Event	Pharmaceutical Ingredients Japan 2009
	Date	Jul 01-03, 2009
	Venue	Tokyo International Exhibition Center (Tokyo Big Sight)
	Highlights	It is the most important pharmaceutical ingredients event of Japan. It is an international trade fair specialised in pharmaceutical ingredients. More than 63,000 visitors who deal with ingredients selection will be gathering at this show from all over the world for networking and business meetings. Through this show, exhibitors can enjoy the business expansion in Japan/Asia pharmaceutical market. It will bridge the needs between ingredients suppliers and pharmaceutical manufacturers.
	Contact details	Reed Exhibitions Japan Limited. 18F Shinjuku – Nomura Building, 1-26-2 Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku, Tokyo - 163-0570, Japan Tel: +(81)-(3)-33498501 ; Fax: +(81)-(3)-33498599 Email: info@reedexpo.co.jp; Website: www.reedexpo.co.jp
6	Event	Hospitalar
	Date	Jun 02-05, 2009
	Venue	Expo Centre Norte, Sao Paulo
	Highlights	It will serve as a platform for medical suppliers, industry professionals, government bodies, hospital administrators, doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals.
	Contact Details	Messe Dusseldorf GmbH, Stockumer Kirchstrasse, 61, Messeplatz, Germany, Tel: +(49)-(211)-4560900; Fax: +(49)-(211)-4560668 E-mail: infoservice@messe-duesseldorf.de Web: www.messe-duesseldorf.de
7	Event	P-MEC China
	Date	Jun 23-25, 2009
	Venue	Shanghai New International Expo Centre, 2345 Longyang Road, Shanghai
	Highlights	There is a high demand for pharmaceutical processing and packaging machinery equipment and instruments in China, representing the country's largest industry. The growth in demand for pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities will further stimulate the market for machinery and equipment. It is an exciting environment into which the Pharmaceutical Machinery and Equipment Convention, P-MEC China, will be launched alongside CPhI China and ICSE China.
	Contact Details	CMP Asia Limited. 17/F, China Resources Building, 26 Harbour, Wanchai, China (Hong Kong S.A.R.). Tel: +(852)-(2827)-6211; Fax: +(852)-(2827)-7831
8	Event	Healthcare Travel Exhibition & Congress
	Date	Jun 28-30, 2009
	Venue	Fairmont Hotel, Singapore
	Highlights	Healthcare Travel Exhibition & Congress will be a platform which will bring together macro level decision makers on healthcare policy and payees of medical travel, specialised medical suppliers, travel providers, medical facilities and representatives from major medical tourism destinations.
	Contact Details	IIR Exhibitions Limited, 29 Bressenden Place, 5th floor, London, United Kingdom. Tel: +(44)-(20)-7017 7108; Fax: +(44)-(20)-73443890 Web: www.iirx.com.sg

9	Event	Interphex Asia
	Date	June 01-02, 2009
	Venue	Pakistan Air Force Museum, Karachi, Pakistan
	Highlights	Interphex Asia is the only event dedicated to the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in Asia. Bringing together the pharmaceutical manufacturing professionals in the Asia-Pacific region and international suppliers, the event is the platform to network, meet industry suppliers and get updates on industry developments.
	Contact details	Event Manager, Reed Exhibitions Pte Limited, 51 Changi Business Park Central 2, 07-01 The Signature, Singapore Tel: +(65)-()-67898800; Fax: +(65)-()-67897711

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