REVAPHARMA
Caring for Healthier Life

NEWS LETTER
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India launches - world's biggest healthcare program

In what could benefit over 100 Million vulnerable and under-privileged families, the Finance Minister unveiled a new National Health Protection Scheme under which a health coverage of upto USD 7750 per family will offered for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

"This will be the world's largest government funded health care programme," Prime Minister said in his address soon after the Budget speech. The government will also establish 150,000 Health and Wellness Centres under the Ayushman Bharat program. "We are all aware that millions of families in our country have to borrow or sell assets to receive indoor treatment in hospitals. Government is seriously concerned about such impoverishment of poor and vulnerable families," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in his speech.

1. The Finance Minister said that these centres will provide comprehensive health care, for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.

2. These centres will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services.

3. The union government has committed USD 180 Million in this budget for this flagship programme.

4. The government also invited contribution from the private sector through CSR and philanthropic institutions in adopting these centres.

5. "Present Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) provide annual coverage of only USD 469 to poor families. Several State Governments have also implemented/supplemented health protection schemes providing varying coverage. My Government has now decided to take health protection to more aspirational level," the Finance Minister said.

6. These two far-reaching initiatives under the Ayushman Bharat will build a New India 2022 and ensure enhanced productivity, well being and avert wage loss and impoverishment. These Schemes will also generate millions of jobs, particularly for women. The Government is steadily but surely progressing towards the goal of Universal Health Coverage.

7. In order to further enhance accessibility of quality medical education and health care, we will be setting up 24 new Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals by upgrading existing district hospitals in the country.

8. This would ensure that there is at least 1 Medical College for every 3 Parliamentary Constituencies and at least 1 Government Medical College in each State of the country.

9. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana (PMJJBY) has benefitted 52 Million families with a life insurance cover of USD 3106 on payment of a premium of only USD 5.12 per annum.

10. Likewise, under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, 132.5 Million persons have been insured with personal accident cover of USD 3106 on payment of a premium of only USD 0.18 per annum. The Government will work to cover all poor households, including SC/ST households, under these in a mission mode. (Source: Business Today)
We will keep our readers posted on the progress of the above progeam.

"Medicine heals doubts as well as diseases."
- Karl Marx

India's drug authority plans new rules to counter abuse of OTC

The Central Drug Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) is planning to frame regulations for non-prescription drugs or over-the-counter (OTC) drugs, according to a report published in Business Standard.

CDSCO is planning to roll out regulations for drugs that can be sold without a doctor's prescription and amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

"Currently, there can be misuse of high-risk drugs as there are no separate regulations. Names of drugs cannot be sold over the counter are not there. At present, drugs classified as Schedule X, H, H1 G and K cannot be sold without a doctor's prescription," GN Singh, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) told the newspaper.
According to the report, the government is also planning to ask chemists to stamp prescriptions so that prescriptions are not reused.

The new guidelines will be put in place in a bid to reduce anti-microbial resistance due to overconsumption of such drugs and to fall in line with globally accepted practices, the report suggests. (Source: Business Standard)

Delhi High Court upholds Daiichi Sankyo's US$ 550 mn arbitral award against former Ranbaxy promoters

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has allowed Daiichi Sankyo to enforce an international arbitration award here so that it can recover USD 550 million from former Ranbaxy promoters Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh, marking a victory for the Japanese company. A Singapore tribunal had said the former promoters needed to pay the money for concealing information related to wrongdoing at Ranbaxy, once India's largest drugmaker, when Daiichi acquired it from the promoters for USD 4.6 billion in 2008.

Daiichi had approached the high court to collect the dues in May 2016 but the promoters had challenged the petition arguing that "substantive objections" existed under India's arbitration law to make the award unenforceable.

The high court's 115-page order, which found the award to be enforceable under Indian law, said that it was "clearly" within the domain of the arbitration tribunal to assess damages.

Daiichi had taken the promoters to the Singapore tribunal in 2013 after pleading guilty to felony charges related to Ranbaxy making and distributing adulterated medicines in the US and falsifying data. The Japanese company reached a $500-million settlement with the US Department of Justice over the allegations.
(Source: Economic Times)

Domestic pharmaceutical sales growth at eight year low, slips to 5.5%

Domestic pharmaceutical sales growth slipped to 5.5 per cent in 2017, the lowest in eight years as business was impacted by the GST (goods and services tax) roll-out, delayed product approvals and inclusion of more products under price caps. On an industry-wide basis, pharmaceutical companies recorded sales of USD 24 Billion in 2017 which was 5.5 per cent higher than the previous year. In 2016, industry-wide sales grew 10.7 per cent to USD 16 Billion, according to AIOCD-AWACS, the market research wing of All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD). Drug makers, however, are confident of revival in 2018 with the launch of new products and increased market penetration though some experts believe growth will be hinged on government policy actions. AIOCD-AWACS pointed out that the contribution of price rise to sales growth fell sharply and turned negative in 2017 indicating the impact of government's pricing actions.

Contributions to sales growth from new products, too, fell compared to 2016. In fact, industry-wide sales growth fell to

SALES DIP

Industry-wide total sales	Therapies with highest sales growth (CY2017)
2017 – **1.16** trillion	Vaccines – **18.2**
2016 – **1.10** trillion	Diabetes – **14**
2015 – **996** billion	Dermatology – **12.3**
(all figures in Indian rupees)	(all figures in per cent)

Source: AIOCD-AWACS

1 USD = INR 64.39

single digits in 2017 for the first time since 2009."Growth has been impacted due to regulatory actions. In 2016, the government banned over 340 fixed dose combination drugs. Further there have been delays in approval of new drugs. The industry will continue to suffer unless correct policy decisions are taken," said D G Shah, secretary general of Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance. Last month, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority eased the approval process for new drugs following a six-month tussle with the industry. Over hundred product applications were held up and are expected to be cleared following changes in norms. There were other headwinds too.

The GST-led to disruption with distributors cutting down inventory in the run-up to the tax introduction in July. The industry-wide sales declined 2.4 per cent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in July. Recovery was slow and in August and September sales growth was under 3 per cent. But drug makers feel recovery is round the corner. "In 2018 we are optimistic that the Indian pharma industry will pick up pace and see growth," said a Sanofi India spokesperson."
(Source: Business Standard)

Increased stress at work linked to higher risk of diabetes

Workers who experience an increase in stress on the job over time may be more likely to develop diabetes than their co-workers who don't, a recent study suggests.

Researchers examined data on 3,730 petroleum industry workers in China. At the start of the study, none of the workers had diabetes. After 12 years of follow-up, workers who experienced increasing stressful tasks on the job were 57 percent more likely to develop diabetes, the study team reports in Diabetes Care.

At the same time, workers who experienced a decline in coping resources like social support from friends and family or time for recreational activities were 68 percent more likely to develop diabetes.

"Major changes in work may affect our risk of developing diabetes," said Mika Kivimaki, a researcher at University College London in the UK who wasn't involved in the study. "It is therefore important to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy weight, even during turbulent periods at work," Kivimaki said by email.

Worldwide, nearly one in 10 adults had diabetes in 2014, and the disease will be the seventh leading cause of death by 2030, according to the World Health Organization.

Most of these people have type 2 diabetes, which is associated with obesity and aging and happens when the body can't properly use or make enough of the hormone insulin to convert blood sugar into energy. Left untreated, diabetes can lead to nerve damage, amputations, blindness, heart disease and strokes.

Physicians have long recommended exercise, weight loss and a healthy diet to control blood pressure and minimize complications of the disease. Stress reduction is also advised because, whether it's caused on the job or not, stress may also make diabetes worse by directly contributing to a spike in blood sugar or by leading to unhealthy lifestyle habits that can cause complications.

The study looked at several forms of job-related stress and found that what researchers described as "task stressors" - such as feeling overloaded with work or unclear about expectations or responsibilities of the job, and the strains of physical labor - were the biggest contributors to the risk of developing diabetes.

"Stress has been associated with behavioural problems such as comfort or binge eating, consumption of high fat, energy-dense foods, poor dietary choices, physical inactivity and sedentary behaviour," Faghri, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. (Source: Reuters)

Ghana: Local Pharma Industry NEW TRENDS

Local manufacturing companies should be supported to manufacture essential pharmaceutical products locally in order to combat the menace of counterfeit and sub-standard pharmaceutical products in sub-Saharan Africa, Dr. Patrick Lukulay, Vice President of United States Pharmaceutical Convention has said.

It is estimated that about 70 percent of medicine used in Africa is imported and 25-30 percent of medicines imported into sub-Saharan Africa is counterfeit – constituting an about US$ 431 billion market. Out of the amount US$ 359 billion, representing 83 percent, had direct public health impact.

He was speaking at the launch of the Centre for Pharmaceutical Advancement and Training (CePAT) in Accra.

The centre aims to equip national and local regulatory authorities and officers, manufacturers and operators in the pharmaceutical industry with knowledge and skills to promote access to good quality medicines.

He said it is high time leaders on the continent built the capacity of local pharmaceutical companies so that procurement of goods and essential medicine can be manufactured on the continent instead of importing them.

Dr. Lukulay said in the interests of sustainability the continent should be able to manufacture and produce medicine internally. "Serious public health issues related to poor quality medicines have been linked to lack of trained human resources in countries with limited resources," he said.
(Source: Ghana Trade)

Vietnam's pharmaceutical sector - HIGHER GROWTH

The country's demand for drugs is expected to rise due to increasing population and income. The average spending of Vietnamese on drugs rose from $9.85 in 2005 to $22.25 in 2010, double to $37.97 in 2015 and $56 in 2017 each per year.

The average growth rate of spending on drug was 14.6 % in 2010-15 and is set to maintain a rate of at least 14 % until 2025. Spending is forecast to double to $85 per person in 2020 and $163 in 2025.

The VNR launched the list of the 10 most prestigious pharmaceutical firms in Viet Nam in 2017. Its survey of the top 10 companies showed that most local pharmaceutical companies have high hopes for higher development in 2018, with some 75% of firms expecting more than 10 % growth. More than 90 % of the surveyed enterprises said the process for bidding for hospital drugs and dependence on imported materials are the biggest barriers for pharmaceutical companies. The dependence has made the sector vulnerable to foreign exchange rate changes and high import costs that make Viet Nam's pharmaceutical products 20-25% higher than in China and India.

The survey also revealed that research and development activities have been lacking due to a shortage of capital, human resources and technologies, which are strengths of foreign firms. However, co-operation with foreign companies is expected to help local firms improve their products' quality, thus increasing their competitiveness. More than 80% of the companies said research for new products would be their top priory for 2018. Some 67% of the enterprises said they would improve through the retail system.
(Source: Viet Nam News)

India moves forward: Wealth Rating

India has been ranked sixth in the list of wealthiest countries with total wealth of $8,230 billion, while the United States topped the chart, says a report.

According to New World Wealth, the US is the wealthiest country with total wealth of $64,584 billion, followed by China ($24,803 billion) and Japan ($19,522 billion).

Total wealth refers to the private wealth held by all the individuals living in each country. It includes all their assets (property, cash, equities, business interests) less any liabilities. The report, however, excludes government funds from its figures.

Others in the list include United Kingdom (4th, $9,919 billion), Germany (5th, $9,660 billion), France (7th, $6,649 billion), Canada (8th, $6,393 billion), Australia (9th, $6,142 billion) and Italy (10th, $4,276 billion).

According to the New World Wealth report, India was the best performing wealth market globally in 2017 as its total wealth rose 25% from $6,584 billion in 2016 to $8,230 billion in 2017. China's wealth during the year saw an increase of 22% and global wealth rose by 12% (from $192 trillion at the end of 2016 to $215 trillion at the end of 2017). (Source: mint)

Reva Sudoku

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The so-called Obamacare death panel meets its unfortunate end

THIS IS ONE story, of many, about how the current generation of Americans is mortgaging their children and grandchildren's future. Tucked into the massive spending agreement negotiated by Senate leaders is a repeal of an obscure panel of experts, the Independent Payment Advisory Board. The IPAB, created under Obamacare, represented Congress's peak effort at serious spending restraint on health care, which is probably why it had few champions and a long list of enemies. Now, before ever beginning its work, IPAB has been smothered.

In a health-care bill that was mostly about extending benefits to uninsured Americans, the IPAB was one of the few checks on how much national wealth would go to the inefficient health-care industry. If Medicare spending growth breached relatively generous targets, the expert panel would recommend money-saving payment reforms — though it could not ration care, increase premiums or eliminate benefits. The board's recommendations would automatically phase in unless Congress objected. If anything, the law limited the experts too much. (Source: Washington Post)

Indian Pharma Renewed Focus—China

Indian Pharma firms are expanding its presence in China. More than $100-billion China market is dominated by local drug manufacturers and multinationals and India's pharmaceutical exports of around $160 million are a fraction of the companies' sales. But recent changes in regulation allowing quicker product approval and growth opportunities in China have been drivers for Indian companies.

According to The Pharma Letter website, China's Food and Drug administration recently decided to acknowledge foreign trial data and hire more people to speed up drug approvals — moves that could benefit India's drug manufacturers.
(Source: Business Standard)

Reva Pharma Participation at ensuing events:

- DCAT (New York) March 19-22, 2018
- Cphi (Tokyo) April 18-20, 2018
- iPHEX (Delhi) May 8-10, 2018

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