

• Hopes to seal the deal in next four months

Cipla offers Rs 1200 cr to buy its SA distributor

South African arm, Cipla Medpro markets 80-90% of Cipla's products

New Delhi

Drug major Cipla has made \$220 mn (over Rs.1,200 cr) offer to acquire 51% stake in South African firm Cipla Medpro and hopes to complete the deal in the next 3-4 months. The company is in preliminary discussions and has made an indicative proposal.

"In the next three to four months, we are hopeful of acquiring 51% stake in Cipla Medpro, subject to all necessary approvals," Cipla Whole-time Director S Radhakrishnan said.

Cipla Medpro currently markets 80-90% of the company's products and it was logical for Cipla to pick a stake in it, he added.

The domestic firm said it has offered a rate of 8.55 Rand per share for the acquisition of a majority stake.

"Based on Cipla Medpro's current shares outstanding

and currency exchange rates, total consideration payable by the company would be approximately \$220 mn (exclusive of the anticipated dividend of up to ZAR 0.10 per share to be paid by Cipla Medpro to its shareholders for the 2012 financial year)," the company added.

Stating that the ongoing discussions are subject to various conditions, Cipla further said, "At this stage, there is no certainty that these discussions will lead to a firm offer being made or a transaction being consummated."

Last month, Cipla Medpro had said its Chief Executive Jerome Smith had resigned citing "an irretrievable breakdown in the working relationship with the Board and alleging that he was forced to resign. He also indicated that he would institute legal action to claim damages..."



Smith had established Medpro Pharmaceutica in 1993 - one of South Africa's first generic medicine firms as the industry opened up in South Africa. It became one of the top three after Smith tied up a deal with India's largest generic medicines manufacturer, Cipla.

Following Smith's exit, some analysts felt that it would negatively impact Cipla Medpro, but Chairman Sibusiso Luthuli had said the agreement with its Indian supplier, which had no stake in the South African company, would not be affected.

Shares of Cipla jumped 2.61% to close at Rs.389.70 a piece on the BSE, becoming the biggest gainer among 30 Sensex stocks.

Mahindra Satyam gets notice in money laundering case

Hyderabad

The Adjudicating authority under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has issued notices to Satyam Computer Services Ltd (Mahindra Satyam) to appear before it in connection with an alleged money-laundering case involving its previous management.

The Enforcement Directorate on October 18 issued provisional attachment order of the company's fixed deposits worth Rs.822 crore in a money laundering case related to the previous management.

Based on a complaint filed by the ED, the authority has asked the company to provide evidence and information related to the FDs attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the notice said.

Vineet Nayyar, Chairman, MSat had earlier stated that the company is going to challenge the ED's order as the deposits rightfully belonged to the company. "We never had access to that money. That money had already been spent when we took over.

New India Assurance doubles net profit in first half to Rs 205 cr

While domestic premium rose 15% to around Rs 5,000 cr, overseas premium increased by 34.14%

FPJ BUSINESS DESK Mumbai



(From Left to right)- Chairman and Managing Director of New India Assurance, G Srinivasan addressing the press conference flanked by Director and General Manager A R Sekar and Director and General Manager K Sanath Kumar

Public sector general insurer New India Assurance's net profit more than doubled to Rs 205 crore in the first half of the current fiscal on the back of sound growth in personal and retail lines along with higher premium in motor third party insurance segment. Its net profit stood at Rs 95 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal. "Rise in profitability is mainly on account of sound growth in personal and retail lines, higher premium in third-party motor insurance and fire insurance segment overseas," the company's Chairman and Managing Director, G Srinivasan, told reporters here.

According to the insurer, global premium grew by 17.48 per cent to Rs 5,838.60 crore in the first half of FY13. While domestic premium rose 15 per cent to around Rs 5,000 crore, overseas premium increased by 34.14 per cent during H1. "We hope to cross a global premium of Rs 12,000 crore this fiscal, Srinivasan said, adding the focus would be on retail, personal, rural and SME segments in the near future.

The combined loss ratio, one of the critical parameter of profitability, reduced to 124.91 per cent by the end of September quarter from 129 per cent last fiscal. The

firm, which has increased premiums in the group mediclaim and approached the regulator for doing so in personal mediclaim policy, witnessed a reduction in claim ratio to 88.29 per cent by the September quarter in the health insurance segment.

"We had not revised the premium on personal mediclaim schemes. So, we have approached the regulator to increase the premium in this segment," Srinivasan. On the concerns regarding losses in third party motor segment, he said

the pricing is not adequate and industry has been asking for a price rise in this segment.

On the common third party administrator (TPA), he said the process is likely to be completed in next six months. Four public sector general insurance firms, GIC and LIC are setting up a common TPA to settle medical claims. Srinivasan said the company would set up another 300 micro offices in the next few months in order to increase its penetration in rural and semi-urban areas.

Corporate Briefs

Blue Dart promoter to prune 6.03% stake

NEW DELHI: Blue Dart Express today said its promoter plans to dilute 6.03 per cent stake, a move which may fetch DHL Express (Singapore) in excess of Rs 245 crore at current price. In a notice of offer for sale, Blue Dart Express said the sale of 14,31,937 shares would take place on separate windows of both BSE and NSE on November 23. "The seller shall declare the floor price for the sale on November 22 after closure of the trading hours of the stock exchanges, but not later than 5 pm, Indian Standard Time. Orders or bids below the floor price shall not be accepted and will not be considered for allocation," it said.

Subir Gokarn gets extension till Dec 31

MUMBAI: The government today extended the term of Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn till December 31, 2012. His term was due to end on November 24. He was appointed in November 2009 for a period of three years. Deputy governors can be appointed for a maximum of five years or till the age of 62, whichever is earlier. Gokarn looks after key portfolios including monetary policy and economic analysis and policy departments at RBI.

Indirect tax collection rises 17%

MUMBAI: Economic slowdown is impacting revenue realisation as the indirect tax collection has shown only a moderate growth of 17 per cent to

Rs 2.57 lakh crore in April-October period as against the annual growth target of 27 per cent. In the first seven months of the current financial year, indirect tax collection, which include excise, customs and services tax, was Rs 2.57 lakh crore, sources in the Finance Ministry said. The government in the current fiscal had proposed to collect from customs, excise and services tax Rs 5.05 lakh crore, an increase of 27 per cent over realisation in the previous fiscal.

OVL plans to raise \$1 bn via dollar bonds issue

MUMBAI: ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil & Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), plans to raise about \$1 bn through a dollar bonds issue early next year to fund its recent acquisition in Azerbaijan. OVL had in its biggest purchase since acquiring

Russia-focused Imperial Energy, in September announced buying US energy firm Hess Corp's stake in Azeri, Chirag and Guneshli (AGC) group of oil fields in the Central Asian nation for \$1 bn. The company, which gets most of its funds from its parent firm, has already appointed merchant bankers for raising the debt, the source said.

WB govt to appoint advisor for valuation of its shares in HPL

MUMBAI: The West Bengal government will soon appoint an advisor for valuing its shares in Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd (HPL) with a view to offload them, sources said. While the state government owns around 39 per cent equity in HPL, The Chatterjee Group (TCG) has around 36 per cent in the company. Sources in HPL, however, expressed concern over the timing of the move to sell stake.

Excellence with ethics in ONGC's DNA: Vasudeva

Mumbai

Sudhakar Vasudeva, CMD, ONGC has highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the company to bring about a healthy change in the way business is done in the current age, most notably the institution of the integrity pact, which is championed by transparency international as an essential deterrent to corporate malpractices. "ONGC has not just believed in but also has always displayed the highest standards of rectitude and transparency in doing its business. Excellence with ethics is what we ascribe to and is, in fact, in our



DNA", said Vasudeva. The comments from Vasudeva comes at a time when lack of transparency is creeping into Indian business and the growing erosion of ethical business conduct is threatening to seriously dampen the confidence and goodwill of the global investor community and the

civil society at large. Vasudeva was speaking at the Good Corporate Citizen award. At the award ceremony, K S Jamestin, Director, HR and Vasudeva collected the award on behalf of the company at the hands of Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister for health & Family Welfare.

CORPORATE CONNECT

CR Observes Quami Ekta Day



Subodh Jain, General Manager, Central Railway administering the Quami Ekta Pledge to the officers and staff of Central Railway at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.

WR marks Quami Ekta Week



Western Railway celebrated Quami Ekta Week recently. Mahesh Kumar, General Manager, Western Railway administered Quami Ekta Pledge to the officers & staff. WR organised Kavi Sammelan comprising of poets of different linguistic, Programme of songs for linguistic harmony, quiz session on social reforms & provisions for weaker section, cultural unity day, women's day and conservation day including tree plantations and useful lectures. Deepak Gupta, Addl. General Manager and S Bhattacharya, Chief Personnel Officer, W.Rly were also present on the occasion.

OBC opens regional office at Varanasi



S L Bansal, CMD, Oriental Bank of Commerce; V Kannan, ED and K H Pandey, Director inaugurating the Bank's Regional Office at Varanasi. H K D Joseph, Regional Head was also present on the occasion.

FM inaugurates 1000th branch of IDBI Bank in Kannangudi, Tamil Nadu



P Chidambaram, Finance Minister inaugurated 1000th branch of IDBI Bank at Kannangudi, Tamil Nadu. He also unveiled education loan brochure. R M Malla, CMD, IDBI Bank; K R Ramasamy, Ex-MLA, Thiruvadanai and B K Batra, DMD, IDBI Bank were also present on the occasion. The loan scheme encompasses both non-vocational and vocational courses designed largely in line with the Model Education Scheme circulated by Indian Bank Association (IBA).

RCF marks National Integration Week



R G Rajan, Chairman & Managing Director of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd, administering National Integration Oath. Gautam Sen, Dir. (Fin.) and C M T Britto, Dir. (Tech.) were also present on the occasion.

NTPC launches Udaan programme



NTPC has launched Udaan programme. Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Power inaugurated the programme in Jammu Kashmir. The initiative will provide excellent platform for the J&K youth for associating with one of the largest corporate in the country. Scindia congratulated NTPC for being the first PSU to launch the programme, which shall be an enabler to make the J & K youth part of the growth story of the country. Arup Roy Choudhury, CMD, NTPC; K Skandan, Additional Secretary, Home and S P Singh, Director (HR) were also present on the occasion.

SWR wins Sanjay Pai Memorial State Ranking Table Tennis Championship



SWR's table tennis team won the Team Championship at the Sanjay Pai Memorial State Ranking Table Tennis Championships. The team members Anirban Choudhary; U Krishna Murthy, Manager for SWR TT Team & Senior Deputy General Manager, SWR, Sagayaraj and Jaydip Das are seen in the photograph.

NRL hands over dividend cheque to BPCL



Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) a dividend cheque amounting to Rs. 45.36 crores to its holding company, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) as its share of dividend for the financial year 2011-12. R K Singh, CMD, BPCL collected the cheque at the hands of Dipak Chakravarty, MD, NRL. The company at its 19th AGM declared a dividend of 10% (Rs.1.00 per equity share of Rs.10.00 each) for the year 2011-12 on the paid up share capital was declared. B K Datta, Director, (Refineries) BPCL; K K Gupta, Director (Marketing) BPCL; Nilmoni Bhakta, Director (Finance) NRL and S R Medhi, Director (Technical) NRL were also present on the occasion.

DDTCC marks 95th birth anniversary of late Indira Gandhi



Vishal Tandel President DDTCC; Vishnubhai Damania VP, DDTCC; Mukesh Patel President DMC, Daman; Anil Tandel Secretary DDTCC; Baktawar Todiwala President Daman Mahila Congress; Aspi Damania; K D Tandel; Dhuru Dhodi; Ali Raja; Hansa Thakkar; Sunita Halpati; Dhruv Patel President Baal Congress Daman & Diu and Mahila Youth and Congress man were present in the function.

Tata Memorial Centre, King College ink MoU



King's College London has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC). The partnership will launch King's Integrated Cancer Centre - one of the world's leading academic centres which will combine first class clinical care with groundbreaking research into personalised cancer treatment. Professor Rajendra Badwe, Director, Tata Memorial Centre and Professor Arnie Purushotham, Director of King's Integrated Cancer Centre exchanged documents.

Kolkata Metro Rail observes Quami Ekta Week



B K Patel, Chief Electrical Engineer on behalf of General Manager, Metro Railway, Kolkata at Metro Rail Bhavan administered a National Integration pledge to the Metro staff. The staff and officers of Metro Railway took pledge to work with dedication to preserve and strengthen the freedom and integrity of the nation. It was also affirmed to continue the endeavour towards settlement of all differences and disputes relating to religion, language, region or other political or economic grievances by peaceful and constitutional means.

World's largest Coke Drum erected at Paradip Refinery site of IndianOil



World's largest Coke Drum was erected at Paradip Refinery site. The Coking Unit will produce raw petroleum coke. The coke drum weighs 630 MT and is 45.52 meter tall and has 10.67 meter diameter. Rajkumar Ghosh, Director (Refineries) complimented IndianOil employees for tirelessly working to accomplish this gigantic task. The Rs.30,000 cr project of IndianOil will change the skyline of the region, once completed, said Ghosh.