Cipla: Affordable drugmaker

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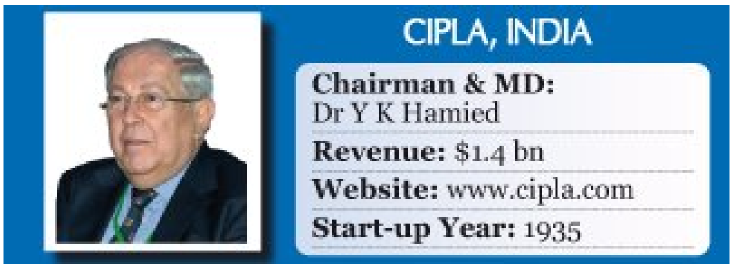

Singapore:

Cipla, India
Chairman: Dr Yusuf Hamied
Revenue: $1460.6 mn
Business: Manufacturing generic drugs

With more than 2,000 products in its kitty and a global presence in more than 170 countries, Cipla is India's leading drugmaker. For Cipla, 2015 was a mixed year of major announcements, approvals as well as legal issues. Opening the year on a positive note, Cipla bagged the $189 million tender as a panel supplier for antiretroviral drugs by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria.

Medicines Malaria Venture, a global organization that is working to improve malaria outcomes, inked a deal with Cipla and Strides Arcolab for the development of rectal artesunate for pre-referral treatment of children with severe malaria.

Cipla made headlines when it announced collaboration with Gilead Lifesciences to develop Gilead's flagship Hepatitis drug Sofusbuvir and Ledipasvir. The agreement gave Cipla rights to manufacture and distribute the drug in 91 countries under its brand name. The company launched Sofusbuvir in India, under the brand name Hepcivir, and this is the first-in-class drug to be launched in India for hepatitis C treatment, representing a paradigm shift in the existing hepatitis C management.

In line with its global expansion strategy, the company announced that it aimed to build a strong presence in Kenya and Africa. The company invested nearly `90 crore to form joint venture with Morocoo firms and further strengthen its presence in the African country.