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MEDIA RELEASE : MEDIA RELEASE : MEDIA RELEASE

Novartis India Announces Results for 1st Quarter ended 30 June 2008

The Board of Novartis India Limited today announced results for the first quarter ended 30 June 2008. Total sales for the period under review at Rs 153.7 crore were up by 10.7% as compared to previous comparable period. Profit after tax stood at Rs 29.6 crore (prior year Rs 22.8 crore) after providing for tax of Rs 17.1 crore (prior year Rs 12.4 crore).

During the period under review, the core business, Pharmaceuticals with sales of Rs 105.2 crore witnessed a growth of 9.9% over the corresponding previous period. This was due to higher sales of key brands during the period under review. The Generics business recorded sales of Rs 18.7 crore showing a growth of 33% over sales of the previous comparable period. This was mainly due to tender sales recorded during this period. Animal Health with sales of Rs 11.2 crore grew by 20.8% over sales for the previous comparable period. This growth was primarily due to focus on institutional sales. The OTC business recorded a decline of 5.9% with sales of Rs 18.6 crore due to competitive pressure.

Net Profit was higher due to increased sales and higher other income during the quarter coupled with strict cost control.

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Issued by

Corporate Communications
15 July 2008
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