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IPR & Innovation

1. [Lee Pharma seeks hearing on nod for diabetes drug](#) – Times of India

Hyderabad-based Lee Pharma will seek a "hearing" from the Patent Controller to put forth its case for the compulsory licence to manufacture saxagliptin, a diabetes drug. This follows the notice issued by the Mumbai Patent Office on August 12 saying that its application does not make a "prima facie" case for grant of a compulsory licence. The domestic company had on June 29 filed an application under Section 84 of the Patent's Act, 1970, with the Patent Office to manufacture saxagliptin, patented and marketed in the country, by MNC Astra Zeneca.

In accordance with the Rule 97(1) of the Patent Rules, 2003, if the company wishes to present its case, it can file for a hearing with the Patent Office, the notice, a copy of which is available with the TOI, said.

Regulatory & Medical

1. [CNS drug research: A dilemma for big pharma companies](#) – Business Standard

The most complicated area of clinical research post 2013 is the central nervous system (CNS). Big pharmaceutical companies are keen on investing in this therapeutic area. However their research and development (R&D) spends have yet to be rewarded with the desired clinical trial results. R&D in this therapeutic area is risky and chances of approval of these drugs by the regulatory authorities are very slim. This puts big pharmaceutical companies at the risk of major losses.

Central nervous system disorders bear an economic burden of more than \$ 2 trillion in the US and EU and rake in upwards of \$ 80 billion a year for the pharmaceutical industry.

The costs of clinical development for developing a CNS drug versus a cardiovascular drug is 30 percent higher and the chances of a CNS drug reaching a blockbuster status in the market is nearly 50 percent lower.

Access to Healthcare

1. [Need to work on PPP model to improve health care: J P Nadda](#) – Economic Times

Union Health Minister J P Nadda today pitched for greater public-private partnerships to improve health care services in the country and said that it was a major focus area for the government.

Calling for overall improvement in teaching and training of doctors as well as para-medics, he said there is a huge scope for participation of private players in the health sector and government would welcome PPP projects.

Others

1. [PMC welcomes notice on usage of generic names on drugs](#) – Hindustan Times

Punjab Medical Council (PMC) has welcomed the public notice issued by the union ministry of health and family welfare on use of generic names of drugs rather than the brand names.

The ministry also sought public opinion by issuing the notice. Dr GS Grewal, president of PMC, said the cost of medicines was nearly 60% of the total cost of medical care by an individual.

"The use of generic names will substantially bring down the cost. The feeling in the mind of the people that the generic drugs are not effective is not correct," said Grewal.

2. [Commerce Ministry may set up think-tank for pharmaceutical sector](#) – DNA

The Commerce Ministry on Tuesday mooted an idea to set up a think-tank consisting of government officials, private sector players and scientists to resolve issues in promoting pharmaceutical exports.

The exports situation and other issues in pharmaceutical sector were discussed during a meeting convened by Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

During the meeting with senior officers from Ministry of Health, DCGI, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Commerce and Pharmexcil, the minister took stock of various issues and challenges confronted by the Indian pharma industry, the ministry said in a statement.

3. [Boost for e-tailers like Flipkart, Amazon as Drugs Act to be tweaked to allow online sales](#) – Economic Times

The government may consider changes to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to permit online sale of medicines following representations made by organised retail chains such as Apollo Pharmacy, Medplus and Hetero. This follows a crackdown by drug regulators against the sale of medicines a few weeks ago through websites.

The issue is being examined by a sub-committee appointed by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) and headed by Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commissioner Harshadeep Kamble. It's likely to suggest that online sales be allowed with adequate safeguards pertaining to prescriptions and pharmacy licences, said a top official aware of this.

4. [Testing Our Patients](#) – ET Health World

The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) is an ambitious central scheme that aims to provide universal health coverage to millions. But a major problem related to healthcare that hasn't received adequate attention is 'overkill', or as the government of India prefers to term it, 'over-indulgence'.

Simply put, 'overkill' is the care given that is not needed, thereby making it a waste of resources. It does not lead to health benefits, even when it isn't outright detrimental to the person's health. Although it has the potential of being detrimental when a person is, say, exposed to radiation due to an unnecessary CT scan.