



News Updates: April 15, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: April 15, 2014

Opinion piece: Vinod Dhall, was the first head of the Competition Commission of India and now heads a leading competition law practice jointly with TT&A

Headline: [Competition law versus IP rights](#)

Synopsis: India was one of the last major economies to introduce a competition law. Its enforcement was further delayed by legal challenges, legislative processes and, if one might venture to say, the lack of 'competitive appetite' in the government. The Competition Act came into force in January 2003, the Competition Commission was established in October that year, but the enforcement could commence only in May 2009! After a hesitant start, the Commission has recently been enforcing the law vigorously, though pragmatically. The road, however, continues to be mined with obstacles. The newest kid on the block is not exactly a welcome member of the regulatory family. The challenges to its jurisdiction have been multiple.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: April 14, 2014

Headline: [FICCI discusses IPR issue with US delegation](#)

Synopsis: Industry body FICCI today raised the issue of US proposal to declare India as a 'Priority Foreign Country for IPR violations with a visiting delegation of American companies. Under the US Trade Act, a Priority Foreign Country is the worst classification given to foreign countries that deny adequate and effective protection of IPR or fair and equitable market access to US persons relying upon IPR protection. The agenda of the meeting between the US delegation and FICCI representatives was the roadmap for resolution of thorny issues between the two countries in the commercial space that will be taken up with the new Indian government post elections.

Similar report in-

The Indian Express- [Ficci, US firms discuss road map for better ties](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [Indian laws should not be considered discriminatory: Group](#)

Synopsis: Asserting that Indian patent and pharma laws falls within the bounds of what is allowed under the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a top American non-profit consumer rights advocacy group has said Indian pharma laws should not be considered discriminatory. In a submission to US International Trade Commission (USAITC), 'Public Citizen' said yesterday that India's rules meet the data protection requirements under Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which is an international agreement administered by the World Trade Organization TRIPS.

Party Manifesto- Health

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [Health care for all: Do parties care?](#)

Synopsis: A nation to be healthy needs a good and efficient health care system. This is just common sense and does not need an economist or Nobel laureate to say so. It is time to examine the health needs of this country vis-à-vis the stand of political parties on health care. This will in turn help us question the candidates in our area when they come knocking on our doors begging for votes. The core issue is that public health spending should be increased. Currently, our government at the Centre spends paltry one per cent of GDP on public health. India's current public spending on health in proportion to GDP is among the lowest in the world. Just look at our neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka which spends 1.8 per cent of GDP, while it is 2.3 per cent in China and 3.3 per cent in Thailand. European nations like the UK, Spain, Germany, and Italy spend around 6 per cent of their GDP on healthcare.

Sun Pharma- Ranbaxy deal

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [Has India Inc shopped well?](#)

Synopsis: Last week's acquisition of Ranbaxy Laboratories by Sun Pharmaceutical Industries for a whopping \$4 billion is an indication of India Inc's growing appetite to undertake big-ticket deals. In the past 10 years, it has completed about 250 acquisitions over \$100 million, totalling \$162 billion, with quite a few running into billions. In fact, some of the biggest deals by listed companies were also significantly large compared to their own market value at the time of acquisition.

Similar reports in-

Outlook Business- [Will Sun Rise Again?](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Sun Pharma: BUY](#)

Drug pricing

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [Bulk drug prices likely to increase this fiscal](#)

Synopsis: While bulk drug exports from India have been on a slow lane last fiscal, the domestic market, nonetheless, is likely to see some price rise this year. The industry feels that prices of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) can go up in the range of 5-15 per cent primarily to factor in inflation, and also because these have now been freed from price control. The domestic bulk drug industry, however, also points out in the same breath that thanks to stiff competition in the domestic market between local players as well as imported bulk drugs from China, the price rise would not be very high.

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [Pharma sales to rise by over one- fifth in March quarter](#)

Synopsis: The domestic pharmaceutical market did better in the March quarter, relative to the December quarter, with volume sales rising by 1.8% compared with 1.1%, according to data from research firm AIOCD Pharmsofttech AWACS Pvt. Ltd. Overall growth, including the effect of price hikes and product mix, has also improved to 6.6% from 5.9%. The sector's growth had been affected

by the effect of the government's new drug pricing policy. Even in March, for instance, sales of drugs in the price control list fell by 13.9% in value terms while sales of the remaining drugs rose by 6.8%. The policy is pulling down overall growth, although it accounts for only 11.5% of the total. The drag should diminish once the high base effect gets over.

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [Revival of immunity](#)

Synopsis: New medicines that shrink tumours and have beneficial effects lasting for months to years in some cancer patients are helping breathe new life into an old idea: using a patient's own immune cells to attack malignant cells. Several drug makers are trying to prove the safety and efficacy of new medicines that harness the body's own lines of defense. Merck, for one, is testing an immune-modulating compound in patients with metastatic, or spreading, melanoma.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: April 14, 2014

Headline: [Lack of regulation haunts India's test labs](#)

Synopsis: The \$5-billion diagnostics industry, an arm of the healthcare sector growing at 15 to 16% annually, may be on the brink of a crisis due to absence of regulation, at a time when the Indian pharmaceutical industry is already facing reputation damage globally because of faulty manufacturing practices. Industry estimates show there are over 100,000 diagnostic laboratories across the country. Of this, 70% offer pathology services, whereas 30% is made up of radiology and imaging such as MRI, CT scan X-ray and ultrasound.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [Lupin recalls two lots of antibiotic drug 'Suprax' in US market](#)

Synopsis: Drug major Lupin is voluntarily recalling 9,210 bottles of its antibiotic drug Suprax, used to treat bacterial infections, in the US market, according to the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). As per the information available on the USFDA website, Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc, the US-based unit of the company, is recalling two lots of Suprax as the "product did not meet specification in total impurities at the nine-month stability station".

Similar reports in-

The Hindu- [Lupin recalls two lots of 'Suprax' in U.S. market](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Lupin recalls 9,000 bottles of antibiotic drug Suprax in US](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Lupin recalls two lots of drug Suprax in US market](#)

The Financial Express- [Lupin recalls two lots of antibiotic drug 'Suprax' in US market](#)

The Wall Street Journal- [India's Lupin Recalls 10,000 Bottles of Antibacterial Drugs in U.S.](#)

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [Novartis takes DRL to court in US over cancer drug patent](#)

Synopsis: Swiss drug major Novartis AG has sued Dr Reddy's Laboratories in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware for infringing a patent covering its drug Gleevec. The company said this was action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the US. The action relates to an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) filed by DRL with the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for approval to market generic versions of Novartis' Gleevec 100 mg Imatinib Mesylate capsules. Gleevec is used in the treatment of myeloid leukemia.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Chronicle- [DRL in legal tangle for Novartis' Gleevec drug](#)

The New Indian Express- [Novartis Sues Dr Reddy's Labs Over Patent Infringement](#)