



News Updates: April 16, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 16, 2014

Opinion piece: Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII

Headline: [US-India relations: Business that goes beyond the roadblocks](#)

Synopsis: The Devyani Khobragade row led to a series of spats with the US, including a probe into India's trade policies, the US downgrading India's aviation safety, protests over the safety of Indian generic drugs and so on. US-India relations are passing through a challenging phase, but we should not lose sight of the big picture. We will soon have a new political dispensation in New Delhi and mid-term elections in America later in the year.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: April 16, 2014

Headline: [Copycats trip as patent holders hawk variants, tweak dosage](#)

Synopsis: Generic drug players like Natco Pharma and Lupin are finding it tough to launch new products, as innovator companies offer different versions of existing drugs before patent expiry, in effect prolonging the patent period and stymieing plans to launch copycat drugs in lucrative markets. With generics eating up about 80% of a branded drug's market share after launch, innovators are using variants to hold on to market share.

Drug quality

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: April 15, 2014

Headline: [66 drug samples found sub-standard](#)

Synopsis: The country's drug-quality regulator, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSO), has found a range of basic medicines, such as ranitidine (used to treat ulcers and acidity), levocetirizine (used to treat cold), paracetamol and amoxicillin (an antibiotic), to be sub-standard.

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: April 16, 2014

Headline: [No country for whistle-blowers](#)

Synopsis: Whistle-blower protection laws incentivise integrity to help detect and deter unethical business practices and fraud. This type of law has been very successful elsewhere. In the U.S., the False Claims Act (FCA) has returned to the government more than \$40 billion in penalties, including the \$500 million secured from Ranbaxy. The FCA is intended to encourage, protect and reward citizens who come forward with information to assist the government in identifying companies that cheat federal spending programmes. The significance of a whistle-blower protection law such as the FCA is not limited to billions in penalty payments and additional revenue for the government. These laws place pressure on companies that are engaged in unethical practices to respect the law,

commit to compliance, and not retaliate against whistle-blowers. After all, it is better to prevent violations than to penalise after the act. Returning to the paramount question for Indian lawmakers on whether it is acceptable that the country lacks a strong whistle-blower protection law, the simple answer is that it is not acceptable, and it is not consistent with good business and governance.

Publication: Mail Today

Edition: National

Date: April 16, 2014

Headline: [Govt should take cancer seriously](#)

Synopsis: This is a battle that India will have to fight at various levels - at the level of the individual, the society and the government. At stake are several thousands of lives, most of them in productive age groups. Yet there is very little that we are doing currently. The enemy is cancer, which according to latest research is emerging a major killer in India. Nearly ten lakh new cases of cancer are diagnosed in India every year. At any given time, the number of cancer patients is about 25 lakh. The disease claims 6-7 lakh lives every year and most of these deaths are of people in their prime, according to analysis published in journal The Lancet Oncology this past week.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 16, 2014

Headline: [Sanofi India Ltd appoints N Rajaram as Country Head and General Manager- Pharmaceutical Operations, India](#)

Synopsis: Sanofi India Ltd, a global healthcare leader, today announced the appointment of N Rajaram as its Country Head and General Manager- Pharmaceutical Operations, India with effect from April 2014. Rajaram reports to Shailesh Ayyangar, Vice President- South Asia, Sanofi and Managing Director- Sanofi India Ltd, a statement issued here said.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Sanofi India appoints N Rajaram as Country Head](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Sanofi appoints new country head for pharmaceuticals](#)

The Times of India- [Sanofi India appoints new country head](#)

Express Pharma- [Sanofi India appoints N Rajaram as Country Head and General Manager Pharmaceutical Operations](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: April 16, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy's woes add \\$900 million in costs for heart drug](#)

Synopsis: A gap in US patent law has kept cheap copies of Novartis AG's heart drug Diovan off the market for 18 months, costing US consumers and insurers as much as \$900 million in potential savings. While the Diovan patent expired in September 2012, the only company allowed to sell copies, Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, hasn't been able to manufacture and market them after four factories it runs in India failed US inspections.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Express- [Ranbaxy's woes add \\$900 million in costs for heart drug \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Fierce Pharma- [Novartis' gain is consumers' \\$900M loss from stalled Ranbaxy generics](#)

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: April 16, 2014

Headline: [Reasons for medicines to fail](#)

Synopsis: The growing crisis of antibiotic resistance is catching the attention of policy-makers, but not at a fast enough rate to tackle it. More diseases are affected by resistance, meaning the bacteria cannot be killed even if different drugs are used on some patients, who then succumb. The World Health Organisation (WHO) will discuss, at its annual assembly of health ministers in May, a resolution on microbial resistance, including a global action plan.