



News Updates: April 18-21, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: April 19, 2014

Headline: [Committee of secretaries to take up Indo-US IPR issues](#)

Synopsis: Committee of secretaries, led by cabinet secretary Ajit Seth, will meet next week to discuss the issues related to India's intellectual property rights (IPR) and the concerns raised by the US on the same. The meeting comes in the backdrop of the US threatening to include India in the 'Priority Foreign Country' list for IPR of the US Trade Act — a classification given to those that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights or fair and equitable market access to the US persons relying on IPR protection.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Patent rights meet on US concerns](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Cabinet Secretary calls meeting of top officials on pharma issue with US](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [India-US ties headed for rough weather over drug IP issue](#)

The Hindu- [Crucial meet on Monday to discuss IPR issues](#) (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Statesman- [Meeting to deal with Indo-US IPR issues](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [India to engage United States pharma](#)

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: April 21, 2014

Headline: [Row over clinical trial as 254 Indian women die](#)

Synopsis: The death of 254 Indian women from modest backgrounds in the course of a 15-year US-funded clinical trial has triggered a raging debate about its ethicality. The trial was for a cervical cancer screening method and the women who died were part of a control group kept without screening to study death rates in unscreened populations.

FDA

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 18, 2014

Headline: [US FDA penal actions hit pharma exports growth, may not exceed 5%](#)

Synopsis: The sharply higher number of import alerts by the US drug regulator against medicines produced by several large Indian pharmaceutical companies will pull down pharmaceutical exports, industry officials have said.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [US regulator stifles Indian drug exports](#)

Drug pricing

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: April 21, 2014

Headline: [Drug firm recalls Crocin, Calpol after FDA order](#)

Synopsis: GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) has launched a nationwide recall of its widely sold paracetamol brands like Crocin Advance and Calpol suspension from the retailers, after the Maharashtra FDA ordered to stop sale due to overpricing. Earlier, the state FDA had seized 6, 500 bottles of Calpol suspension worth `2.11 lakh, on grounds of overcharging the product in violation of Drug Price Control Order (DPCO). According to the DPCO, Calpol suspension should be sold at `20.79 per bottle but the company was selling it at `32.75 per bottle. Calpol is an analgesic prescribed for fever and pain.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: April 21, 2014

Headline: [State FDA to approach NPPA for overcharging Crocin drops](#)

Synopsis: Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has detected another case of paracetamol overcharging by GSK. This time it is Crocin drops, a paediatric formulation which has a major market share in the country. Available in a bottle of 15ml, Crocin drops is fixed at Rs.4.80 as per the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), but the company has been selling it at Rs.32. GSK in a written statement to Pharmabiz, however, claims that Crocin drops (paracetamol oral suspension IP) 100 mg /ml is a non scheduled formulation as per DPCO 2013 and its price has accordingly not been notified by the NPPA. Hence, this drug does not fall under any Price Control Order.

General Industry

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: April 19, 2014

Opinion piece: V R Murlidharan, professor of economics at IIT Madras, served as member, mission steering group, National Rural Health Mission

Headline: [The health agenda](#)

Synopsis: The governance of the public health sector has become more complex than we imagine. To improve overall health, the sector will have to coordinate and collaborate with other sectors, nationally and regionally, and with several stakeholders. There is no sector that does not have an impact (positive or negative) on public health.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 21, 2014

Headline: [Pfizer mulls \\$100 billion bid for AstraZeneca: Report](#)

Synopsis: US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has approached British rival AstraZeneca to propose a 60 billion pound (\$101 billion) takeover, Britain's Sunday Times reported. The paper cited senior investment bankers and industry sources saying that informal conversations about a deal had taken place between the two but that no talks were currently under way after AstraZeneca resisted the approach.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Pfizer considers \\$100 bn bid for AstraZeneca: report](#)

Business Standard- ['Pfizer mulls \\$100-billion bid for AstraZeneca'](#)

The Financial Express- [Pfizer considers \\$100 bn bid for AstraZeneca: Report](#)

The Indian Express- [‘Pfizer mulls \\$100 billion bid for AstraZeneca’](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: April 19, 2014

Headline: [Scientists identify target for treating dengue](#)

Synopsis: In a significant discovery, researchers have identified a target for dengue fever that can help develop vaccines for the deadly disease that has infected over 100 million people worldwide so far. In two recent papers, they explained how flaviviruses produce a unique RNA molecule that leads to disease.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Express- [Drug target for dengue vaccine identified](#)

Deccan Chronicle- New dengue vaccines likely soon (link unavailable, scan attached)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: April 19, 2014

Headline: [New Hepatitis C drug, a big boon for domestic players](#)

Synopsis: The spread of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) has long been a cause for concern in developing countries as the liver disease, if untreated, can cause liver cirrhosis and liver cancer and has a high mortality rate. But a break-through drug by U.S. pharmaceutical giant, Gilead, with its sofosbuvir (brandname Sovaldi), is offering succour with a very high cure rate. It is a direct-acting antiviral (DAA) administered orally and is considered a breakthrough as existing treatment is injection-based and has severe side effects. Treatment time is reduced from 24-48 weeks to 12 weeks without side effects.