



News Updates: April 24-25, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 25, 2014

Headline: [United States' 1999 assurance to WTO may help India's IPR case](#)

Synopsis: An undertaking given by the United States to a WTO dispute settlement panel on unilateral trade action in 1999 may prove to be an important ammunition in New Delhi's hands if the Obama administration takes action against India on its intellectual property (IP) regime. The US Trade Representative (USTR) is reviewing whether India's IP regime has deteriorated enough to warrant a downgrade in its status to 'Priority Foreign Country' list. This will allow the country to impose trade sanctions on India and a decision on downgrading is expected on May 1.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: [Pfizer complains about India's intellectual property regime again](#)

Synopsis: US pharma giant Pfizer has complained about India's intellectual property regime yet again, this time to India's Ambassador to the US, S Jaishankar, according to documents reviewed by ET. In a letter to Jaishankar, Pfizer's senior vice-president for global policy and international public affairs, Justin McCarthy, has said that "a series of regulatory initiatives and legal challenges have frayed relations between the Indian government and global pharmaceutical firms", and urged the government to "shift from using destructive IP policy as an access strategy".

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: India's current IPR regime is fully WTO-compliant (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Meera Shankar, former Indian ambassador to the US, discusses in an interview the souring relations between the two countries, this time over issues related to intellectual property rights (IPR), and how these should be handled.

Similar report in-

Moneycontrol- [IPR mess: US to name India as an offender?](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: [Indo-US ties run into rough weather](#)

Synopsis : Faced with growing domestic challenges from an assertive Republican Party, President Obama also faces a credibility deficit in his conduct of foreign and security policies. He is widely depicted domestically as being "weak" on issues of national security and foreign policy. The insensitive handling of relations with India is a symbol of the malaise which afflicts his second term as President. In fairness, allegations of his being "weak" and "indecisive," are somewhat uncharitable. He faces

accusations that he should have resorted to military force in Syria and beefed up the NATO alliance after Russia's actions in Crimea.

Clinical Trials

Publication: Deccan Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: [Profits and Patients](#)

Synopsis: Is greater scrutiny of drug trials in India bad for the industry's health? Last week this question, which typically triggers a polarising debate, was back in the news when the Supreme Court pulled up the Union government for not ensuring that multinational pharma majors compensate those who suffer adverse effects during clinical trials. India is attractive to foreign companies looking to conduct clinical trials because of many reasons, a huge pool of patients, a wide range of diseases, a technically competent workforce and relatively low costs of conducting clinical research.

Similar report in-

Deccan Herald- [Shameful complicity](#)

Publication : Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: [Fatal Clinical Trials](#)

Synopsis: Beyond the immediate facts on shocking negligence in a cervical cancer clinical trial, lies the familiar story of big bucks and exploitation. In the course of the 10-year US-funded experiment, 254 poor women, part of an unscreened group of 138,624 women, have died, making it amply clear why pharma companies prefer India to developed countries. Aside from the costs involved, human lives here are considered cheap, and laws governing such trials can be bent at will. Forget exemplary action against the guilty, the families of clinical trial victims are rarely compensated. While there were 1,725 clinical trial deaths between 2007 and 2010, only 22 people received compensation. What had made it easy for corporates to get away with murder was a conducive system that mandated only the ethics community, which had given the go-ahead for the trial, would decide on the quantum of compensation. It has been alleged that members of these committees are motivated more by commercial concerns than humanitarian considerations. It's a win-win situation for all, barring the human subjects, in the clinical trial industry currently pegged at \$500 million in India and most likely to grow to \$1 billion by 2016.

Drug pricing

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: Mumbai

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: Crocin price no longer a headache (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The shortage of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)-manufactured paracetamol Crocin Advance drug has receded. The pill is back on chemist counters in Mumbai and that too 50% cheaper. People have already started availing of the medicine at a cheaper rate Rs 14 for 15 tablets.

Drug quality

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: Mumbai

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: [HC gives govt leeway to provide better medicare](#)

Synopsis: Observing that the government can impose stringent technical requirements to provide the best possible medical devices for public health programmes, the high court refused to quash and set aside bids issued by the state to procure coronary stents. A division bench of justices VM Kanade and Anil Menon dismissed the petition by a city-based company Vascular Concepts Ltd. dealing in manufacture and import of medical devices, including coronary stents, which are used for relieving cardiac ailments.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: April 25, 2014

Headline: [Health ministry to review increasing variations in quality of same drug in market](#)

Synopsis: The health ministry is planning to call a meeting of the stakeholders to discuss the issue of wide variation in the quality of drugs, especially in respect of generic drugs manufactured in the small scale sector. The Ministry will meet representatives of drug manufacturing associations, pharmacologists and representatives of research and development organisations to gather views on the ways to tackle the issue by setting up more in-house R&D facilities within the premises of the manufacturers.

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: Seeking the Right Chemistry, Drug Makers Hunt for Mergers (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The pharmaceutical industry is regaining its swagger, as companies turn to big and sometimes daring deals to expand and reshape their operations. On Tuesday alone, pharmaceutical companies announced \$74 billion worth of potential deals, including an unorthodox \$45.6 billion bid for Allergan, the maker of Botox, and a flurry of swaps and sales between Novartis of Switzerland and GlaxoSmithKline of Britain. More deals in the cash-rich industry are expected. In recent months, Pfizer made a number of informal takeover approaches for AstraZeneca, including one that would have been worth over \$100 billion, only to be rebuffed.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: [Competition Commission hurdle remains](#)

Synopsis: The multi-billion dollar three-way deal of Novartis with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Eli Lilly is likely to trigger merger control approvals from various anti-trust authorities, including a scrutiny by Competition Commission of India (CCI), industry officials and competition law experts said. The global deal entails some key business segments such as oncology, vaccines, over the counter products and animal health. While all the companies have significant presence in most of these segments, including in India, it is likely that some of their interests might overlap after the deal, impacting competition in the market.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: [How Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw battled cancer plaguing her husband & best friend](#)

Synopsis: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw joined hands with Devi Shetty of Narayana Hrudayalaya to set up a hospital in Bangalore that provides affordable cancer treatment to patients. The Mazumdar-Shaw

Cancer Center has been functioning in Bangalore since 2007, with Mazumdar-Shaw's mother, Yamini Mazumdar, having been one of its patients. Over the past few years, alongside running her company, Mazumdar-Shaw has learnt like many others how best to help a close family member cope with cancer.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: April 25, 2014

Headline: [Pharma exports growth slowest in 15 years](#)

Synopsis: India's pharmaceutical exports registered the slowest growth in at least 15 years at 1.2% to \$14.84 billion last fiscal amid growing tension with the US over intellectual property rights (IPR) related issues. As the IPR issues raised by the US—India's biggest market—are unlikely to be resolved any time soon, industry observers say that pharma exports will miss the target of \$25 billion set for 2014-15 in a government strategy paper.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu Business Line- [Pharma exports to miss target](#)

The Times of India- [Pharma exports slowest in 15 yrs, to miss target this fiscal](#)

The Hindu- [Pharma exports slowest in 15 years](#)

The New Indian Express- [Sick Pharma Sector Reports a Bitter Exports Data](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: April 24, 2014

Headline: [WHO to seek Universal Health Coverage in Southeast Asia](#)

Synopsis: The World Health Organization (WHO) will seek to provide access to health services for all in Southeast Asia and put in place robust healthcare systems in the region, the agency's regional director Poonam Khetrpal Singh said in a speech at a conference on Wednesday in Paro, Bhutan. Public health experts, development agencies and academics are attending the conference to share their experiences and identify ways to bring about universal health coverage (UHC) in Southeast Asia, which aims to ensure that people get health services without experiencing financial hardship in paying for them. WHO's Southeast Asia ambit covers 11 countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.