



News Updates: April 26-28, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: April 28, 2014

Headline: [India strikes a balance on IPR regime](#)

Synopsis: As India awaits the outcome of Special 301 report brought out by the office of the US Trade Representative, an annual survey of countries with lax intellectual property rights (IPR) regime, the administration is getting ready to set its own IPR house in order. Even as it prepares to take the battle to defend its IPR regime to the World Trade Organization and other international forums, the government is drawing out a plan to strengthen its Patent Office, improve its administration and enforcement, and sensitise the industry, research agencies and education institutes on the commercial benefits of intellectual property.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 26, 2014

Headline: [India's IPR laws fully compliant with WTO regime: DIPP](#)

Synopsis: Brushing aside US charges over its intellectual property rights (IPR) laws, India said its rules and norms are transparent and fully compliant with the WTO regime. "India has an extremely well settled, stable and robust IPR regime. Detail rules are there to back them up and (there is) a very strong enforcement mechanism including for dispute resolution," Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Secretary Amitabh Kant said here.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: April 26, 2014

Headline: [Abbott backs India's drug patent regime](#)

Synopsis: The government has received support from an unexpected quarter in its battle against the US on the intellectual property (IP) regime. Amid an uproar for action against India by Big Pharma, American drug major Abbott has told the US International Trade Commission (USITC) that it is "not currently facing any significant challenges with respect to intellectual property protection in India".

Similar report in-

The Economic Times - [Not facing any significant IPR challenges in India: Abbott](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: April 26, 2014

Opinion piece: Feroz Ali Khader, practising advocate, and holds the Ministry of Human Resource Development Chair on IPRs at IIT Madras

Headline: [India: Robin Hood of the pharma world](#)

Synopsis: Gilead's Sovaldi is a wonder drug sold at a shocker price. It is the most effective cure for Hepatitis C, and is in high demand. But the drug has caused an outrage in the US where patients,

healthcare providers and insurers have questioned its exorbitant price tag. For a 12-week course, Sovaldi costs \$84,000 (Rs. 50,00,000). Sovaldi was also in the news for an entirely different set of reasons. Earlier this month, an Indian generic firm, Natco, filed a 'pre-grant opposition' to Gilead's patent covering Sovaldi. The move could result in the Indian Patent Office rejecting Gilead's patent, bringing down the price to a fraction of its current price. This is not a one-off incident. India has tackled the issue of unaffordable prices of drugs protected by patents by incorporating a remarkable array of provisions into its intellectual property (IP) law.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: April 28, 2014

Headline: [Centre moves to plug the royalty outflow surge](#)

Synopsis: After dilly-dallying for several months, the Centre is set to take some action on checking the rising outflow of royalties from multinationals such as Nestle, Siemens, Hindustan Unilever and Maruti Suzuki to their parent companies. Remedies could include re-imposition of caps on outflows or taxing royalty payments. This initiative comes at a time when less than a month is left for a new government to be constituted. The UPA Government has not taken any decision on the matter until now, fearing that it will impact investments.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: April 27, 2014

Headline: [India Raps Threat of US Downgrade](#)

Synopsis: The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) on Saturday criticised the United States Chamber of Commerce for demanding that the United States Trade Representative (USTR) downgrade India's status. Speaking at a day-long national level workshop on 'Patentability: Ever greening and Compulsory Licensing in Indian Context and Global Threats', here on Saturday, IPAB, Chennai's chairman K N Basha said the US Chamber had asked USTR to review India's intellectual patents regime and downgrade its status to 'Priority Foreign Country'.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: April 26, 2014

Headline: [Is Indian IPR Regime losing steam?](#)

Synopsis: On World Intellectual Property (IP) Day on Saturday, Business Standard takes stock of the Indian IP rights regime. While Indian laws are driven by public interest, and are TRIPS*-compliant, experts say the country needs to ramp up the administration around IPR regime.

FDA

Publication : The Financial Express

Edition: Delhi

Date: April 26, 2014

Headline: [USFDA banned Sun Pharma plant after finding rat traps \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: US regulators who visited a Sun Pharmaceutical Industries drug plant in India before the facility was banned last month from exporting to the US saw testing flaws, a garbage pile-up, and a laboratory they called "uncleanable".

Drug pricing

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: April 26, 2014

Headline: [Pharma traders want higher margins restored](#)

Synopsis: There is another stand-off in the offing between the pharmaceutical trade and manufacturers over the issue of margins paid to retailers and wholesalers of medicines by the manufacturers. Trade believes industry should restore margins to pre-July 2013 levels before the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) came into effect reducing prices of several drugs and setting ceiling prices for them.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: April 26, 2014

Headline: [Maharashtra FDA seizes GSK's overpriced paracetamol brands worth over Rs.1 crore](#)

Synopsis: Even as the recall of Crocin Advance and Calpol syrup from the market by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) remained incomplete, the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has seized GSK's paracetamol brands worth Rs.1.03 crore. The Maharashtra FDA has also approached the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for recovery of the excess amount earned as profit by the company on Crocin Advance and is planning to approach NPPA for overpricing Calpol syrup sold in 60 ml bottle and Crocin drops in contravention of DPCO.

Drug regulation

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: April 28, 2014

Headline: [DTAB raises concern over import of huge quantities of APIs as intermediates at low prices](#)

Synopsis: The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the highest decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs, has raised concern on the increasing instances of importing large quantities of bulk drugs in the garb of intermediates from some countries at very low prices and asked the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to tackle the issue.

Innovation

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: April 26, 2014

Opinion piece: Shamnad Basheer, founder of SpicyIP

Headline: [Innovation that includes](#)

Synopsis: The term "inclusive growth" attempts to capture this sentiment. In much the same vein, we now have the concept of "inclusive innovation". At base, the notion of "inclusiveness" has two key aspects to it. First, the fruits of innovation must be accessible to the public at large and not confined to a privileged few. Particularly in the case of drugs, which are often priced out of the reach of the average consumer — consider Nexavar, a patented kidney cancer drug that sold for Rs 3 lakh for a month's dosage. Second, our innovation architecture ought to be democratic and open to all who wish to participate.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: April 27, 2014

Headline: ['Robust manufacturing needed for India to achieve 10% growth'](#)

Synopsis: India would need a employment generating robust manufacturing sector to achieve an annual growth of 10 per cent, a top government official said today. "If India has to grow at 9-10 per cent per annum and if India has to create jobs for its very large population then to my mind we have to

drive our manufacturing. "Manufacturing cannot be driven unless and until India becomes innovation led economy and therefore innovation has to be the backbone of India's growth," Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Amitabh Kant said here at a Ficci function on IPR.

Similar report in-

Deccan Herald- ['Robust manufacturing needed for 10% growth'](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: April 28, 2014

Headline: ['Innovation should be people-centric'](#)

Synopsis: Innovation, and affordable ones at that, should be the driving force for young researchers in the country, said Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Vishwa Mohan Katoch. In an interview to M. SAI GOPAL, Dr. Katoch points out that preference would always be for research that is aimed at public good.

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 26, 2014

Headline: [Pharma consolidation in US hurts mid-sized Indian drug makers](#)

Synopsis: Several mid-sized Indian drug makers heavily dependent on the United States are beginning to suffer because consolidation in the US pharmacy market has created a few dominant players who are demanding cheaper generic drugs, analysts and industry experts said. The North American pharmacy market saw at least three mega consolidation deals involving large wholesale distributors, resulting in emergence of seven large pharmacies that together control nearly 85% of the \$90 billion (Rs 5.4 lakh crore) US market.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: April 26, 2014

Headline: [Won't wait for new formulations, focus on generic drugs as well](#)

Synopsis: Biotechnology firm Biocon on Friday announced the elevation of its chief of operations Arun Chandavarkar as CEO and joint md. chairman and managing director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw tells Ajay Sukumaran in an interview that the move is in line with demands of the firm's growing business, which has been restructured into strategic units.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [Will remain CMD for at least 5 years: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw](#)