



**News Updates: April 3, 2014**

**Patents/Compulsory Licensing/Intellectual Property**

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Health min pushes for cancer drug licence, DIPP pushes back](#)**

**Synopsis:** The US' tirade against India for the latter's "poor record" in protecting intellectual property (IP) seems to have made the commerce and industry ministry more cautious despite its public posturing to the contrary. While the health ministry sought compulsory license (CL) for Bristol-Myers Squibb's (BMS) anti-cancer drug dasatinib, Anand Sharma's ministry has told it to let a domestic firm ask for a CL if the issue was one of "affordability". The commerce and industry ministry has sought details and empirical data from the health ministry to support any claims of non-affordability (which calls for issue of CL under Section 84 of the Patents Act at the instance of a local firm).

**Similar report in-**

**The Hindu Business Line- [Compulsory licence for another cancer drug?](#)**

**Drug Pricing**

**Publication: Daily News & Analysis**

**Edition: Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Ahmedabad**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: NPPA sets price cap of 11 drugs under new pricing policy (link unavailable, scan attached)**

**Synopsis:** The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has set new ceiling prices for 11 formulations. In the latest round of the new drug pricing policy, ibuprofen and anti-infection ointment ciprofloxacin hydrochloride are among the 11 formulations for which the price caps were fixed.

**FDA**

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: [USFDA cites torn records, unclean toilets for banning Sun Pharma's Gujarat plant](#)**

**Synopsis:** Torn documents, partially destroyed raw data showing undesirable results and unclean toilets were among the reasons cited by the US drug regulator for the ban it imposed last month on a Gujarat-based facility of Sun Pharma, the largest Indian drugmaker by market capitalisation. "Drug products failing to meet established specifications and quality control criteria are not rejected," said a form 483 issued to the company, which spelt out violations as observed by US investigators at the Karkhadi facility during their audit in November 2013. This plant, which manufactures the antibiotic Cephalosporin, accounts for less than 1% of the company's sales.

**FII**

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Lupin approaches Cabinet secretary Ajit Seth to increase FII cap to 49% from 33%](#)**

**Synopsis:** Lupin has approached the nation's senior most bureaucrat, seeking his intervention to

secure approval to increase foreign institutional investor (FII) holding in the pharmaceutical major to 49% from 33%, according to a person with knowledge of the matter. The company sought Cabinet secretary Ajit Seth's help as its proposal to raise the FII limit has been caught in a bureaucratic tangle for six months, even as the government went all out to woo foreign investment and put special emphasis on expeditious clearances to lift business sentiment. What probably queered the pitch for Lupin was the government's move to introduce a distinction between foreign direct investment in greenfield and brownfield projects a couple of years ago following concerns that Indians will be denied cheap medicines if multinationals continued to acquire control of local drug firms.

### General Industry

**Publication: The Pioneer**

**Edition: Delhi**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: Delhi BJP promises housing, jobs & healthcare for all (link unavailable, scan attached)**

**Synopsis:** The BJP has promised to provide health facilities to all with the launch of Universal Health Insurance and trauma centres in all districts. The BJP promised to re-implement the Essential Drugs Policy, under which 25 types of medicines would be provided free to each citizen of Delhi throughout their lifetime. To ensure that generic medicines are available at affordable prices, the BJP said it would open fair price medical stores in the Capital. It also proposed to invest 30 per cent of the health budget for promotion of preventive healthcare and setting up of OPDs for health facilities in economically weaker section colonies.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Nancy Powell and the fatigue in India, US ties](#)**

**Synopsis:** In the age of breaking news and Twitter hashtags, it doesn't take much for any event to gain importance way out of line with its importance. Nancy Powell, former US ambassador to India, would have been amused at the number of theories that followed her decision to resign earlier this week. That she didn't cite a reason for resigning only added to the intrigue. It is safe to say that her departure as ambassador—not the first time a US envoy has quit India—marks the low point in India-US relations at least since Barack Obama became president.

**Publication: The Hindu Business Line**

**Edition: National**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Dabbawalas to deliver WHO's word](#)**

**Synopsis:** Mumbai's iconic dabbawalas have been roped in by the World Health Organization (WHO) to spread awareness about diseases such as malaria and dengue.

On April 7, World Health Day, little tags with preventive messages on diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, flies and so on will be put on the approximately 400,000 tiffin boxes that the dabbawalas deliver every day, Ragnath D Medge, President of the Nutan Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers Charity Trust, told mediapersons.

**Similar reports in-**

Mint (online)- [WHO join hands with Mumbai dabbawalas to campaign World Health Day theme](#)

Business Standard- [Message drive by Mumbai 'dabbawalas' on vector-borne diseases](#)

The Times of India- [Now, dabbawallas to spread dengue, malaria messages](#)

**Website: Reuters**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Sanofi eyes more acquisitions, sees growth in Africa](#)**

**Synopsis:** Sanofi is on the lookout for acquisitions to boost key business units, such as consumer and animal health products, and expects strong growth in the "strategic continent" of Africa, its chief executive told Reuters on Wednesday. Chris Viehbacher declined to say whether the group would be interested in Merck & Co's non-prescription consumer business or Novartis's animal health operations.

**Website: Reuters**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: April 3, 2014**

**Headline: [GlaxoSmithKline throws in towel on lung cancer vaccine trial](#)**

**Synopsis:** GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK) has stopped a high-profile clinical trial using a novel vaccine to fight lung cancer after deciding it will not be possible to find a sub-group of patients who might benefit. The decision comes less than two weeks after GSK said the MAGE-A3 therapeutic vaccine did not help patients with non-small cell lung cancer in the Phase III study overall, but it was still looking for improvements among patients with a particular genetic profile.