



News Updates: April 8, 2014

Patents/Compulsory Licensing/Intellectual Property

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: April 7, 2014

Headline: [Free trade agreements contain provisions that restrict access to medicines: UNITAID](#)

Synopsis: UNITAID, a global health initiative has warned against bilateral and regional trade agreements, pushed mostly by Europe and the US, as such agreements go well beyond traditional trade concerns and include provisions that force extensive obligations related to intellectual property and investor protection which would restrict access to medicines.

Manifesto- Health services

Website: India.com

Edition: Online

Date: April 7, 2014

Headline: [BJP Manifesto: Narendra Modi want to galvanize healthcare in India](#)

Synopsis: BJP at its best might have learnt the lesson from the previous healthcare manifesto. This time around, for the first time, BJP announces National Health Assurance Mission with a clear mandate to provide accessible and affordable healthcare. This is much like the Aam Aadmi Party Manifesto where they are likely to table the Right to Healthcare, if they form a government. Emphasis is laid on modernizing and updating technology and infrastructure in government hospitals. BJP's vision is to set up the AIIMS in every state, this is reflected in every speech, but lacks the mechanism to improve the current situation of India's premier hospital. In UPA II, it was evident in some cases; center and AIIMS authorities have shown the inability to treat some people due to lack of money and technology, when the Supreme Court had intervened and directed AIIMS.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [5 reasons why BJP's manifesto stands apart](#)

The Economic Times- [BJP manifesto bears strong resemblance to the 2012 Gujarat manifesto](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Ram Temple in BJP manifesto, Congress complains to EC](#)

The New Indian Express- [BJP Manifesto "Laundry List of Disconnected Ideas": Congress](#)

Business Standard- [BJP manifesto: Salient points](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi

Date: April 8, 2014

Headline: Parties & Promises (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: As the Lok Sabha elections get underway, here is a comparison of the manifestoes of major parties on key policy issues, ranging from the economy and foreign affairs to the social sector and internal security.

Sun Pharma- Ranbaxy deal

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: April 8, 2014

Headline: [Sun Pharma buys Ranbaxy to create generics giant](#)

Synopsis: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, India's biggest drug maker by market value, has agreed to acquire Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, controlled by Japan's Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd, in an all-stock deal worth \$3.2 billion that will create the world's fifth largest generics (or off-patent) drugs company by revenue and India's largest pharma firm by market share.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [Sun Pops Ranbaxy for \\$4 b](#)

Business Standard- [Sun Pharma buys Ranbaxy from Japan's Daiichi](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Sun blazes with \\$4-billion Ranbaxy buy](#)

The Financial Express- [Sun Pharma deal: 'Sunny days ahead for Ranbaxy Laboratories shareholders'](#)

The Financial Chronicle- [Sun Pharma buys Ranbaxy for \\$3.2b, turns it Indian again](#)

The Times of India- [Sun Pharma to pay \\$3.2 billion for Ranbaxy, will be world No. 5](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Sun Pharma to acquire Ranbaxy in \\$4 billion transaction](#)

Drug regulation/ Drug quality

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: April 8, 2014

Headline: [Drug inspectors hard-pressed to scrutinise factories](#)

Synopsis: A drugs regulator is among the first to admit that oversight of India's huge pharmaceutical industry can be patchy. G L Singhal, chief regulator of Haryana, a drugs manufacturing hub, says he needs double the number of inspectors if he is to properly scrutinise factories there. "We literally have skeletal services. We are struggling in the present system. Inspectors are so overburdened, and their nature of duty is very serious," Singhal told Reuters.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Chronicle-[Drug inspectors hard-pressed to scrutinise factories](#)

Business World- [India's Drug Inspectors Hard-Pressed To Scrutinise Factories](#)

Reuters- [India's drug inspectors hard-pressed to scrutinise factories](#)

Access & Affordability

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: April 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, CMD, Biocon

Headline: [Indian Pharma: Regaining our brand equity](#)

Synopsis: India's pharma industry has been at the forefront of the public health revolution to make medicines affordable. Generic drug manufacturers in India have lowered prices of a range of therapeutics and saved millions of lives. Indian generics account for 30% of the US market and are critical to President Barack Obama's affordable healthcare programme. Data from the 2013 Generic Drug Savings in the US report shows generics saved the US health system a staggering \$1.3 trillion in the most recent decade.

FDA

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Mumbai

Date: April 8, 2014

Headline: [Prescribe generic drugs, doctors told](#)

Synopsis: The state Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and consumer activists have increased their clamour for doctors to prescribe generic drugs more often. The medical fraternity, however, has been apprehensive about advising non-branded medicines, which they believe, may not be appropriately checked for quality. A month after the FDA released the prescription model that requires doctors to write generic names of drugs, among other things like their qualification and field of specialty, there remains a lot of ambiguity about its implementation. The FDA, through a series of meetings with the medical bodies, has been trying to sensitize doctors about the new format, which is likely to be put into practice in a month.

Indo- US ties

Publication: Mail Today

Edition: Delhi

Date: April 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary

Headline: Indo-US relations need revamping (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: After having entered into a green light mode, India-US relations have slipped into an amber mode. How soon we can get back into smooth circulation will depend largely on the US, as the responsibility for the malaise affecting our ties rests mainly on its shoulders.

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: Online

Date: April 7, 2014

Headline: [India and US: Cold vibes after years of warm ties](#)

Synopsis: Decades of disagreements, from Cold War ideological battles to squabbles over the United States' close relationship with India's archrival, Pakistan, would take a back seat to the many shared interests of two of the world's largest and most diverse democracies. But almost four years later, the US and India have found themselves on opposite sides of the world's most important diplomatic issues, from the crisis in Ukraine, in which India came to Russia's defence, to a long-awaited vote to investigate Sri Lanka's government for atrocities committed at the end of its civil war (India abstained).

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: April 8, 2014

Headline: [Smaller pharma contract producers face closure](#)

Synopsis: Even as the pharmaceutical industry is growing steadily, attracting more foreign players into the market, small enterprises that have been depending on contract manufacture for larger players are facing the threat of closure, says a federation of small-scale pharma industry associations in the country. On the one hand, the pharma market, currently worth around Rs 75,000 crore and growing towards Rs 100,000 crore, is opening up a large market for companies; on the other, the number of small units has come down drastically, as large companies have expanded their manufacturing capacity, affecting the contract work done by smaller firms, says T S Jaishankar, chairman, Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI).

Publication: The Pioneer

Edition: Delhi

Date: April 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO's Regional Director for South-East Asia

Headline: Another threat to public health (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Starting this Monday, April 7, which was World Health Day, the World Health

Organisation has focused its attention on vector-borne diseases, like dengue, which put our well-being at risk at home, at the workplace and when we travel. From India's perspective, this is especially good news. The country has experienced outbreaks of dengue since the disease was first reported in 1944, and in 2002, it hit endemic proportions. A large number of cases are reported every year from all across the country. Victory over dengue is possible but it will require coordinated action from different sections of society— health practitioners, the Government, the media and the people.