



News Updates : February 25, 2014

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Government likely to stop discussing IPR regime with US bilaterally](#)

Synopsis: India is likely to stop discussing intellectual property rights (IPRs) issues bilaterally with the United States, toughening its stance against the world's largest economy that has, of late, stepped up scrutiny of India's regime to protect innovation. India will inform the US that issues related to IPR are compliant with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and, therefore, the United States cannot pressurise India or impose unilateral sanctions over its domestic laws.

Similar reports in:

Business Standard- [India may take US to WTO if included in priority country list](#)

The Financial Express- [IPR scrutiny: India says no to US, may seek WTO help to settle row](#)

The Times Of India- [India ready to take on US over patents at World Trade Organization](#)

NDTV- [India may take US to World Trade Organisation over intellectual property rights row](#)

Moneycontrol- [Indo-US trade row: USITC representatives snubbed](#)

The Indian Express- [USITC wants to come calling for fact-finding, India says no \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [US, India must stop trading petty insults over various issues](#)

Synopsis: There is a lot of unpleasantness building up between India and the US, the latest instance being resentment in India over the report the US International Trade Commission (USITC) is getting ready on India's intellectual property rights and on India's efforts to create an indigenous solar energy industry by mandating a quota in central procurement of solar energy for energy from locally produced equipment. This is more substantive than the childish tantrums over cancelled or postponed visits to India of senior US officials in the wake of India's tough stance and childish retaliations against US embassy personnel over the US decision to prosecute Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade. The US has downgraded India's aviation safety rank and its Food and Drug Administration has tightened the screws on India-made drugs.

Publication: The Times Of India

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Trade war: Top US official told to defer India trip](#)

Synopsis: Amid the ongoing trade spat, the government has advised deputy US trade representative Wendy Cutler to defer her planned trip to India next month in the view of the "flux" as well as the fiscal year-end commitments of officials. "Our ministers will be busy with the general elections and officials in the ministries will be rushing to meet the financial commitments before the end of the financial year. So, we are suggesting that she postpones her trip by a few months," said a senior government official.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Pressure tactics by America](#)

Synopsis: The drag-down in India-US ties seems to be manifest in the worsening of trade relations between

the two countries, with American business bodies and those on Capitol Hill urging the Obama administration to get tough with India. The threat that India can be designated a “Priority Foreign Country” (this would permit sanctions) seems a pressure tactic to get India to assure pharma MNCs that it would go easy on applying Section 3(d) of its Patents Act. Under this provision, international drug manufacturers cannot take a licence for granted. The provision, in effect, is a check on “evergreening” through which companies, when their patent is set to expire after a 20-year run, just tweak the medicines they sell and apply for a fresh licence, as if for a new product.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [‘The hearings might adversely affect India’s pharma industry’](#)

Synopsis: India’s use of flexibilities in connection with intellectual property (IP) is being strongly challenged by a section of United States’ industry. This month, the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) held public hearings in Washington DC as part of its investigation titled “Trade, Investment and Industrial Policies in India: Effects on the US Economy”. Industry associations from the US and India, public interest groups like Doctors without Borders and Knowledge Ecology International and several US academics have testified before the USITC. Meanwhile, India maintains that its laws and policies are its sovereign function. In an e-mail interview with Patralekha Chatterjee, Professor Brook K. Baker of the Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, who submitted a pre-hearing statement before the USITC, along with two other academics, argues that India’s patent policies are consonant with the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), an international agreement administered by the World Trade Organisation.

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Aurobindo in legal fight with Abbvie on patent issue](#)

Synopsis: Indian drug making company Aurobindo Pharma has found itself in a legal tangle with AbbVie over patent infringement of a drug used for kidney disorder. The case was filed last week in the district court of Delaware by Abb Vie Inc and Wisonsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF). The plaintiffs say that Aurobindo has altogether violated three patents. Aurobindo had filed for an Abbreviated New Drug Approval, to be able to sell the copy cat version of Abb Vie’s drug branded as Zemplar, even before the patent expires.

Drug Pricing

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Small drug firms fear margin erosion will impact long-term growth](#)

Synopsis: As most pharmaceutical companies have recently agreed to revert to the old trade margins for drugs listed under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), the move can come as a major blow for small and medium-sized drug firms, which expect erosion in margins as a result. This leaves SME drug makers strapped for cash, jeopardising their chances of diversifying into non-DPCO products to protect their margins. Kamlesh Patel, managing director of West Coast Pharmaceutical Works and vice-president of the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA), western region, explained that a margin erosion of at least five to six per cent is unavoidable for SMEs in the pharma sector, which would now have to offer the old margins to retailers and wholesalers.

Access

Publication: Mumbai Mirror

Edition: National

Date: February 24, 2014

Headline: [Healthcare on the go](#)

Synopsis: Most of us have been embarrassingly blind to the fact that so many Indians can't see. Or that so many Indians do not even have access to basic healthcare. The numbers: 80 per cent of India's 12 million-plus blind (about 30% of the world's total blind population) could have been avoided. Besides, it is a shame that 8% of India's rural primary health care centers do not have doctors or medical staff; some 39% do not have lab technicians; 18% do not even have a pharmacist.

General Industry

Publication: The Times Of India

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Has polio returned to US after 35 years?](#)

Synopsis: In what could be the biggest blow in recent years to the global fight against polio, fears have now emerged that the crippling disease has returned to America after 35 years. Researchers have identified a polio-like syndrome in a cluster of children from California over a one-year period. A detailed analysis of five cases showed enterovirus-68 — which is related to poliovirus — could be to blame. Interestingly, all the children had been vaccinated against polio. Symptoms have ranged from restricted movement in one limb to severe weakness in both legs and arms.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [If you de-worm children, school attendance will increase: Neeraj Mistry](#)

Synopsis: Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of parasitic and bacterial infections that affect one in six people worldwide, including half a billion children. Nearly 35% of the global population infected with NTDs, which are usually synonymous with poverty, resides in India. The Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases, an initiative of the US-based Sabin Vaccine Institute, seeks to eliminate seven of the most common NTDs by 2020, managing director Neeraj Mistry said in an interview.

Publication: The Economic Times- Special Report

Edition: Delhi

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: Health sector: A shot in the arm (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The Indian healthcare industry, which comprises hospitals, medical infrastructure, medical devices, clinical trials, outsourcing, telemedicine, health insurance and medical equipment, is expected to reach US\$ 160 billion by 2017, as per a report. India's healthcare system is developing rapidly and continues to expand its coverage, services and expenditure in the public as well as private sectors. This is creating a large market for hospital information systems and other healthcare-related IT solutions.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy Paonta Sahib may have seen 6-10 exits, say sources](#)

Synopsis: Drug maker Ranbaxy Laboratories is learnt to have seen the exit of 6-10 employees at its Paonta Sahib (Himachal Pradesh) factory. This comes within weeks of the company's active pharmaceutical ingredient (API)-making facility in Toansa (Punjab) being barred from supplying to the American market. During an inspection of the facility, the US regulatory authorities had found serious violations of and deviations from good manufacturing norms. While it was not clear whether these employees left on their

own or were asked to go, an email query to Ranbaxy regarding the exits of employees at its Paonta Sahib factory did not elicit any response.

Publication: Daily News and Analysis

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Med council bans suffix 'therapy' from stem cell](#)

Synopsis: The Indian Council of Medical Research on Saturday revised its 2007 guidelines on stem cell by dropping the word 'therapy'. It has said that use of the word will be tantamount to malpractice. The watchdog for clinical practice contends that fraudulent practices are on in the name of 'stem cell therapy'. "Unfortunately clinicians have started exploiting patients," said Dr VM Katoch, secretary, department of health research and director general of the council. Presently, many claims are made about how stem cell treatment can cure various disorders — hair loss, diabetes, cancer and others.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [M&A pill: to pop or not is the question](#)

Synopsis: Recently, Actavis Plc. announced a \$25 billion, or Rs.155,000 crore, acquisition of Forest Laboratories Inc. Its North American speciality brands will now contribute 47% of sales from 30% before the acquisition. Earlier, Actavis acquired Warner Chilcott Plc, taking up the speciality division's revenue from \$500 million to \$2.9 billion.

The big-ticket acquisition route is Actavis's response to the dilemma that faces generic companies in the US market: how do they insure against a possible decline in generic drug revenue? Fewer blockbuster opportunities and rising competition are some of the reasons for this dilemma.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: Hyderabad

Date: February 25, 2014

Headline: [Dr Reddy's, Cellceutix join hands for Brilacidin \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: Massachusetts-based Cellceutix Corporation, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing innovative therapies in oncology, dermatology, and antibiotic applications, has concluded negotiations with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories for a formulation of the company's defensinmimetic drug Brilacidin, used in ophthalmic and otitis infections.