



## **News Updates: February 26, 2014**

### **OPPI**

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 26, 2014**

**Headline: [Getting the IPR dosage right](#) (scan attached as well)**

**Synopsis:** The developed world is concerned over the deteriorating environment for intellectual property protection in India, particularly of pharmaceutical patents. Both sides of the debate present arguments which they see as legally-endorsed and it is time to place the key issues in perspective, to see what is black and white and what is grey. This is not a fight between the poor and the industry or even between patented medicines and generics. It is a difference of view between those that are investing in research to create intellectual property and those that have no regard for its protection—be they regulators, competitors, legislators or activists.

**Publication: Deccan Herald**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 26, 2014**

**Headline: ['Innovation, lifeline of medical research'](#) (scan attached as well)**

**Synopsis:** Research and innovation have been changing the face of this world, sometimes in small steps and sometimes in quantum leaps. This applies even more in the world of medicine than in many other areas. Everything, from telecom and manufacturing to technology and healthcare has witnessed revolutionary progress thanks in large part to the wonders of innovation. Nowhere is the impact of this greater than in medicine, when the incurable becomes curable, when the triumph of life over death can be celebrated and when the alleviation of pain and suffering becomes a reward in itself. There are many striking examples that bear this out.

### **Patents/Compulsory Licensing/Intellectual Property**

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 26, 2014**

**Headline: [Indian pharma industry could face U.S. sanctions](#)**

**Synopsis:** The acrimonious U.S.-India exchange with regard to trade relations could degenerate with the news that the U.S. could designate India a 'Priority Foreign Country' (PFC) or even the more stringent 'Foreign Country Watch List' inviting unilateral trade sanctions. The pharmaceutical sector is one of the targets and contentious issues include India's granting domestic companies compulsory licences (CL) and refusing 'evergreening' of patents by multinational companies (MNCs) under Section 3 (d) of the Indian Patents Act 1970. When companies are closing in on the expiry of the 20-year run for a patent, they tweak the formula of the drug and seek a new licence as a new product thus 'evergreening' the patent. In 2013, Bayer and Novartis' patent applications were rejected for their respective cancer drugs Nexavar and Glivec and Novartis said it would stop its R&D spend in India.

#### **Similar reports in:**

**The Hindu Business Line- [Patent laws safe from US challenge: India](#)**

**The Hindustan Times- [US cos push for trade sanctions, India says it will fend off probes](#)**

Deccan Chronicle (Bangalore)- India readies for trade war with US (link unavailable, scan attached)

**Publication:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** February 26, 2014

**Headline:** [Fixing prices of patented drugs](#)

**Synopsis:** Regulating drug prices has been a major initiative of the Central government for more than last 45 years as prices of most of the essential and life saving drugs remained beyond the reach of common man. And with that intention, the government introduced price control on essential and life saving drugs from 1970 onwards. But, the price control had never worked effectively in the country because of frequent violations and circumventions of Drug Price Control Order by most of the pharma companies. This is despite genuine efforts by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in enforcing the provisions of the DPCO. But the worst phase in controlling drug prices started after the amendment of the Indian Patent Act in 2005 facilitating MNCs to freely sell patented drugs in the domestic market.

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** February 26, 2014

**Headline:** [US industry wants India designated Priority Foreign Country](#)

**Synopsis:** Ramping up their anti-India campaign, an influential section of American businesses, in particular those from the pharma and manufacturing sectors, here on Monday urged the Obama Administration to designate India as a Priority Foreign Country. A Priority Foreign Country is a status reserved for those nations that are the most egregious violators of IP rights and have the most negative impact on US competitiveness abroad.

**Similar report in:**

The Indian Express- [US industry wants India in IP rights violators list](#)

### Clinical Trials

**Publication:** Mint

**Edition:** National

**Date:** February 26, 2014

**Headline:** [Uncertainty on approvals sees exodus of clinical trials](#)

**Synopsis:** Clinical research organizations (CROs) and drug research companies are bypassing India and exploring alternative locations for drug studies, spooked by delayed approvals and a Supreme Court order that the government review clearances granted for 157 clinical trials. Approvals for even bio-equivalence and bio-availability studies, which are conducted by generic drug makers to prove their versions are equivalent to already established foreign brands, have been delayed, leading to a substantial drop in the number of launches of new generic drugs in the country.

### FDA

**Publication:** Forbes

**Edition:** National

**Date:** February 25, 2014

**Headline:** [Some Indian Generic Drug Companies Are Selling Shoddy, Ineffective, FDA-Approved Medicines To U.S. Patients](#)

**Synopsis:** Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Margaret Hamburg just wrapped up a trip to India to rebuild trust with her Indian counterparts in the wake of serial drug quality violations among Indian generic manufacturers. The quality lapses in India—which supplies more drugs to the United States than any other

country—have become so unnerving that U.S. physicians are for the first time publicly voicing concern.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 26, 2014**

**Headline: [Indian drug regulator seen as corrupt: Roger Bate](#)**

**Synopsis:** US drug regulator Margaret Hamburg's recent visit to India has done little to clear the air about the quality of drugs manufactured by Indian companies and one reason for this may be India's drug controller. There is a growing perception in the US that India's drug regulator is unwilling to monitor the quality of drugs manufactured by the local companies, said Roger Bate of Washington, DC-based think tank, the American Enterprise Institute.

#### Union Health Minister

**Publication: Mail Today**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 26, 2014**

**Headline: Desiraju's IAS contemporary succeeds him as health secy (link unavailable, scan attached)**

**Synopsis:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday approved the selection of IAS officer Lov Verma as secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare.

#### Doctor Promotion

**Publication: The Telegraph**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 26, 2014**

**Headline: [Doctors oppose freebie exemption](#)**

**Synopsis:** A proposal by the Medical Council of India, the country's apex medical regulatory agency, to exempt associations of doctors from a code of conduct binding on individual doctors has evoked sharp reactions of disapproval from within medical circles. At least three members of the MCI's own ethics subcommittee are among doctors who have decried its executive committee's proposal last week to amend rules to effectively exempt doctors' associations from the code of conduct binding on individual doctors since 2002.

#### General Industry

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 26, 2014**

**Headline: [Ranbaxy puts API supplies on hold](#)**

**Synopsis:** Ranbaxy Laboratories has suspended shipments of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) from two of its Indian factories, at Toansa (Punjab) and Dewas (Madhya Pradesh) to overhaul manufacturing practices. It has also set up a quality and integrity committee on the board of directors, to assure "good governance". This comes some weeks after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) forbade the Toansa API factory from supplying any product for the American market. The two factories in question are currently banned from supplying products there, following the FDA decision that they'd breached good manufacturing norms.

**Similar reports in-**

**The Economic Times-** [Ranbaxy suspends shipments of active ingredients from Toansa, Dewas plants](#)

**Mint-** [Ranbaxy halts drug ingredients shipment from Toansa, Dewas plants](#)

The Financial Express- [Ranbaxy Laboratories halts drug ingredient shipments from 2 plants as scrutiny mounts](#)

The Times Of India- [Ranbaxy halts operations at two key facilities](#)

The Hindustan Times- [Ranbaxy stops API production at two plants](#)

The Indian Express- [Ranbaxy halts shipments from Toansa, Dewas](#)

**Publication:** Business Standard

**Edition:** National

**Date:** February 26, 2014

**Headline:** [Domestic drug companies beat MNCs in growth during 2013](#)

**Synopsis:** While Indian companies might be struggling to meet compliance norms to export drugs to one of the world's biggest pharma markets, the US, when it comes to home-ground, they have beat their foreign peers hands down in terms of growth last year. If one looks back at the calendar year 2013, an interesting story unfolds in the pharma space; local drug firms have significantly out-performed multinational drug players, registering a growth of 11.4 per cent versus 6.5 per cent respectively.

**Publication:** The New York Times

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** February 25, 2014

**Headline:** [Obesity Rate for Young Children Plummet 43% in a Decade](#)

**Synopsis:** Federal health authorities on Tuesday reported a 43 percent drop in the obesity rate among 2- to 5-year-old children over the past decade, the first broad decline in an epidemic that often leads to lifelong struggles with weight and higher risks for cancer, heart disease and stroke.

The drop emerged from a major federal health survey that experts say is the gold standard for evidence on what Americans weigh. The trend came as a welcome surprise to researchers. New evidence has shown that obesity takes hold young: Children who are overweight or obese at 3 to 5 years old are five times as likely to be overweight or obese as adults.

**Publication:** Business Standard

**Edition:** National

**Date:** February 26, 2014

**Headline:** [India Inc investment in South Africa to touch \\$7 bn](#)

**Synopsis:** South Africa, one of the key investment destinations for India Inc, expects around \$500 million in investments in 2014–2015 from India. Elizabeth Thabethe, the Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry, South Africa, who was in Chennai on the occasion of the 5th Investment & Trade Initiative, said that total investment till now by Indian companies has touched \$6 billion and this is expected to touch \$7 billion in the coming years.