



News Updates: February 07, 2014

Intellectual Property/Compulsory License/Patents

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Big pharma firms pushes for US action against India over patent worries](#)

Synopsis: Global pharmaceutical firms are pressuring the United States to act against India to stop more local companies producing up to a dozen new varieties of cheap generic drugs still on-patent, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said. An Indian government committee is reviewing patented drugs of foreign firms to see if so-called compulsory licences, which in effect break exclusivity rights, can be issued for some of them to bring down costs, two senior government officials told Reuters.

Publication: The Times Of India

Edition: National

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [Cancer drug may lose patent shield](#)

Synopsis: The government is studying options to issue a compulsory licence on life-saving anti-cancer drug dasatinib, which could bring down its price by over 90%. The move brings back into focus the government's efforts to address affordability of exorbitantly priced patented drugs to address public health concerns.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [Patents and Copyrights Are Not for Violation](#)

Synopsis: India has for the second time in succession found itself at the bottom of the International Intellectual Property Index issued by the US apex trade body's Global Intellectual Property Centre (GIPC). It certainly has a point that the scores assigned to some of the parameters used for computing the 25-nation index are not wholly incontrovertible. There can be no disputing that the concerns expressed by the GIPC over compulsory licensing and non-availability of patent term restoration are subjective, given that these are compatible with the agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights or TRIPS as it is known.

Publication: The Times Of India

Edition: Ahmedabad

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [PhRMA seeks US action against India over patent worries \(scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: Global pharmaceutical firms are pressurizing the United States to act against India to stop more local companies producing up to a dozen new varieties of cheap generic drugs still on-patent, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [India wants USFDA chief to treat clinical volunteers on par with US counterparts](#)

Synopsis: India's drug regulator may urge the chief of US Food and Drug Administration, Margaret Hamburg, on her visit to the country next week to ensure that the drugmakers from the United States conducting clinical trials here treat the volunteers on a par with their counterparts back home.

"US and other global drugmakers who conduct clinical trials at different locations across the globe need to be made responsible in their home country for their objectionable conduct in clinical trials elsewhere," an official told ET, adding that the Drug Controller General of India, GN Singh, was likely to raise the issue with Hamburg on Monday.

Drug regulation/FDA/Drug pricing

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [No small price to pay](#)

Synopsis: Three months from now, India's new drug pricing regime will turn a year old. Last May, the Union ministry of chemicals and fertilisers brought 354 drugs under price control, up from 74, via the new Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO). The new DPCO had severe teething troubles and its implementation preoccupied bureaucrats and companies alike for many months. But there are equally thorny issues that loom on the horizon. Indeed, the national discourse on drug pricing and affordability is just warming up. First, some background on the new regime. It has two main objectives. First, to address the argument put forward by civil society groups that the earlier price-control regime was outdated and ineffective, the ministry has created a new, longer list of drugs that mirrors India's National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). Second, it has consigned the production cost-linked pricing method, a tedious procedure repeatedly denounced by the drug industry, to the dustbin. The new method fixes the final price as the simple average of the prices of the top three brands of a drug by value market share.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [Roche sues Biocon, Mylan, DCGI over breast cancer drug](#)

Synopsis: The Indian arm of Swiss pharma major Roche, which unexpectedly gave up its patent on its \$6 billion breast cancer drug Herceptin (Trastuzumab) in India last year, has sued Bangalore based Biocon BSE 1.86 % and US generic giant Mylan Inc in Delhi High Court (HC) for launching world's first biosimilar version of the original drug in India.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [Who gives a fig about health?](#)

Synopsis: Every now and then, a national health controversy brews with the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration at its epicentre. It could be over worms in Cadbury's chocolate, or the revelation that your baby's oil has a liquid paraffin base, held unfit for infants. Last November, the Maharashtra FDA took the pro-consumer battle to a different level by putting the spotlight on patient compensation for faulty hip-implants sold by the multinational, Johnson & Johnson. There are plenty of untested products in the market — from slimming teas to traditional products with a "money back" promise, if the product did not cure your diabetes, for instance. At one time, even smokeless electronic cigarettes were hawked in the country, when regulators were not clear how to deal with this smoking gun. And it did not matter whether traders or manufacturers of any of these products were in Tamil Nadu or Kerala (as was the case with electronic cigarettes and ayurvedic cure for diabetes) — the messages went randomly to people across the

country on their mobile phones. Is there a trail on who bought the product so promoted, and the impact it had on the consumer? How often do we hear of concerns affecting the health of citizens being red-flagged by State regulators across the country? In the early 2000s, Reckitt Benckiser was forced to explain why it attempted to replace Disprin's popular soluble aspirin with a paracetamol formulation. Patients were confused as aspirin is sometimes taken by heart patients as a blood-thinner to keep blood-clot-related risks at bay, while a paracetamol tackles pain. The company was forced to bring back its flagship aspirin brand.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [CCI slaps fine on Ferozepur chemists & druggists body](#)

Synopsis: Clamping down on unfair trade practices in pharma business, Competition Commission has slapped a penalty of over Rs 55 lakh on a Punjab-based Chemists & Druggists Association and its office bearers. Competition Commission of India (CCI), which has been making efforts to sensitise the public on unfair ways in the pharma industry, has also asked the Ferozepur-based association to "cease and desist" from such practices that restrict supplies of medicines into the market.

General Industry News

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: Online

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Indian envoy to US defends pharma industry](#)

Synopsis: India's envoy to America S Jaishankar has strongly defended the country's pharmaceutical industry, which has been accused of piracy and counterfeiting in the US. In an interview to a news agency, Jaishankar said he was "very surprised" by US Senator Orrin Hatch's recent remark, describing India as "the biggest battlefield" for intellectual property rights and accusing the country of allowing "rampant piracy and counterfeiting" for the benefit of its own industries.

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: Delhi

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [India's drugs market expected to be worth \\$32b by 2017 \(scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: India is currently on the US government's priority watch list countries whose practices on protecting intellectual property Washington believes should be monitored closely.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: Online

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [HCL Corp forays into healthcare, launches HCL Avitas in collaboration with John Hopkins](#)

Synopsis: After technology and education, Shiv Nadar-promoted HCL Corporation on Thursday forayed into the healthcare segment with the launch of HCL Avitas as the first subsidiary of HCL Healthcare in collaboration with US-based John Hopkins Medicine International.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [Charak Pharmaceuticals wins case against Glenmark over drug name](#)

Synopsis: The Bombay High Court has granted relief to ayurvedic drugmaker Charak Pharmaceuticals in a six-year-old case involving its product Evanova, directing Glenmark Pharmaceuticals BSE 1.34 % to rename its drug Econova within four weeks since its name is deceptively similar.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: [Fat profit margins in Indian market a big lure for MNCs](#)

Synopsis: For multinational companies, the bigger lure to invest in India seems to be a fatter profit margin than the size or other opportunities offered by the market. While global giants dwarf their Indian rivals in terms of size, turnover, profits and valuations in almost all sectors, the margins or profitability of local players are far more superior, according to an ET study.

Publication: Deccan Chronicle

Edition: Bangalore

Date: February 7, 2014

Headline: 'Domestic cos should focus on innovation' (scan attached)

Synopsis: Revealing the changing pharmaceutical industry, Dr Reddy's labs chairman and CEO G. V. Prasad said that pharma firms need to move away from focusing on research over blockbuster molecules over a longer duration to distributing the innovation for shorter duration.