



**News Updates: January 23, 2014**

### Compulsory License/Patents

**Publication: Financial Chronicle**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 23, 2014**

**Journalist: Ketaki Gokhale**

**Headline: Patent issue dogs pharma MNCs (no link available)**

**Synopsis:** Pharmaceutical companies from Merck & Co. (MRK:US) to Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (BMY:US) face fresh threats to protecting their patents in India as a government-appointed panel prepares to evaluate more drugs for local makers to copy.

The panel is looking beyond the cancer treatments it studied last year to areas such as HIV and diabetes, according to two people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. It plans to study more than 20 drugs and recommend the government assign about three so-called compulsory licenses to allow local firms to make low-priced copies in India, they said.

### Drug Pricing/Pricing Policy

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 23, 2014**

**Headline: [Government may have to reset prices of essential drugs](#)**

**Synopsis:** Seven months into the new pharma pricing regime, the government may have to go back to the drawing board and reset prices of essential drugs, adding to the prevailing confusion in the domestic drug market. Also, it may now have to set free time-release drugs from regulation, which means that these new generation drugs will remain expensive. This class of drugs release medicine at a measured pace to improve efficacy and compliance of patients and involves different forms of releases: modified, sustained, extended, controlled and delayed release therapies.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 23, 2014**

**Headline: [Rift widens in pharma industry as retailers enter manufacturing arena](#)**

**Synopsis:** Chemists have started manufacturing and selling generic medicines after forming a new corporate entity All Indian Origin Chemists and Distributors Ltd (AIOCDL), competing directly with drug makers whose products they sell and widening a rift in the pharmaceutical industry. AIOCDL has outsourced the production of the medicines to contract manufacturing units located in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, under the private label model. Alongside manufacturing generic medicines, the chemists' entity has ventured into logistics and cold-chain management and market research linked to the pharma retail market. For the latter, the group has formed a joint venture called AIOCD Pharmasofttech AWACS Pvt. Ltd. with information technology company Trikaal Mediinfotech Pvt Ltd.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 23, 2014**

**Headline:** [Eli Lilly testing pricing model in India](#)

**Synopsis:** The Indian arm of Eli Lilly, a US based drug innovator firm with annual sales of over \$22 billion, is attempting new drug pricing models here to ensure that its drugs can reach a large number of patients in the country.

#### Drug regulation

**Publication:** Deccan Herald

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** 22 Jan 2014

**Opinion Article-** Dinesh C Sharma

**Headline:** [Lax drug regulation](#)

**Synopsis:** Indian drug makers are eager to enter the generic inhaler combination business in the US after the drug regulator there eased guidelines for cheaper alternatives to GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)'s blockbuster respiratory drug, Advair.

Even as pharmaceutical giants Lupin, Sun Pharma and Cipla are preparing plans to launch their generics in the US, Glenmark has already launched its Advair generic in emerging markets.

#### General Industry

**Publication:** The Hindu Business Line

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Journalist:** P. T. Jyothi Datta

**Date:** January 23, 2014

**Headline:** [Doctors seek cap on malpractice compensation](#)

**Synopsis:** Doctors are set to knock on the Health Ministry's doors, seeking a cap on the malpractice-compensation paid to patients. There should be a strong law to regulate the way doctors practise, and if there is malpractice, punish, even revoke the doctor's licence, says Devi Shetty, Chairman of Narayana Health, a hospital chain. But the compensation should be capped, else it would exacerbate the existing shortage of medical professionals, besides pushing up costs, he said, adding the US and Europe have such caps. Several states in the US cap malpractice compensation at \$250,000 (Rs 1.5 crore).

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** National

**Date:** January 23, 2014

**Headline:** [Reckitt Benckiser India to buy around 26% stake in Healthcare unit for Rs 725 crore](#)

**Synopsis:** Reckitt Benckiser India plans to buy around 26% stake in its sister firm Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare for Rs 725 crore as part of a move to make the healthcare firm its wholly- owned subsidiary in the long run. Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare sells brands of the erstwhile Paras Pharmaceutical, including Moov pain reliever and anti-cold D'Cold.

**Publication:** Deccan Herald

**Edition:** Online

**Journalist:** Prashanth G N

**Date:** January 23, 2014

**Headline:** [Drug resistance a worry in cancer treatment, says Nobel laureate](#)

**Synopsis:** Dr Harold Varmus, Nobel laureate and director of the National Cancer Institute, USA, has said that it will

take another 20 to 30 years to control the symptoms of cancer without having to wait for the disease to strike. The symptoms, he said, can be detected early enough to prevent the rise and spread of the disease. Varmus, in an interaction with Deccan Herald, said that the fight against cancer was long drawn. "To give you an indication of how seriously we take cancer research, the US alone has spent nearly 40 billion dollars over the last 10 years trying to find solutions. Solutions are not easy and we don't know a whole lot of things yet about the disease, but I can say we have progressed in terms of prevention. We have got people to reduce tobacco consumption, take care of diet and work on obesity. The campaigns have shown positive results. We have also developed newer screening tests and kits which have enabled us to detect cancer symptoms early."

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 23, 2014**

**Journalist: Manash Pratim Gohain**

**Headline: [Drug alternatives to antibiotics may not be perfect: Study](#)**

**Synopsis:** New types of drug intended for use in place of antibiotics have been given a cautious welcome by scientists. Researchers have been probing the long-term effectiveness of drugs currently being developed by the pharmaceutical industry. These work by limiting the symptoms caused by a bug or virus in the body, rather than killing it outright. These treatments are designed to avoid the problem of infections becoming resistant to treatment, which has become widespread with antibiotics. This approach is intended to enable the patient to tolerate disease, and buy the immune system valuable time to get rid of the infection naturally.

**Publication: Deccan Chronicle**

**Edition: Bangalore**

**Date: January 23, 2014**

**Headline: [Cancer: Expert bets on genomics](#)**

**Synopsis:** In 1989, Dr Harold E. Varmus, received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, for his discovery of the cellular origin of retroviral oncogenes. He delivered the centenary lecture at the Indian Institute of Science on Tuesday morning, discussing the new directions in cancer research. Dr Varmus is the current Director of the National Cancer Institute U.S. and also serves on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. He began his work on the oncogene (a gene that has the potential to cause cancer) in 1970 during his post-doctoral studies in Bishop's lab, University of California, San Francisco. Most normal cells undergo a programmed form of death. However, an activated oncogene can cause those cells marked for this apoptosis to survive and proliferate. But how does an oncogene enter an organism? This is where Dr Varmus came in. In his early reading on the subject, he came to understand that viruses might provide a relatively simple foray into the complex problem of cancers.

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 22, 2014**

**Headline: [Cancer genomics, the way forward: Nobel laureate](#)**

**Synopsis:** Targeted therapy, precision medicine and cancer genomics — this is the new vocabulary of cancer research and treatment that Harold Varmus, co-recipient of the Nobel Prize, advocated in his lecture 'New directions in cancer research' at the Indian Institute of Science.