



News Updates: July 8, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual Property Rights

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Krishna Sarma, managing partner, Corporate Law Group, New Delhi

Headline: [The real test lies in proper testing](#)

Synopsis: Despite the stringent product patent regime since 2005, Indian pharma has stayed a leader in affordable medicine and vaccines, largely because of 'biosimilars'. These are biological medicines developed to be similar to existing medicines but are not the same as generics, which have simpler chemical structures and are considered identical to their reference products. The active substance of a biosimilar and its reference medicine are living organisms that are more complex [eg, monoclonal antibodies (mAbs)]. Since their complexity may result in a degree of variability in molecules of the same active substance and pose considerable risk to patient safety, biosimilars are tested against more stringent standards than conventional generics. Though India's Guidelines on Similar Biologics were notified on September 15, 2012, to be at par with the World Health Organization's international guidelines on safety, efficacy, quality and immunogenicity, they are yet to be implemented. The surprising stand taken by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) is that compliance is not mandatory. This does not bode well for the industry. Compliance with regulation is an absolute must for India to be able to tap the export market.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [CCEA clears 12th Plan scheme to modernise IP offices, to cost Rs.309.6 cr](#)

Synopsis: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the continuation of the Plan scheme to modernise and strengthen Intellectual Property (IP) offices during the 12th Plan period. The total project cost would be Rs.309.6 crore, out of which Rs.258 crore will be utilised during 12th Plan and the rest Rs.51.6 crore in the 13th Plan. The implementation of the scheme will fortify the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM). It would help augment the number of filings of IP applications. It will also address the growing international commitments due to the commissioning of the Madrid Protocol and status of International Search Authority (ISA) / International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA).

Modi government/ Budget expectations

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Interview: Glenn Saldanha, CMD, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals

Headline: [Accord priority status to pharma and healthcare: Glenn Saldanha](#)

Synopsis: 'Implement favourable policies to enhance innovation' Glenn Saldanha, CMD, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, has asked the government to substantially increase its spend on the healthcare and reform the public health system. "The government should make universal healthcare a priority and create a road map for ensuring quality, affordability and accessibility of medicines and treatment to the patients at all times," says Saldanha in an interview.

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Interview: Rupali Basu, CEO, eastern region, Apollo Hospitals Group

Headline: [If I were FM](#)

Synopsis: We have been asking for an industry status for the sector for quite some time, and we sincerely hope that the new government grants the healthcare sector a full-fledged industry status this budget. If that happens, in the same way as the pharmaceutical sector had benefited in the past, the healthcare services sector including hospitals of different categories—the primary, secondary and tertiary care hospitals, diagnostic centres, health insurance and health education—all these areas will receive a lot more focus. In such a situation, we the private sector players, who have represented the sector for quite some time, will be able to do our job much better.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Interview: Shobana Kamineni, executive vice chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise

Headline: ['Public-private partnerships are way ahead for effective healthcare system'](#)

Synopsis: The government currently spends only 1% of the GDP on healthcare, which is pitifully low, says Shobana Kamineni, who has been recently elevated to the post of executive vice chairperson at Apollo Hospitals Enterprise. "I believe the ideal figure should be close to about 6% if we have to bring the health parameters of the country comparable to western levels," she tells in an interview.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Kanchana Dwarakanath, works for TimesJobs.com

Headline: [Budget 2014: Modi govt should increase healthcare spends to 5% of GDP](#)

Synopsis: All inclusive development in Pharma Biotech will lead to expansion, thus creation of jobs. If there is one thing that the Pharma Biotech segment wants from the Narendra Modi government it is 'an all-inclusive development that goes beyond social dimensions'. Such a program is expected to trigger a spate of expansions leading to creation of jobs. The domestic Pharma segment is estimated to reach US \$49 billion by 2020, and the projected human resource requirement to match this growth is estimated to be about 21,50,000 by 2020, according to the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF).

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Editorial: Kunal Majumder is Associate Editor (Digital) at Zee Media Corporation in charge of DNA online

Headline: [Why Narendra Modi's big challenges for Budget 2014 are very basic](#)

Synopsis: Towards the fag end of the UPA government rule, Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi spoke about the 'Right to Health' as the next big right-based programme. BJP has a different approach to healthcare. Instead of the right-based approach which involves huge government spending, BJP believes universal healthcare can be achieved through setting up more hospitals and offering health insurances to citizens. In the Delhi state elections, BJP even managed to put health insurance in its manifesto. In a speech in January earlier this year, Modi also spoke about the importance of innovation in the healthcare industry. He stressed on the need for better usage of technology in this sector. We might see some interesting initiatives for healthcare by the government in this budget. Healthcare is after all, part of Modi's dream of asset creation for the nation.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Antony Jacob, CEO, Apollo Munich Health Insurance

Headline: [Budget 2014: Make health insurance more accessible and affordable for all](#)

Synopsis: With a new, stable government at the center, we hope for an impetus towards a higher growth trajectory for the health insurance sector and to make health insurance more accessible and affordable for all. The first step that the Government could take immediately would be to increase the tax exemption limit under Section 80D from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 for individuals and an additional Rs 25,000 for parents (Rs 30,000 for parents who are senior citizens). This would ensure families have the much needed financial means to keep a check on their current health status.

Union Health Ministry

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister

Headline: [A truth India has to digest: millions still go hungry](#)

Synopsis: In 2007, the then governor of one of our states was so alarmed by reports of people starving to death in a particular district that he decided to go and check the reality on the ground. The government of that state had a reputation for burying its head in the sand despite evidence of its below par performance. The gubernatorial visit prompted the finance minister to make a whirlwind tour of the district, at the end of which he duly promised a 'special package'. After that the bone of contention was whether the deaths were caused by 'poverty' or 'starvation'.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [Health ministry to ban drugs banned by 2 or more countries in world](#)

Synopsis: Acting on the reports of the Prof Ranjit Roy Chaudhury committee which had recommended to ban all the hazardous and irrational drugs in the pharmaceutical market in the country, the Union health ministry has decided to ban the continued marketing of such drugs in the country which were banned by two or more countries in the world. "It has been decided that if two or more countries remove a drug from their market on grounds of efficacy and safety, then the continued marketing of the drug in the country will be considered for examination and appropriate action", the health ministry said.

Clinical trials

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [Drug Controller General of India to pharma MNCs: Conduct fruitful clinical trials for Indians](#)

Synopsis: Multinational pharmaceutical companies keen to conduct clinical trials for new drugs on Indians would have to ensure an early launch of those therapies in India if the trials result in commercial production, the drug regulator has said. In an order issued last week, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) said innovator drug firms would have to seek approval for such new drugs (New Chemical Entities and New Biological Entities) in India soon after obtaining marketing clearance in their respective countries. The DCGI has directed drug firms to furnish an undertaking along with their application for clinical trials, promising that once they manage a marketing clearance for the new therapy in their respective country or a developed market, they would file for an approval in India and ensure the therapies are "marketed in India speedily, preferably by production within the country".

Public Health

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Satish Reddy, President, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance and Chairman, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd

Headline: [Must Raise Public Spend on Health](#)

Synopsis: The pharma industry would be keenly watching what measures the government wants to take to increase public spend on health. Now it is just 1.2 per cent of the GDP and our expectation is that it will move to 2.5 per cent of the GDP in the next five years. We need concrete signals from the government to improve reach of healthcare, enhance skill availability and initiate public private partnerships. The industry will be looking for signals of revival and the pharma sector expects measures that will incentivise innovation. Today, the spend on R&D as a percentage of GDP stands at just 0.9 per cent. We need an ecosystem, which nurtures incubation and encourages the private sector to invest into research.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Opinion piece: Jean Drèze, visiting professor, the Department of Economics, Ranchi University

Headline: [On the mythology of social policy](#)

Synopsis: The idea that social spending in India is too high would be amusing if it were not so harmful. According to the latest World Development Indicators (WDI) data, public spending on health and education is just 4.7 per cent of GDP in India, compared with 7 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, 7.2 per cent in East Asia, 8.5 per cent in Latin America and 13.3 per cent in OECD countries. Even the corresponding figure for "least developed countries," 6.4 per cent, is much higher than India's. The WDI database does not include social security spending, but the recent Asia Development Bank report on social protection in Asia suggests that India is also an outlier in that respect, with only 1.7 per cent of GDP being spent on social support compared with an average of 3.4 per cent for Asia's lower-middle income countries, 5.4 per cent in China, 10.2 per cent in Asia's high-income countries and a cool 19.2 per cent in Japan. If anything, India is among the world champions of social underspending.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: ['Health scheme for poor a non-starter'](#)

Synopsis: People living below poverty line in Maharashtra have not benefited much from the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) because of problems in the basic design of the scheme and its poor implementation. Research scholars from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) conducted a survey in the state between December 2012 and February 2013, throwing light on the glaring failure of the erstwhile UPA government's flagship scheme. Total 6,000 below poverty line (BPL) households across 22 districts were included in the survey, giving a final sample of 29,858 individuals. The yojana was launched in 2008 and is implemented by all state governments targeting universal coverage of the entire BPL population in the country. The objective of the yojana is to provide protection to BPL households from financial liabilities arising out of hospitalization.

Universal Health Coverage

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [Central ministry's refusal of a 7-million euro grant raises questions over Narendra Modi-Angela Merkel meet](#)

Synopsis: Days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet his German counterpart Angela Merkel, the Indian embassy in Berlin has raised concerns about a potential source of embarrassment for India - a central ministry's refusal to accept an official grant of 7 million euros from Germany to assist a

health insurance scheme that the government intends to universalise. Embarrassingly for the government, the labour and employment ministry, which has been dithering on the German aid proposal for over four months, had itself asked for Germany's help in 2010 to implement its flagship scheme, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.

General industry

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [Invest heavily to build a robust healthcare system](#)

Synopsis: Over 5% of GDP spend is required on healthcare sector against the current 1% to meet targets, say industry captains. India's healthcare sector is awaiting a heavy dose of investment. If the country were to achieve the target of two beds per 1,000 people by 2025, it needs an additional 1.8 million beds. If we continue to spend the usual 1% of the GDP on healthcare, that target may just remain on the paper, say top industry officials and analysts. Hospitals are the major component of the healthcare sector, comprising nearly 70% of total industry revenues. However, the wide demand-supply mismatch in healthcare coupled with a low public spending on health and high out-of-pocket payments (over 70%) are some of the major concerns. Although the government has proposed to increase its total health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan, the industry feels it is not sufficient for growth.

Website: Zee News

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [Poverty, child, maternal deaths high in India: UN report](#)

Synopsis: India continues to battle poverty, child and maternal deaths, according to a United Nations report on the Millennium Development Goals that said while several key global targets have been met, more sustained effort is needed to cover disparities by the 2015 deadline. The 'Millennium Development Goals Report 2014', launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon here yesterday, said many global MDG targets on reducing poverty, increasing access to improved drinking water sources, improving the lives of slum dwellers and achieving gender parity in primary schools have already been met.

Website: Zee News

Edition: Online

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [A healthy demand](#)

Synopsis: According to various surveys conducted by government and non government organisations India's population stands at 1.27 billion. More than 65 per cent of this population is below the age of 35 years. Considering the numerous cases of ailments, diseases, lifestyle diseases etc this vast population urgently needs assistance of healthcare professionals to sustain everyday. There is a definite number as to how many professionals are required to make sure that they are well looked after. As per the recommendation of Bureau of Indian Standards, minimum of seven managers in 100 bed hospitals, 13 managers in upto 500 and 17 managers in 500 bedded hospitals with post graduate degree in hospital administration are needed.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [Cipla to invest upto 100 million pounds in UK as part of expansion](#)

Synopsis: Pharma major Cipla will invest up to 100 million pounds (nearly Rs 1,030 crore) in UK over next few years for launch and development of new drugs as part of its global footprint expansion plans. The

company will provide high quality affordable medicines to British National Health Service (NHS).

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Cipla to invest over Rs1,000 cr in UK unit](#)

Business Standard- [Cipla to invest in UK subsidiary](#)

The Times of India- [‘Cipla to invest 100 million pound in UK’](#)

The Hindu- [Cipla to invest up to 100 m pound in U.K.](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [Maharashtra doctors end stir](#)

Synopsis: Six days after holding protests across Maharashtra, around 12,000 government doctors called off their strike on Monday on the intervention of Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan. The doctors, under the aegis of the Maharashtra State Gazetted Medical Officers Organisation, began their protest on July 1 seeking the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission, raising the retirement age from 58 to 62, and absorption of employees hired on contractual basis. Other major demands included a pay hike, fixed working hours and regularisation of promotion procedure.

Similar report in-

The Times of India- [Maharashtra doctors call off stir, to clear backlog](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: July 8, 2014

Headline: [Making India a global manufacturing hub](#)

Synopsis: The BJP-led NDA government has declared that among its early policy decisions would be measures to revive India’s languishing manufacturing sector, by making the country a global manufacturing hub. This policy thrust has supporters outside the government as well. Financial Times columnist Martin Wolf argues that vital reforms the new government should undertake “would be in employment regulation, education and infrastructure, with a view to making India a base for labour-intensive manufacturing. With Chinese wages rising, this is a plausible ambition.”