



News Updates: June 11, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual Property rights

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: June 11, 2014

Interview: Prathiba Singh, Managing Partner at IP specialists Singh and Singh Law Firm LLP

Headline: [India is game-changer in patent law: Prathiba M. Singh](#)

Synopsis: Indian patent litigation has been contentious with domestic generic companies locking horns with big Western pharmaceutical patentees. The Indian patent regime has also been criticized, particularly by the US. Against this backdrop, Mint spoke with senior advocate Prathiba M. Singh, a leading intellectual property (IP) litigator and until 2013, managing partner at IP specialists Singh and Singh Law Firm LLP. She has appeared for both innovators and generic companies and been part of landmark Indian patent decisions, notably the 2013 judgement rejecting Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis's patent on its cancer drug Glivec, where she represented Indian drug makers Cipla and Ranbaxy. The interview focuses on Ms. Prathiba Singh's views on India's policies on patents, evergreening, incremental innovation, compulsory licenses and recent takeover attempts of Indian generic manufacturers by big pharma companies.

Health Ministry

Publication: Deccan Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: ['Medical Council of India is a source of corruption'](#)

Synopsis: Union health minister Harsh Vardhan, speaks on the 'health for all' policy and how he intends to improve deteriorating health services in the country. Further, he talks about his priorities in fulfilling "health for all" agenda, his main focus for the first 100 days, measures to tackle problems of doctor shortage in rural areas, schemes to improve doctor- patient ratio, core problem of vacancies in AIIMS, improving quality of medical education and restructuring of the existing MCI.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Mass immunisation drive against encephalitis](#)

Synopsis: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan has announced that a mass immunisation programme against Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome will be begin in some States on June 22 and 23. The Minister intends to start the drive against encephalitis in the nature of the pulse polio campaign, under which volunteers go to each household to immunise children at regular intervals.

Similar reports in-

The Asian Age- ['UP, Bihar must follow Gujarat'](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Vaccination policy review to tame Encephalitis epidemic threat](#)

Outlook- [Encephalitis: Vardhan Orders 'Emergency' Immunisation](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 10, 2014

Headline: [Health ministry to set up e-regulator to check compliance of EHR standards: Secretary](#)

Synopsis: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is mulling to set up a central authority or agency to check compliance of standards in electronic health record (EHR) ecosystem after due consultation with various stakeholders across the spectrum, health and family welfare secretary, Mr Lov Verma said. Ministry intends to set up a mechanism to monitor and evaluate implementation of and adherence to EHR standards and guidelines by various healthcare practitioners and vendors, thus we need to have an e-health authority which will be the regulator and which will see that EHR standards are being adhered to, said Mr Verma while inaugurating an ASSOCHAM national summit on 'ICT in Healthcare: Changing Dimensions of Healthcare in India.'

Indo- US ties/ Modi government

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: June 10, 2014

Headline: [Ahead of Modi-Obama meet, India and US seek to strengthen ties](#)

Synopsis: India and the US are looking to reset ties with governments on both sides keen to arrest a recent downslide in relations marked by lethargy and tension after the detention of an Indian diplomat in New York in December, people close to the development said on Tuesday. On the cards are a wide range of dialogues to intensify engagement—the India-US-Japan trilateral talks and discussions between the commerce and defence departments of the two countries besides the India-US strategic dialogue between Secretary of State John Kerry and external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj. All these are expected to lead up to a meeting between India's newly elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama in September when the former travels to the US for the United Nations General Assembly.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [India-US ties to see high momentum over next few months](#)

The Hindustan Times- [India, US put Khobragade issue behind, focus on ties](#)

The Hindu- [Kerry, Sushma to meet ahead of Modi US visit](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [India, U.S. to reboot ties under Narendra Modi government](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Obama should hold candid talks to engage Modi: Robert Blackwill](#)

Synopsis: The old formula and stereotypes will not work if the US administration wants to engage with Narendra Modi, says former US ambassador to India Robert Blackwill. Widely credited with transforming India-US relations during the presidency of George W Bush, Blackwill was among the first senior US public figures to connect with Modi last year. Blackwill, who played a key role in bringing the US administration closer to Modi, is in Delhi to meet the prime minister, senior ministers and the national security adviser. He spoke to ET on the way forward for India-US ties.

Similar report in-

Mint- [I am pessimistic about Pakistan: Robert Blackwill](#)

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: Ahmedabad

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [US govt likely to mark its presence in Vibrant Gujarat '15 \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: Business is the only business of business. Reiterating this universal diktat, though not in as many words, outgoing US consul general, Peter Haas, said the United States

government, for the first time, is likely to participate in the bi-annual Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit (VGGIS), 2015. The last two summits, where the US companies have marked its presence, has been through the US-India Business Council (USIBC), an independent advocacy organisation, which represents US companies investing in India.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: ['Will build a strong, self-reliant India'](#)

Synopsis: Unveiling its foreign policy vision on Monday, the Narendra Modi-led government, while saying that it wants friendly ties with all, has indicated that it could adopt a tough stand when it comes to national interest. A clear message was also sent out to neighbour Pakistan though it was named with the Modi government saying that it needs to stop fomenting terror in its neighbourhood. The government's foreign policy priorities were enunciated in the address delivered by President Pranab Mukherjee's to a joint sitting of Parliament on Monday. The importance the new government wants to accord to its engagement with the world was evident in that no less than two pages of the President's speech were devoted to it. Pages in which it resolved to countries in the neighbourhood and impart a fresh impetus to Saarc.

Cancer

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: June 11, 2014

Opinion piece: N Devadasan, director, Institute of Public Health, Bangalore

Headline: [Of primary importance](#)

Synopsis: The ministry of health is reportedly planning to open 10 more AIIMS-like institutes as well as cancer centres in different states. Creating new cancer centres is desirable, given the burden of the disease and the inadequate number of treatment centres. Today, cancer is one of the main causes of premature mortality in our country, and the 25 regional cancer centres are not being able to cope with the high load of patients. Additional cancer centres would definitely be meeting a badly felt need. However, it is not clear why the government is planning to establish more AIIMS-like hospitals. The health ministry may wrongly believe that India needs more such centres of excellence to train doctors as well as to provide high quality healthcare services to people.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Help is just a click away for patients](#)

Synopsis: At least 135 poor patients have benefited from the unique online initiative started by Tata Memorial Hospital and this, within four months of its introduction. The aim of the online portal is to connect the donors and recipients, said sources from the hospital. The website gives details of poor cancer patients, such as their occupation, annual income, the money needed for their treatment and contact numbers. Dr H.K.V. Narayana, medical superintendent at Tata Hospital, said they had received almost `4 crore in donations in the last one month itself, benefiting over 500 patients.

Universal Health Insurance

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Opinion piece: Prabhat Jha, Director for the Centre for Global Health Research, New Delhi and Toronto

Headline: [Quality health care with public funds](#)

Synopsis: Universal Health Insurance will free the current out-of-pocket spending on health and channel funds

toward far more productive uses. There are six practical steps that the Prime Minister could implement to rapidly ensure better health for all Indians. First, the government has an opportunity to issue a clarion call for universal health insurance (UHI). The government could declare a deadline before which most private spending can be replaced by taxpayer-financed health services. A second priority should be to include a rapid scale-up of the introduction of new vaccines against diarrhoea and pneumonia among children. A most feasible priority will be to reduce smoking as it kills about 1 million Indians every year and the number of cases of tuberculosis has risen because of smoking. A fourth priority should be to tackle adult vascular deaths — the leading cause of deaths in the country, killing over 1 million Indians between the ages of 30 and 69 per year. A fifth priority should be to control malaria and finally, a major effort should be made to improve health reporting.

Drug pricing

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Drug price revamp runs into hurdles: lack of cost info \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Synopsis: If you were hoping that your medical bills would dip after the government ordered a new price fixing formula, think again. More than a quarter of the drugs on the list of essential medicines may see no change, as proper pricing information and even details of manufacturers are not available. “The prices of about 103 drugs (out of a total 400) under the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) will not come down or cannot be fixed,” said CP Singh, chairman of drug price watchdog National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). These 103 drug formulations include anti-infectives, analgesics, antiseptics and anti-tuberculosis and anti-anemia medications.

FDI- Pharma

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Pharmexcil urges the commerce ministry to seek unrestricted flow of FDIs into brown field projects](#)

Synopsis: Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) has urged the Commerce ministry to allow foreign direct investments (FDI) in the brownfield projects to boost investments in this sector. In fact, the Council stressed that liberalisation of the FDI norms in brownfield projects will go a long way in helping the exporting companies to meet the growing market challenges, that comes with changing regulatory norms world-wide. This demand comes in the wake of repeated representation from the exporters asking for FDI in pharma companies exclusively engaged in exports of pharma products. Experts point out that since the FDI is for exporting companies the FDI norms should not become a reason for concern, as investment will not have any direct impact on the Indian market like the fear of impacting the price of the drugs.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [CAG finds major flaws in the health sector](#)

Synopsis: The CAG in its audit report has detected serious inadequacies in infrastructure facilities at hospitals. Many hospitals have no trauma care and emergency medical services. Shortage of doctors is yet another major crisis faced by the hospitals, the report says. It has also criticized the health department for not finalizing a comprehensive health policy. It has pointed out that an effective planning process was essential for the health department to marshal its financial and human resources. The audit noticed that no appraisal was conducted by the department to identify the current status of the hospitals. A comprehensive picture at the state level on the availability of the major diagnostic services at the hospitals was not available with the directorate of health service (DHS).

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Indian Medical Association bigwigs beyond Medical Council of India ambit?](#)

Synopsis: After saying that medical associations beyond its purview, the Medical Council of India (MCI) now seems to be suggesting that even doctors who are office bearers in these associations are beyond its jurisdiction. MCI has written to the health ministry claiming that it can't act against the officer bearers of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), even though all the office bearers are doctors and MCI has jurisdiction over the conduct of all registered medical practitioners.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Pfizer's bid to merge subsidiaries likely to face FIPB opposition](#)

Synopsis: US drug major Pfizer's proposal for merging its Indian arm with the subsidiary of Wyeth Inc, the company it acquired five years ago, is unlikely to get the Foreign Investment Promotion Board's approval at its meeting this week. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion is not ready to give the proposed merger the green signal before the company gets the approval of the Bombay High Court.