



News Updates: June 12, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual Property rights

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [India, US officials may start trade talks in July](#)

Synopsis: Trade officials of India and the US are likely to meet in July for bilateral talks to prepare an agenda for the ministerial-level dialogue expected in October, Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher said today. "There are whole lot of bilateral issues to be discussed such as issues of market access and rules," Kher told reporters here. Matters including India's proposal to impose anti-dumping duty on solar cells being imported from the US and intellectual property rights related issues would also come up for discussions. The trade officials' meeting will prepare the groundwork for the ministerial level meeting of Trade Policy Forum (TPF). The US-India TPF is an inter-agency collaboration led by the USTR. It is the principal trade dialogue between the countries. It has five focus groups: Agriculture, Investment, Innovation and Creativity (intellectual property rights), Services, and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers.

Similar report in-

The Financial Chronicle- [India, US officials may start trade talks in July](#)

Modi government/ Health Ministry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [Govt may boost spending on education, health and farm sectors](#)

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday pledged to work for the poor and improve healthcare and school education standards which may point to an increase in higher spending for the critical sectors. Modi's comments ahead of the 2014-15 Union budget assumes significance as the BJP has been swept to office with the promise to revive various sectors of the economy.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: June 12, 2014

Opinion piece: K Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India

Headline: [Healthcare needs a booster shot now](#)

Synopsis: The prime minister and Union finance minister have to ensure greater public funding for health, beginning with the coming budget. No doubt, there are fiscal constraints. However, the past experiences of South East Asian nations and Mexico clearly demonstrate that when nations increasingly invest in the health and education of the people even when the economy is experiencing a slump, it will help the economy to quickly rebound and surge on the strength of the country's human resources.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Harsh Vardhan visits RML hospital as part of sanitation drive](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan today visited the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital in New Delhi marking the first of his visits to government hospitals after his Environment Day resolve to make health care 'greener'. The Minister will also visit AIIMS and Safdarjung hospitals tomorrow and day after respectively where he will hold talks about sanitation and hygiene.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [Harsh Vardhan at RML on sanitation drive](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Harsh Vardhan reviews sanitation conditions at RML Hospital](#)

Drug regulation

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [India steps up drug regulatory initiatives](#)

Synopsis: In the wake of the US drug regulator increasing its scrutiny of Indian manufacturing facilities, India too is planning to pull up its socks to strengthen its regulatory monitoring. According to sources here, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is mulling to significantly raise the number of drug inspectors across the country as well as establish drug testing laboratories at ports over the next few years.

Publication: Mail Today

Edition: National

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [India in the grip of fake drugs: RTI inquiry reveals 10-20 per cent of drugs found in major states are imitations](#)

Synopsis: An RTI query revealed that between 10 and 20 per cent of drugs are fake in states like Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra. In smaller states like Delhi and Goa, the volume of spurious drugs may be just under five per cent. But considering the amount of medicines sold, and that many of these are life-saving formulations, the fake drug menace is as scary as it gets for the common man. The drugs found to be "not of standard quality" and "spurious" in sample tests conducted by the state drugs controller are some which we require for day-today use.

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: National

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [Centre lauds Maharashtra for internet pharmacy clampdown](#)

Synopsis: Clampdown on illegal export of drugs from Maharashtra to foreign countries by the state Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has been lauded by the Centre. The ministry of commerce in Delhi has extended its support to Maharashtra FDA in an official letter and asked for such enforcement action to be replicated across other states in India.

Over the past four months, FDA officials have prohibited or seized drugs, including sex boosters Sildenafil Citrate and Viagra, heavy antibiotics and anti-depressants worth nearly Rs 3.2 crore by raiding premises of 49 drug exporters across the state as also foreign post office in Ballard Estate, South Mumbai, international airports and private courier firms. The medicines are ordered via websites without valid prescriptions in the US, Europe, Africa and Russia, among other countries, in violation of the Customs Act and Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [State FDA drafting performa to help drug units for self auditing of facilities](#)

Synopsis: In order to equip pharma manufacturing units for GMP compliance, Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is in the process of drafting a proforma to help 1703 existing manufacturers do self auditing of their units in accordance to global standards. The proforma will help generate a self inspection report of the unit for further review and recommendation from the state FDA for effective global compliance.

Drug pricing

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [State drug depts & price control](#)

Synopsis: Flouting Drug Price Control Order and overcharging controlled drugs by misinterpreting DPCO provisions has become a standard practice for the pharmaceutical companies ever since the practice of regulating essential drugs started by the government. It has been found that violation of DPCO is more resorted to by large and medium scale companies and not the small scale units. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, the Central body fixing and monitoring drug prices in the country, has been doing its best to check the breaching or circumventing of DPCO all these years. But the cases of price violation have been only increasing over the years. In the year ended March 31, 2014 alone, NPPA detected 89 cases of overcharging by pharma companies and it is possible that there could be many more undetected cases of price violation during last year. With this the total number of drug price violation cases in the country stands at 1018 for an overcharged amount of Rs.3381. 91 crore. As these cases are fought in different courts and are in various stages of hearing, it is difficult to assume when such a huge amount will be recovered by the government.

Innovation- Pharma

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: June 12, 2014

Interview: K Satish Reddy, President, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and chairman, Dr Reddy's Laboratories

Headline: ['We need a policy framework that encourages pharma innovation'](#)

Synopsis: In his first interview after assuming charge as Chairman, K Satish Reddy shares his views on a wide range of issues- USFDA's quality inspections and its repercussions on the image of the Indian pharma industry, the need for consolidation in the pharma industry, global generic opportunities for Indian drug makers, regulatory issues pertaining to clinical trials, the need for the new government to incentivise innovation.

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [India needs Rs 30,000 crore investment per annum for biotech sector: Experts](#)

Synopsis: To provide affordable healthcare with innovative medicines and attain global leadership in R&D, India needs an investment of Rs 30,000 crore annually in next five years so that the biotech industry can grow to US \$ 100 billion by 2025, say industry experts. "Biotechnology and life sciences industries need a road map of growth, opportunity and fiscal responsibility for bio-economy. We strongly recommend transparent regulatory framework, bio-manufacturing infrastructure, investment in R&D and a very rational tax structure," ABLE President PM Murali said.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- ['India needs Rs 30Kcr investment per annum for biotech sector'](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [TN mulls accreditation for hospitals offering health insurance](#)

Synopsis: Tamil Nadu plans to get hospitals offering healthcare services under the State-sponsored health insurance accredited for quality. The move is expected to help healthcare providers adopt standard operating procedures and free patients from needless expenditure necessitated by infection, wrong diagnosis and surgical errors. The National Accreditation Board For Hospitals and Healthcare Providers will look at 149 objective parameters for entry-level acceptance for small hospitals. For hospitals with bed strength above 50, the board has set over 600 standards. Infection control, pharmacy management, care of patients and patient rights are among key benchmarks. Health centres need pay Rs. 10,000 as certification fees, and State health officials are keen to get a good portion of the 834 government and private hospitals offering the insurance scheme.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 11, 2014

Headline: [Patent Board dismisses review petition of Millennium Pharma on cancer drug](#)

Synopsis: The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has dismissed a review petition filed by the US-based Millennium Pharmaceuticals, against an earlier order of the board in relation to the patent dispute on its cancer drug Velcade (bortezomib) with Natco Pharma Ltd.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [Japan's Meiji Holdings acquires Medreich for Rs 1,720 crore](#)

Synopsis: Japanese pharmaceutical major Meiji Holdings has bought out Temasek-backed Medreich for \$290 million (Rs 1,720 crore), the company informed Tokyo Stock Exchange on Wednesday, marking the first inbound investment in the Indian pharmaceutical sector by a Japanese company after Daiichi Sankyo's ill-fated acquisition of Ranbaxy in 2008.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Meiji Group acquires Medreich for \\$290 million](#)

The Times of India- [Japanese drug company buys Medreich](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy's Gurgaon unit might get to sell drugs in US](#)

Synopsis: Ranbaxy Laboratories had filed applications seeking to sell drugs in the US made at its Gurgaon plant, which is not on among those barred by the the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), according to a company executive who did not wish to be named. "Ranbaxy has five manufacturing facilities in India that are registered with the FDA: Paonta Sahib, Mohali, Toansa, Gurgaon, and Dewas," the US drug regulator's spokesperson told Business Standard. Four of these are barred from supplying medicines to the US market but the Gurgaon plant is on the FDA approved list.

