

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual property rights**Publication: The Economic Times****Edition: National****Date: June 13, 2014****Headline: [Roche and Cipla enters talks with Erlotinib to settle patent row](#)**

Synopsis: After fighting a long and bitter patent battle in India over lung cancer drug Tarceva (Erlotinib), Swiss innovator firm Hoffman La Roche and Indian generic drugmaker Cipla have entered talks through mediation to settle the matter on "mutually agreeable terms". The development comes after a division bench of the Delhi High Court in April referred the companies to a mediation that both firms chose to accept, an executive told ET.

Modi government/ Health Ministry**Publication: The Hindu Business Line****Edition: National****Date: June 13, 2014****Headline: [Time to give the right shots](#)**

Synopsis: The report highlights that the forthcoming budget is being keenly watched by pharmaceutical and biotech companies, hospitals and other public and private healthcare ventures, given the Narendra Modi Government's stated interest in health. The pharmaceutical industry expects the government to strengthen healthcare infrastructure (including institution, capacity building and R&D) for quality improvement in healthcare. While budgets in the past have removed import duties on some life-saving medicines, such as cancer drugs, industry will be listening in for broad-stroke policies on how the Government plans to make medicines more affordable and accessible.

Publication: The Economic Times**Edition: Online****Date: June 13, 2014****Headline: [Harsh Vardhan seeks improvement in emergency services at AIIMS](#)**

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today sought improvement in triaging, the initial process of attending to patients in an emergency, and suggested that resident doctors and nurses should be deployed full time to oversee that patients are given timely attention. "Resident doctors or nurses may be deployed there (emergency ward) full time, over shifts to ensure that the triaging of patients does not leave them dissatisfied," he said.

Similar reports in-**The Times of India- [Vardhan: Cut waiting time for patients](#)****The Indian Republic- [Strengthen Your Relationship with Patients: Harsh Vardhan to Doctors](#)****Indo – US ties****Publication: The Hindu Business Line****Edition: Online****Date: June 12, 2014****Headline: [Modi-Obama meet: will it help iron out differences?](#)**

Synopsis: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will carry a heavy baggage of pending issues affecting Indian

businesses across sectors when he visits Washington later this year. Continued visa restrictions for IT professionals, increased crackdown on Indian pharmaceutical companies and the looming threat of the US action against India's intellectual property regime are some concerns that would top Modi's list when he meets US President Barack Obama in September. Modi will also have to be prepared to take tough questions on India's taxation regime, protectionism in solar manufacturing and the lack of transparency in policy on retail FDI, while making a pitch for attracting big-ticket investments in infrastructure.

Mint Conclave- Pharma

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: June 13, 2014

Headline: [Long way to go for benefits from Big Data in healthcare industry](#)

Synopsis: India's healthcare industry has a long way to go before Big Data—or the capture, storage and analysis of vast amounts of information—can make its mark, experts on a panel at the Mint Healthcare Conclave said. The panel members were discussing the role of Big Data in emergency healthcare and the challenges for stakeholders before it achieves its potential in the country. Further, the 3rd session of the Mint Conclave focused on the need for India to make its healthcare affordable and accessible if it wants to compete with big economies such as China. If India wants to alleviate poverty, it needs to address the country's healthcare problems, Dravid said. "Given the expensive set-up of private healthcare in the country due to high real estate costs, imported equipment, etc., an average Indian is unable to avail facilities at such centres," he added. One way forward is to make health insurance compulsory.

Drug regulation

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [Prescriptions Issued by Govt Docs to Come Under Scanner](#)

Synopsis: Harping on ensuring total drug assurance for patients by the year-end, the State Government has decided to examine the prescriptions issued by doctors of public healthcare institutions from July. Even as the Government has rolled out the free medicine scheme for patients visiting OPDs or are admitted to hospitals, the persisting practice of prescribing drugs to be bought from external sources has become a bane.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: June 13, 2014

Headline: [Maharashtra FDA refers 212 cases against pharmacists to MSPC for action](#)

Synopsis: Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has referred 212 cases of professional misconduct of pharmacists to the Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council (MSPC) for appropriate action. MSPC is a quasi-judicial body which can act against pharmacists by way of either issuing warning letters or cancelling their registrations. While state FDA says that most of the cases referred for MSPC action this year relate to absence of pharmacists at the drug stores, MSPC on the other hand has the challenge of timely and judicious disposal of such cases notwithstanding the fact that such cases have a bearing on the patient safety and need to be severely dealt with.

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: June 13, 2014

Opinion piece: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CMD, Biocon

Headline: [Address investment to spur growth](#)

Synopsis: Investment for growth is the most important issue the forthcoming Budget needs to address. The Government needs to remove regulatory barriers through deemed and automatic approvals. And, to prevent discretionary approvals, the Government needs to weed out arbitrariness and ambiguity from rules and regulations. Self-regulation needs to be encouraged wherever possible, for instance, with regard to special economic zones. This will enhance the ease and speed of doing business and thereby boost investor confidence. The pharmaceutical/biotech sector has been neglected for far too long.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: June 13, 2014

Headline: [Doctors without borders](#)

Synopsis: Over the past couple of months, several right-of-centre newspapers in the UK blasted headlines about foreign doctors. "Indian doctors are FOUR times more likely to be struck off than those trained in Britain," screamed the Daily Mail, pointing to recent statistics released by the statutory body, General Medical Council (GMC). Meanwhile in April, the Daily Telegraph cited a University College of London study on the Professional and Linguistics Assessments Board exams that foreign-trained doctors are required to take before practising in the UK. "Half of all foreign doctors in Britain do not have the necessary skills to work here but can practice because the competency exam is too easy," the newspaper contested. It added that the latest figures fuelled domestic concerns over the National Health Service's reliance on foreign doctors. To those close to the issue, the headlines — designed to alarm as they were — are simply the latest in a long stream of negativity that has gone hand in hand with the prominent role of foreign and, in particular, Indian doctors in the UK over the years.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: June 12, 2014

Headline: [Will global polio eradication miss yet another deadline?](#)

Synopsis: When the world embarked on polio eradication 26 years back, the goal was to complete that task by the year 2000. That target was not met, nor the two deadlines set after that, 2004 and then 2012. The 'Polio Eradication & Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018' formulated by the World Health Organisation and its partner agencies then set the goal of ending transmission of all naturally-occurring 'wild' polio viruses by the end of this year. In 2012, although the deadline had been missed, things did indeed look hopeful. India had succeeded in remaining polio-free for a whole year and was taken off the list of endemic countries. Polio cases recorded worldwide that year shrank to an all-time low. But all that changed last year when the virus came roaring back and spread out of Nigeria and Pakistan to countries that had been polio-free. Over 80 per cent more polio cases were reported globally in 2013 than during the previous year. There have been 89 cases so far this year, almost twice as many as during the same period last year.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: June 13, 2014

Headline: [Robust fundamentals, but an underperformer](#)

Synopsis: After a stellar rally that lasted for over five years, the performance of pharma stocks has been in line with the benchmark indices since the last Budget. The BSE Healthcare Index rose by 38.5 per cent while Sensex and Nifty gained around 35 per cent. The flight of capital, however, from stocks in the defensive sectors such as pharma, consumer goods and IT to cyclical sectors such as construction, power, oil and gas and metals on expectation of economic recovery led to this sector underperforming in the last ten months.