



News Updates: June 14-16, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual property rights

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: June 16, 2014

Headline: [Powerful US pharma lobby pins hope on Modi to mend relations](#)

Synopsis: In an interview, John J Castellani, president and CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), has pinned hopes on the new Indian government as it has acknowledged significance of encouraging innovation and improving patient lives through advancements in pharmaceutical science. Further, Castellani hopes that the Indian government would be open to discussions and demonstrate seriously its commitment to foster and protect intellectual property. Castellani opines that the Indo-US talks provide a needed avenue for constructive engagement with the Indian government on resolving the deteriorating IP environment in India. Nothing less than full engagement in the months ahead will serve to resolve these critical issues.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: June 16, 2014

Headline: [Patent controller's draft 'Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications' evokes good response](#)

Synopsis: The Indian patent controller's draft 'Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications in the field of Pharmaceuticals', issued in April this year, has evoked tremendous response both within and outside the country as a large number of national and international pharma associations, experts and patent law firms have submitted their suggestions and comments to the patent office. After examining these suggestions and comments, the Indian patent controller will incorporate the relevant suggestions before finally issuing the final document on 'Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications in the field of Pharmaceuticals'.

Modi government/ Health Ministry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: June 16, 2014

Headline: [Government appoints Shaktikanta Das as Revenue Secretary](#)

Synopsis: On Saturday, a crucial meeting had been scheduled by the Prime Minister's Office. The meeting was to be attended by the secretaries of commerce and revenue, and was to revisit the plan for special economic zones, which were envisaged as enclaves of manufacturing excellence to spur exports but have failed to take off. Hours ahead of the scheduled meeting, revenue secretary Rajeev Takru, a Gujarat cadre officer, was moved out to the ministry of development for the north eastern region. Fertiliser secretary Shaktikanta Das, a 1980 batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, who is also a finance ministry veteran, was brought in as the new revenue secretary. Das, incidentally, was also the man behind Tamil Nadu's successful SEZs and industrial policy.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 14, 2014

Headline: [Vardhan raps MCI, says it failed to fulfil task](#)

Synopsis: Holding Medical Council of India (MCI) responsible for the deterioration in standard of medical colleges, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today said senior doctors should promote values which formed part of medical community in earlier generations. "They (MCI) have not fulfilled their task," the Minister said as he referred to the general perception that the quality of medical colleges were not up to old standards. "It was therefore up to senior doctors to continuously promote the values which formed part of the medical community in earlier generations," he said during his visit to Safdarjung Hospital. "All doctors should consider themselves privileged to be able to serve their families as well as society. The greatest challenge for a doctor is to be a good human being," Vardhan said.

Similar report in-

Daily News & Analysis- [Harsh Vardhan raps Medical Council of India, says it failed to fulfil task](#)

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: June 16, 2014

Headline: [Emergency immunisation drive to tackle encephalitis in Bihar, U.P.](#)

Synopsis: The death of 44 children in six districts of Bihar over the past month due to encephalitis has prompted the Union Health Ministry to order 100-per-cent immunisation of children in select districts of the States affected by two deadly strains of the disease. Concerned over the annual death toll in adjoining eastern Uttar Pradesh as well, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan said: "Our Ministry staff will work in tandem with their counterparts in the States to identify the most vulnerable districts within a day and the actual immunisation will take place over June 22 and 23."

Similar report in-

Pharmabiz- [Health ministry to embark on major drive to eradicate Encephalitis in India](#)

Cancer

Publication: Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: June 16, 2014

Headline: [Cancer drug sales grew fastest in CY13 on new therapies](#)

Synopsis: Sales of cancer drugs grew fastest among all therapeutic categories in CY2013 with the availability of several new therapies helping to increase awareness and purchases. Cancer drugs, also known as anti-neoplastics, registered a growth of 24.1% in CY13 to R998 crore but analysts believe the market remains under-penetrated. Pharma sales across the 19 therapies that constitute the market, however, grew at just 6% in CY2013, well below the 14% rise in CY2012 as the combination of a higher base and adverse policies impacted business. Hari Natarajan, vice-president, business intelligence at AIOCD Pharmasofttech AWACS, said the market for cancer medication had expanded while biosimilars were gaining ground.

Universal Health Coverage

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 14, 2014

Headline: [Ficci submits wish list to Vardhan for revamping healthcare](#)

Synopsis: Providing universal health coverage and lowering cost of medical treatment are among key suggestions submitted by industry body Ficci to Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. Representatives of Ficci called on Vardhan and shared a wish list for revamping the country's healthcare sector. "A new National Health Policy needs to be rolled out to support implementation of universal health coverage (UHC) over the next decade," Ficci President Sidharth Birla said.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: June 15, 2014

Headline: [FDA to introduce online licencing](#)

Synopsis: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration is set to introduce an online portal for the pharma manufacturing units in the state through which they will be able to procure licenses within 48 hours as against the current system which takes 15 days and more. This is a unique initiative and only the second time after Gujarat that an online Extended Licensing Node (XLN) system is being installed in India, benefiting over 1,800 pharmaceutical companies across the state.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: June 16, 2014

Headline: [Food and Drug Administration lodges FIR against pharmacists](#)

Synopsis: The state Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has lodged FIRs against 11 pharmacists, including two from the city, for renting out their licenses to chemist shops. The pharma watchdog has also written to the Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council to permanently cancel their registrations.

General Industry

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: June 16, 2014

Headline: [India thwarts Big Pharma push at WHO assembly](#)

Synopsis: India has successfully thwarted Big Pharma's attempt to influence norm-setting for medicines in the resolution passed recently at the World Health Assembly in Geneva. India, along with several other countries, also objected to the World Health Organization's (WHO) involvement with the International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH), a pharma industry initiative. Civil society organizations working for greater access to medicines are pleased with the Indian initiative. According to them, "harmonization", in this context, was just a euphemism for setting of industry-led standards which favour the interests of transnational pharmaceutical corporations and their push to weaken competition from generic medicines.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: June 15, 2014

Opinion piece: Vinod Paul, professor and head, department of pediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, and Maharaj Bhan, former secretary, department of biotechnology, Government of India

Headline: [So many young lives to save](#)

Synopsis: The new government has a historic opportunity to register an early, grand success which would make India proud, and bring global recognition to the country. Like all other countries, India is a signatory to the millennium development goals (MDGs). The fourth MDG (MDG 4) requires each country to reduce by 2015 the under-five child mortality rate by two-thirds in comparison to the level prevailing in 1990. For India, this translates into achieving an under-five child mortality rate of 42 per 1,000 live births by 2015 (the 1990 rate being 125). The present projections, including the one a few weeks back by a global think tank, indicate that we are not on track to reach our MDG 4 target. However, we believe India has a real chance to prove the pundits wrong. With political resolve and determined effort, it is within our reach to save millions of additional children, and thereby attain the MDG 4 target next year.

Publication: The Economist

Edition: National

Date: June 14, 2014

Headline: [So long, easy money - Foreign drug firms face a severe profit squeeze](#)

Synopsis: Multinational drug companies, now looking forward to a sustained boom in the Chinese market, should instead be bracing themselves for a collapse in profits over the next few years. So concludes a new report by Bain & Company, an American management consultant. China is already the world's third-biggest market, behind only America and Japan, and is likely to consume \$75 billion-worth of medicines this year. Sales have been growing at a compound annual rate of nearly 25% since 2009. Rising incomes and rapid ageing mean that demand for drugs should continue soaring. The expansion of publicly funded health insurance should also, in theory, bolster demand.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: June 14, 2014

Headline: [Spooked by probes, pharma execs think of leaving China](#)

Synopsis: China's crackdown on corruption in the pharmaceutical sector has frightened foreign executives so much that some fear they could be jailed and have asked their lawyers if they should leave the country for six months. Others are thinking of going for good. While the crackdown has been building for a year, Chinese police shocked the foreign business community a month ago when they filed corruption charges against Mark Reilly, former China head of British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline Plc. The Briton, who has been barred from leaving China, could face decades in prison.

Publication: The Financial Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: June 16, 2014

Headline: Pharma sector poised for healthy growth (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Pharmaceutical industry is well poised to deliver a strong growth, both on the domestic and the exports markets. While the, domestic market, slowed down in FY2014, due to the new DPCO, going forward we expect the domestic formulation sales to grow at a CAGR of 13-14 per cent during FY2014-16E, though FY2015 sales growth could be higher on back of the low base effect.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: June 14, 2014

Headline: [Breaking trust barrier in healthcare, a challenge](#)

Synopsis: Doctors cite instances where their credentials are questioned both by their own ilk and by patients. A patient referred for a particular test to a reputed private hospital by her consulting ophthalmologist was not given the test results though her doctor had specifically instructed that she be given the results. The ophthalmologist sent the patient back to the hospital with a request for the results as they were necessary to make the diagnosis. The doctor who faced this situation said, "The patient had to undergo the test and very few hospitals have the equipment to perform it. As we needed the results to make the correct diagnosis, we had to send the patient back to the hospital. Such situations are a burden on the patient."

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: June 15, 2014

Headline: [Hostile takeover bids for big firms return](#)

Synopsis: Hostile and unsolicited deal activity is up sharply this year, according to Thomson Reuters. Even excluding Pfizer's withdrawn bid for AstraZeneca, nearly \$100 billion in hostile offers have been made, accounting for 7% of global offer volume. That is the highest amount since the deal boom of 2007, and it is occurring as broader deal volumes are soaring. One factor driving the increase in hostile activity is greater confidence in the boardroom. With the general economic outlook relatively stable, stock prices riding high and growth in the US steady, executives are more willing to pursue acquisitions they have long considered.