



**News Updates: June 21-23, 2014**

**Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual property rights**

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 23, 2014**

**By- lined article: C. R. L. Narasimhan**

**Headline: [Drugs affordability and patents](#)**

**Synopsis:** One of the urgent tasks before the new government is something that does not figure in common discourse but is still extremely important for its larger implications for Indo-U.S. economic ties. India's patent regime, which protects intellectual property rights (IPRs), has come under intense scrutiny in the United States. It is the contention of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) that the environment for IPR in India has deteriorated. India has been placed on the "priority watch" list of countries, whose IPR regimes will be scrutinised during the year. The saving grace is India has not been labelled a Priority Foreign Country (PFC) in the USTR's Special Report released at the end of April. The U.S. Trade Representative is part of the executive office of the U.S. President empowered to develop and recommend trade policy to the U.S. government. Any penal action against India would have cast doubts on the institutions and processes of economic diplomacy in the U.S. It would have been thoroughly ill-timed: the report was released, on schedule, two weeks before a new government took office in India. If, indeed, the USTR had categorised India as a Priority Foreign Country, it could have led to imposition of sanctions by the U.S. on Indian trade. Yet, while there was no downgrade, India's IP regime would be closely watched.

**Website: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: June 23, 2014**

**Headline: [Draft Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications' show bias against pharma sector: PhRMA](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) has criticised the Indian Patent Controller for showing bias against pharmaceutical sector in the draft 'Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications in the Field of Pharmaceuticals' issued by the Indian Patent Controller on February 28, 2014. In its response to the draft Guidelines, the PhRMA, a nonprofit association that represents leading global pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, pointed out that some provisions of the Draft Guidelines appear to indicate to examiners that, unlike other technologies, pharmaceutical patents are presumptively disfavored or even "bad."

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 23, 2014**

**Interview: Anand Sharma, Director, IP & Legal support services, CPA Global**

**Headline: [The IP market in India is under-evolved](#)**

**Synopsis:** Globally, intellectual property (IP) has been a 'protection' tool for companies for many years. However, the focus has now shifted from simply 'protecting' your IP assets to monetising these assets, says Anand Sharma, a member of the Global Board of Directors and Executive Management Board of CPA Global, a leading IP management and IP software specialist, and a provider of outsourced legal services. CPA Global has 21 offices in 11 countries and has been serving major corporations and law firms across the globe for over 40 years. Anand leads CPA Global's fast growing IP and Legal Support Services (IPLSS) business. Since he took over as director of IPLSS, the business has grown significantly, expanding its global footprint in the US, Europe, India and South East Asia. In a recent interaction, he tells that the world's

biggest and most successful businesses have one thing in common—their IP strategy is integral to their business development plans.

### Modi government- Millennium Development Goals

**Website:** NDTV

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** June 21, 2014

**Headline:** [Why India Needs to Worry About the Post-2015 Development Agenda?](#)

**Synopsis:** The government's development priorities will resonate not only on the national stage, but on the international one as well. Three months from now, in September, Mr Modi is scheduled to be on a milestone visit to the US. The visit will coincide with his address to the UN general assembly session which is to decide the world's post-2015 development agenda. The final negotiations between different countries will begin in September and carry on for another year. At the heart of the global negotiations is the issue of sustainable development.

### Union Health Ministry

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** National

**Date:** June 23, 2014

**Headline:** [92% AES-hit kids not vaccinated: Harsh Vardhan](#)

**Synopsis:** Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Sunday claimed at Kanti primary health centre (PHC) near here that 92% of the children affected by acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) had not been administered vaccination for Japanese Encephalitis (JE). Launching a two-day JE vaccination drive in Muzaffarpur district from Kanti, the minister said it is a subject of research whether the AES is a form of JE or not. The researchers must focus on establishing any link between AES and JE. Nearly 96,400 children of the vulnerable age group would be given JE vaccination in the district till Monday.

#### Similar reports in-

The Hindustan Times- [Bihar disease a mystery, says health minister](#)

Business Standard- [Centre coordinating with Bihar state in tackling encephalitis: Dr. Harsh Vardhan](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Vardhan announces research initiatives on encephalitis](#)

NDTV- [Harsh Vardhan Promises Assistance to Bihar for Acute Encephalitis Syndrome](#)

**Website:** Zee News

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** June 20, 2014

**Headline:** [Need to make health facilities more accessible and reliable: Dr Harsh Vardhan](#)

**Synopsis:** With a doctor at the helm of affairs at the Union Health Ministry, there are hopes that healthcare in India would get much-needed focus and reforms would set in. In an interview Dr Harsh Vardhan talks about accessibility and affordability of medicines especially cancer drugs, contribution on private sector in healthcare, the state of government health facilities, the proposal of establishing 10 more AIIMS and universal health insurance.

**Website:** Zee News

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** June 22, 2014

**Headline:** [Centre to look into MCI functioning: Harsh Vardhan](#)

**Synopsis:** Government will look into the functioning of the Medical Council of India (MCI) as "its works create doubts", Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Sunday. "The way the MCI functions is a serious issue for the country, as its works create doubts. Our government will study its functioning

authoritatively. Whatever deficiency is noticed will be removed," he told reporters here.

### Drug pricing

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 23, 2014**

**Headline: [Pharma pricing norms set to be tightened](#)**

**Synopsis:** Pharmaceutical companies might be up for stricter price regulations. The government is planning to bring in a legislation that would take into consideration pricing models across the US, European Union (EU), China and 14 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), which regulates prices of medicines in the market, has already initiated work in that direction. NPPA Chairman Injeti Srinivas said the agency plans to come up with the first draft of the legislation by the end of this financial year. "We have started dialogue with some institutions to commission a study that would look into pricing models of different countries. We are also internally exploring areas that this study should focus on and terms of reference etc. In two-three months' time we will formally commission the study," Srinivas told Business Standard. He added the proposed legislation will cover all kind of medicines including patented, imported and even non-scheduled drugs.

### Cancer

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 22, 2014**

**Headline: [Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital to be commissioned in three years](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre being established by the Atomic Energy Commission at Aganampudi on city outskirts and which is expected to be commissioned in three years time will not only be a top class cancer treatment facility but also a research centre. The Rs. 540-crore hospital is coming up on a 77-acre site allotted by the APIIC. OP services are being offered at present in the containers located on the site and diagnostic and clinical services of King George Hospital and Andhra Medical College will be used when needed, till the hospital is fully established. No fee will be charged at KGH or AMC from the patients sent by Homi Bhabha Hospital.

### FDA

**Publication: The Asian Age**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 23, 2014**

**Headline: [Maha FDA drafts guidelines for pharma companies](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration will draft a proforma in a bid to generate self-inspection and self-auditing of pharma products that are being manufactured in Indian markets and state units. The proforma will equip pharma manufacturing units with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Compliance, which will then be issued to the 1,863 manufacturers across Maharashtra for compliance, meeting the global standards, demands and regulations.

### Drug regulation

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: June 22, 2014**

**Headline: [No takers for govt reward scheme for checking spurious drugs](#)**

**Synopsis:** A government reward under a whistle blower scheme to encourage public participation in the detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country seem to have no takers even five years

after it was launched. According to the scheme, which was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in August 2009, the informers would be suitably rewarded for providing information in respect of movement of spurious drugs to regulatory authorities.

**Similar report in-**

**The Financial Chronicle- Fake drugs reward plan have no takers (link unavailable, scan attached)**

**Innovation**

**Publication: The Hans India**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Best practices for transforming healthcare](#)**

**Synopsis:** The three-day Indo-Global Healthcare Summit and Expo on innovations and advances was inaugurated in the city on Friday at Taj Krishna and Taj Deccan by IT and Panchayat Raj minister KT Rama Rao. The meet is jointly organised by Indus Foundation, Government of Telangana, Indian Medical Association, Government of Andhra Pradesh, The Federation of AP Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI) and the Indian Pharmaceutical Association. SB Anumolu, president, the Indus Foundation, New Jersey, said, "The summit and expo is a unique event for identifying and sharing successful innovative models of healthcare delivery from around the world. The event will help professionals, entrepreneurs, industry players, investors and global institutions to collaborate for taking advantage of the latest innovations and advances."

**General Industry**

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 23, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CMD, Biocon**

**Headline: [Unleashing the pharma power](#)**

**Synopsis:** India has successfully showcased its scientific prowess to the world through its acknowledged leadership in the global generic pharmaceuticals space. Today, one in five generics and one in two vaccines has a 'made in India' label. The ability to deliver high-quality medicines at affordable rates has earned India the sobriquet 'pharmacy of the world'. It has also positioned India's pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry to generate combined revenues of \$100 billion by 2025. If the industry is to quintuple in size from the current \$20 billion, it will need annual investments of \$4-5 billion for the next five years. To realise this quantum of growth and absorb this level of investments, the right policy framework needs to be put in place. Successive governments have largely ignored the pharma and biotech sector in their annual Budgets. Over-regulation, over-taxation, under-incentivisation and under-investment have steadily eroded the sector's global competitiveness. Out-of-the-box thinking and forward-looking policies are needed to revive the fortunes of this promising sector and return it to a high-growth trajectory. A reform-minded new government at the Centre is best positioned to unleash the immense potential of the pharma and biotech industry and make it a shining example of a resurgent 'Brand India'.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: June 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Take a 'long term' view while formulating healthcare programs: Jack Watters](#)**

**Synopsis:** Governments must take a 'long term' view while charting out healthcare policies and programs as they are more cost effective in nature and also help in boosting the economic growth of the country, said Pfizer external medical affairs vice president Jack Watters. "Politicians tend to see things in electoral cycles that are short-term in nature but diseases are not very susceptible to electoral cycles," Watters told Times of India on the sidelines of the 12th Global Conference on Ageing here.

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 21, 2014**

**Headline: [Healthcare sector needs regulator: Suresh Shetty](#)**

**Synopsis:** The healthcare sector needs a regulator to curb malpractices like over-prescription and unnecessary medical operations, Maharashtra's minister for public health and family planning Suresh Shetty said on Friday. Shetty was delivering the keynote address at the Mint Healthcare Conclave in Mumbai. Elaborating on his charge, Shetty said, "Private hospitals routinely insist patients should take blood only from hospital-run blood banks, and they charge exorbitantly for that; and if patients' relatives want to bring blood from the government-run blood bank, they are denied permission for doing so and are misled to believe the quality of blood from the government-run blood bank is not good enough." However, a number of routine inspections by the state's food and drug administration show the blood banks run by these private hospitals don't meet prescribed standards on the quality of equipment and hygiene, among others.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: June 23, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Veena S Rao, former secretary to the government of India**

**Headline: [For an aspiring global power, India suffers from shocking levels of malnutrition](#)**

**Synopsis:** The bad news is that India continues to lead most countries in several malnutrition and mortality indicators. The latest UN report places India's maternal mortality as highest in the world at 17% of global maternal mortality. The good news is that the BJP manifesto said that "extreme poverty and malnutrition will be treated as a national priority and will be addressed on mission mode". This has to be done, because our malnutrition dimensions have now reached a situation of alarm with more than 50% suffering from some form of malnutrition or micronutrient deficiency, resulting in suboptimal cognitive and physical development, low productivity and high health costs. Malnutrition in India is not a woman and child phenomenon, but a population problem. Data of underweight/stunting of children of both sexes, low body mass index and chronic energy deficiency of adolescent girls and boys, and adults, are worrisome, and not what an aspiring world power should have.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: June 23, 2014**

**Opinion piece: Paul Krugman, American economist, Professor of Economics and International Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University**

**Headline: [How and why does health care in US manage to perform so badly?](#)**

**Synopsis:** The essential, undeniable fact about American health care is how incredibly expensive it is - twice as costly per capita as the French system, 2 1/2 times as expensive as the British system. You might expect all that money to buy results, but the United States actually ranks low on basic measures of performance; we have low life expectancy and high infant mortality, and despite all that spending many people can't get health care when they need it. What's more, Americans seem to realize that they're getting a bad deal: Surveys show a much smaller percentage of the population satisfied with the health system in America than in other countries.