



News Updates: June 28 -30, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual property rights

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Online

Date: June 28, 2014

Headline: [US pharma companies want dialogue with India on intellectual property rights](#)

Synopsis: Top executives of American pharma companies favour "dialogue" with India and "not confrontation" to address their concerns on key issues like the protection of intellectual property (IP) and clinical trials. Arguing that global pharma companies share the same goal of "patient first" with that of the Government of India, corporate executives attending the day-long "US-India BioPharma and Healthcare Summit" organised by the USA-India Chamber of Commerce said they should not be considered as adversaries by New Delhi. While asserting there can be no compromise on IP protection issues, executives from top US pharma companies said that they are willing to work with India like – tier pricing – to come out with a solution, which is acceptable to the both the parties.

Similar reports in-

The Hindu- [U.S. pharma companies want dialogue with India on IPRs](#)

Outlook- [US Pharma Companies Want Dialogue With India on IPRs](#)

Deccan Herald- [US pharma companies want dialogue with India on intellectual property rights](#)

The Statesman- [US pharma companies want dialogue with India on intellectual property rights](#)

The Financial Express- [US pharma wants a dialogue with India on IPR”](#)

The Pioneer- [US pharma companies want dialogue with India on intellectual property rights](#)

News Today- [US pharma companies want dialogue with India on intellectual property rights](#)

Modi government

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: June 30, 2014

Headline: [Narendra Modi govt plans US-style universal healthcare scheme](#)

Synopsis: India is preparing a universal health insurance scheme under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal supervision, which is set to be the world's largest of its kind, aimed at delivering quality health insurance services to all, an official release said, quoting health minister Harsh Vardhan's speech to India-origin physicians in the US on Saturday.

“The blueprint of the world’s largest universal health insurance programme is in the process of being sharpened under the Prime Minister's personal gaze. It is partially inspired by US President Barack Obama’s grand insurance-for-all project, which is popularly known as 'Obamacare’”, said Vardhan. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of the US, signed into law in 2010, seeks to raise quality and affordability of health insurance and to reduce the number of uninsured. So far, more than 10 million people have enrolled for the programme.

Similar reports is-

The Economic Times- [Indian government working on world's largest health insurance scheme, says Harsh Vardhan](#)

Business Standard- [Indian govt working on world's largest health insurance scheme](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: June 29, 2014

Headline: [Need panel to manage turf war: Pharma dept](#)

Synopsis: The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) plans to propose the setting up of a high level committee with a mandate to take quick decisions on certain key issues concerning pharmaceuticals and health care, especially where there are over-laps and inter-ministerial differences. This plan is likely to be part of the presentation of DoP secretary Aradhana Johri when she meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 30, it is learnt. Modi, who is in the process of meeting secretaries from each department separately, is learnt to be keen on health care issues, including making essential medicines affordable and accessible across the country.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: June 30, 2014

Headline: [As Parliament begins on July 7, several Bills on health & pharma waiting for nod](#)

Synopsis: Even as the first Parliament session of the new central government led by Narendra Modi is scheduled to begin on July 7, several Bills belonging to the health and pharma sectors are waiting for the Parliament's final nod. Several of these Bills have been pending for quite some time for introduction in Parliament. The major Bills which have been waiting for the Parliament's final nod included NBRA Bill, ART Bill, HIV/AIDS Bill, Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Subjects Bill, Central Drug Authority (CDA) Bill, Medical Devices Bill, etc.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 29, 2014

Headline: ['Govt needs to invest \\$5bn a year for next 5 years in biotech: PwC'](#)

Synopsis: Ahead of the Budget, global consultancy firm PwC says government needs to invest up to \$5 billion (around Rs 30,000 crore) each year for the next five years to enable biotech sector to become a \$100 billion industry by 2025. As part of the wish-list for the pharmaceutical sector in the upcoming Budget, the consultancy firm has also asked the government to allocate Rs 500 crore each year from the R&D cess accessible by the Technology Development Board to stimulate the biotech sector.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 29, 2014

By-lined article: Swaminathan S A Aiyar

Headline: [Sher ki soorat, khargosh ka kaleja](#)

Synopsis: Narendra Modi's fans expect him to extend his Gujarat model of development to all India. They think Modi's "tough love" will lead to hard decisions that hurt immediately, but later yield handsome dividends. They believe Modi will, as promised in his campaign pledges, treat Indians not as recipients of doles and subsidies but as aspirants seeking the jobs and opportunities created by rapid economic growth. Alas, a series of Modi's decisions last week were so populist, dithering and spineless as to make Manmohan Singh look a lion by comparison. In February, Singh proposed an increase of 14.2 % in rail fares and 6.5% in freight rates, and set the cost of a monthly suburban pass at the equivalent of 30 journeys a month, up from the earlier 15.

Union Health Ministry

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: June 28, 2014

Headline: [Centre nod for three new vaccines under UIP](#)

Synopsis: The government has given in-principle approval to inclusion of three new vaccines in the universal immunisation programme (UIP). These are rotavirus, measles-rubella and injectible polio vaccine. While the

rollout will take some time, the ministry will talk about it with PM Narendra Modi in a presentation to him on July 3. Both measles and polio vaccines are already covered under the UIP. "The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation had recommended about two weeks ago that these vaccines should be made a part of UIP. The recommendation has been accepted in principle. The rollout will be in phases. The department will have to decide on the schedule and the cost implications," said a source. NTAGI is the highest body that decides on the UIP.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: June 30, 2014

Blog: Santosh Desai, leading ad professional

Headline: [The sex education question](#)

Synopsis: It does seem a bit strange. On the one hand, we are surrounded by an abundance of sexualised images in cinema, advertising and the media. On the other, the Health minister of the country worries that sex education might be vulgar. Read along with his alleged statement (now denied) expressing concerns about promoting condoms with too much enthusiasm, there is widespread fear in a section of media about an attempt to usher in a regressive mindset in the name of cultural values. Liberal critics have attacked this statement savagely arguing that a lot of problems to do with gender and attitudes towards sex have their roots in a lack of knowledge and understanding of matters pertaining to sex and sexuality.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [Harsh Vardhan clarifies on ban on sex education in schools](#)

Mint- [The sex education conundrum](#)

Business Standard- [Never proposed ban on sex education, Vardhan clarifies](#)

The Times of India- [Schools right forum for sex education: Experts](#)

The Asian Age- [Dr Harsh Vardhan and the case of the Righteous Mind](#)

British Medical Journal

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: June 30, 2014

Headline: [Fight against healthcare graft to focus on India](#)

Synopsis: British Medical Journal (BMJ) has announced the launch of a campaign against corruption in medicine, which will begin with its focus on India. The journal urged people to join its international fight back against kickbacks. The editorial in BMJ regarding the campaign stated that corruption in healthcare was a complex challenge that medical professionals have failed to deal with, either by choosing to enrich themselves, turning a blind eye, or considering it too difficult. Transparency International had concluded that the Indian healthcare sector, is the second most corrupt organization that an ordinary citizen had to encounter (next to the police force).

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: June 30, 2014

Opinion piece: Anita Jain, India editor; S. Nundy, editor-in-chief and Kamran Abbasi, international editor of 'British Medical Journal', London

Headline: [Doctor's dirty secret](#)

Synopsis: Healthcare is a high-risk sector for corruption. Best estimates are that between 10 per cent and 25 per cent of global spend on public procurement of health is lost through corruption. This is big bucks. Total global spend on healthcare is more than \$7 trillion each year. Corruption takes many forms, depending on the country's level of development and health financing system. The US, for example, lost between \$82 billion and \$272bn in 2011 to medical embezzlement, mostly related to its health insurance system. No country is exempt from corruption. Patients everywhere are harmed when money is diverted to doctors' pockets and away from

priority services. Yet this complex challenge is one that medical professionals have failed to deal with. Transparency International (TI), a watchdog on these matters, defines corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, which in healthcare encompasses bribery of regulators and medical professionals, manipulation of information on drug trials, diversion of medicines and supplies, corruption in procurement, and overbilling of insurance companies. This is no dirty little secret. It is one of the biggest open sores in medicine.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: June 28, 2014

By-lined article: Bindu Shajan Perappadan

Headline: [Healthcare in India infected with rampant bribe culture](#)

Synopsis: That there is rampant corruption in the healthcare system is old news. But what has created a flutter in the medical circles recently are two articles published by the British Medical Journal (BMJ). While the first was titled "Corruption in Indian healthcare" and authored by Australian medical practitioner Dr. David Berger, who volunteered as a physician at a charitable hospital in the Himalayas, this was followed up by another article "Corruption: Medicines dirty open secret", which was published earlier this week and co-authored by the journal's India editor Dr. Anita Jain, international editor Dr. Kamran Abbasi and Dr. Samiran Nundy, noted gastroenterologist and surgeon at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. The article highlighted "how corrupt practices can steadily erode the trust and respect with which doctors were previously regarded".

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: June 30, 2014

Opinion piece: Samiran Nundy, gastroenterologist and surgeon at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and the editor-in-chief of the journal 'Current Medicine Research and Practice'.

Headline: [First, give the patient right to know](#)

Synopsis: We can create national watchdogs like Britain's National Fraud Authority, which has brought down corrupt practices in the National Health Service. Finally, once he or she is caught, the corrupt doctor or health worker should be subjected to exemplary punishment. The new government in India has been elected mainly because people are disgusted with the all-pervasive corruption in this country. There is now hope that we can get out of this current morass, but we must act soon.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: June 28, 2014

Headline: [Open secret: Doctors take cuts for referrals](#)

Synopsis: Eminent doctors across India are unified in their opinion that doctors play a key role in "the kickbacks and bribes that oil every part of the healthcare machinery". The debate was sparked by an article in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) on corruption in the Indian medical practice a couple of months ago followed by an editorial on the same issue in the latest issue of the journal written by Dr Samiran Nundy, one of India's leading gastroenterologists.

Drug regulation/ Drug affordability

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: June 29, 2014

Headline: [A pro-India voice in the US drums up support for affordable medicines](#)

Synopsis: Indian drugmakers have marshalled their resources to counter negative campaigns against them in the United States. And tasked with getting the Indian voice heard in US corridors of power, and across the country, is Washington-based India First Group under Ron Somers. Former head of the USIBC (US-India Business Council), Somers had resigned as its President in April. Under the banner of the "Coalition for

Affordable Care,” the India First Group (IFG) will look to mobilise support and counter “one of the most anti-Indian, negative advocacy campaigns ever witnessed in the two countries’ history”, the advisory firm said.

Publication: Business World

Edition: Online

Date: June 30, 2014

Headline: [Indian Drug Cos To Counter MNC Pharma Lobby In US](#)

Synopsis: After a series of regulatory setbacks and loss of business in the past few years, the Indian pharmaceutical companies have decided to take on the mighty multinational drug lobby in the US. The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), a grouping of leading Indian generic drug makers, has roped in India First Group LLC, a strategic advisory firm based in Washington, to counter negative advocacy campaigns against Indian generic manufacturers. India First Group is tasked to mobilise the ‘Coalition for Affordable Care’, a grouping of like-minded constituents in the US who support access to low cost, high quality generic medicines. The initiative will be led by former US-India Business Council president, Ron Somers. India First Group assists US companies pursuing business opportunities in India, and supports Indian companies investing in the United States.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: June 29, 2014

Headline: [Centre mulls bulk drug policy](#)

Synopsis: The Centre intends to revive the country's active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) or bulk drug market by formulating a separate policy, which will promote the industry internationally, apart from catering to domestic requirement. The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) will soon hold discussions with various stakeholders to prepare a White Paper for the policy, a senior government official said. "Formulating the draft API policy is a priority for DoP and the work in that direction has already started," the official told Business Standard, indicating the first draft of the policy may be part of the new government's 100-day agenda.

Drug pricing

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: June 30, 2014

Headline: [Fear of pricing action](#)

Synopsis: Media reports point to a fresh round of potential pricing actions in the domestic market, through an expansion of the list of price-controlled drugs (NLEM). While it is still premature to ascertain this, any such policy actions could pose negative headwinds to IPM (Indian pharma market) and prolong the recovery period. In our view, an unprecedented, second consecutive year of price cuts could pose margin challenges, especially as FY15e US growth is likely to be muted. With such an additional overhang, we believe current valuations may not offer much downside support in this scenario, especially, with the market shifting preference for cyclical sectors.

Innovation

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: June 28, 2014

Headline: [India needs to build effective innovation ecosystem: McKinsey & Company](#)

Synopsis: India needs to build an effective innovation ecosystem to realise its full potential in the field of research and development particularly in the biopharma and health sector, a report said today. “In order to bridge the gap between the current state and desired future and to realise the huge potential of India in biopharma innovation will require building an effective innovation ecosystem,” said the report titled ‘Re-

imagining India's role in delivering affordable biopharma innovation'.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [India needs to build effective innovation ecosystem: report](#)

General industry

Publication: Daily News & Analysis

Edition: Online

Date: June 28, 2014

Opinion piece: Rekha Dubey, Chief Operating Officer, Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital

Headline: [#Budget2014 Access to quality and affordable healthcare for urban and rural sections is key: Rekha Dubey](#)

Synopsis: The upcoming budget should emphasise on increasing the provision for the healthcare industry, focusing on preventive care, targeting greater reach and significantly improving the productivity of private and public healthcare spending. Every common man should have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: June 30, 2014

Headline: ['US worst in developed world in healthcare'](#)

Synopsis: The US has been ranked as the worst among eleven developed countries in a recent report comparing healthcare systems in them. This is the fifth successive time the US has finished at the bottom with the same study done in 2010, 2007, 2006 and 2004 also ranking it worst. Not only did the US have the worst health outcomes, it also ranked last or near last on access, efficiency and equity. The UK ranked first overall, followed closely by Switzerland. The US and UK have totally different healthcare models. The US has a highly privatized system with people forced to spend heavily out of their pockets on healthcare despite a plethora of private health insurance companies. The UK, in contrast, has a substantial publicly funded National Health Service (NHS). The study found that while the US spent more than \$8,500 per capita annually on health, the UK spent less than half that at \$3,400 per person.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: June 30, 2014

Headline: [Finally, neonatal mortality prevention gains attention](#)

Synopsis: Following the approval of the Every Newborn Action Plan by the ministers last month in the World Health Assembly, a new global action was launched on June 30 in the Partner's Forum in Johannesburg to bring in significant new financing, policy and service delivery commitments that could save the lives of newborns and mothers. The need for such focus arises as about three million women and newborns die every year from preventable and treatable conditions like prematurity, complications around birth and severe infections. All the 194 countries that attended the World Health Assembly last month agreed to a commitment to support and implement measures that would save these lives.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: June 30, 2014

Headline: [Insurer-CSC tie-ups might be delayed](#)

Synopsis: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Irdi) had proposed that insurance companies could tie-up with common service centres (CSCs) to act as insurance brokers to sell life and general insurance policies. However, sector officials said CSCs had not yet begun to sell policies, as companies were still in talks on how to use this network. "Companies, especially in the life insurance space, are not in a rush to tie-up with

CSCs, since we do not know what will be the exact model of their functioning,” said a senior life insurance executive. The official added since CSCs would also be dealing with other documentation of people in smaller towns, there was a risk of misuse of customer data. CSCs are a part of the National e-Governance Plan. The Centre plans to roll out over 100,000 CSCs across the country with a focus on rural areas. These CSCs are aimed at providing high quality and cost-effective video, voice and data content and services in the areas of e-governance, education, health, tele-medicine, entertainment and other private services. The CSCs will offer web-enabled e-governance services in rural areas. They can offer application forms, certificates, and utility payments such as electricity, telephone and water bills.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: June 29, 2014

Headline: [AIIMS doctors lead the way, wage war on unnecessary medical tests](#)

Synopsis: Top cardiologists of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here have decided to start an initiative called the Society for Less Investigative Medicine (SLIM) — a movement that aims to take on the growing menace of excessive medical investigations, starting with cardiology. Several studies across the world have conclusively established that generalized annual health check-ups are unnecessary and add enormously to healthcare costs without any commensurate benefits. Several other screening tests and investigations have also been similarly shown to make little sense — other than adding to the bank balance of diagnostic centres and doctors who get a cut for sending patients for tests and investigations.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: June 28, 2014

Headline: [H1N1: Karnataka goes on awareness overdrive](#)

Synopsis: Karnataka health officials have intensified a drive to create awareness about the H1N1 influenza virus in the wake of the communicable H1N1 or swine flu virus claiming 10 lives in the past six months in the state and a recent death being reported of a person from Mangalore in neighbouring Kerala. The disease surveillance division of the health department has sounded an alert to district and private hospitals to escalate information about any suspected case of H1N1 on a daily basis. “Samples of patients suffering from pneumonia, cough, body ache are being collected and referred to authorised centres for examination,” said Dr R T Venkatesh, deputy director of the disease surveillance unit.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: June 28, 2014

Headline: [Industry players will be consulted in forming regulations: CCI](#)

Synopsis: Amidst growing demand from the industry for taking it on board prior to formulating any regulations on fair trade practices, the anti-trust watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) today said it will consult all stakeholders for formulating regulations. "There has been a demand and I think it is very fair and appropriate that stakeholders should be consulted when regulations are made."