



News Updates: June 7-9, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory licensing/ Intellectual property rights

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: June 7, 2014

Headline: [India, U.S. trade officials to start work on policy forum meet](#)

Synopsis: Trade officials of India and the U.S. are expected to meet here soon to prepare the groundwork for the ministerial level meeting of the Trade Policy Forum (TPF). “Deputy United States Trade Representative (USTR) expected to travel to India to prepare groundwork for the upcoming Ministerial Trade Policy Forum meeting,” Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said in her tweet. Deputy USTR Wendy Cutler will meet Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher.

Similar reports in-

The Telegraph- [Move to end drift in US ties](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [India, US trade officials to start work on policy forum meet](#)

Publication: Millennium Post

Edition: National

Date: June 8, 2014

Headline: [Uncle Sam: Culprit, judge & hangman](#)

Synopsis: While medical innovation is integral to human life sustenance, so is the incentive for drug developer in the form of patent rights to motivate them to bring in greater discoveries in the medical field. But what comes as a muddler is man’s greed to make not just profit but super profit. Over the span of four decades, India has earned the distinction of being a ‘pharmacy to the world’. ‘Post–Independence era, India witnessed ruling MNCs charging ridiculously high prices for life-saving drugs. Then, during the Indira Gandhi regime, in 1970, according to recommendations of justice Ayyangar Committee report, we brought in process-patent in place of product-patent for inventions relating to food and medicines (Patents Act, 1970). Thus with no monopoly in place, greater competition and bulk production of drugs, the prices crashed to the affordability level’, notes Senior Advocate and member of Lawyers Collective Anand Grover who fought the historic case against Swiss drug major Novartis on patent of cancer drug Gleevec. He is also a Special Rapporteur United Nations Human Rights Council.

Publication: The Pioneer

Edition: National

Date: June 7, 2014

Headline: [The thaw begins to show- US manufacturers tone down anti-India stand](#)

Synopsis: The reversal of its strident anti-India stance by a leading American business group will go a long way in reviving trade relations between the two countries. On Wednesday, the National Association of Manufacturers, America's largest manufacturing association and a strong voice among lobbyists in Washington, DC, expressed in no uncertain terms its willingness to engage with the Indian Government and business community. This was in sharp contrast to its previous position wherein it had criticised Indian trade practices and also attacked this country’s Government and the judiciary for supporting and endorsing such practices. NAM, in association with the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual

Property Center, also spearheaded a major campaign in Washington against what it perceived to be discriminatory Indian trade practices that threatened jobs and economic opportunity in the US. The Alliance for Fair Trade with India, which included several US companies from across the corporate spectrum, aggressively lobbied the Obama Administration to take up the matter at the highest levels in New Delhi. This was followed by the Office of the United States Trade Representative ordering a unilateral investigation into Indian business practices. India has been on the OUSTR's 'Priority Watch List' for long but this was the first time that it was subjected to such an enquiry.

Health ministry

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: June 7, 2014

Headline: [Harsh Vardhan says MCI has been a source of corruption, needs clean-up](#)

Synopsis: Union Health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan Friday said the Medical Council of India (MCI) has been a "big source of corruption" so much so that it has weakened the very edifice of medical education in the country. A clean-up in the medical education regulator, he said, is on the cards. "For a long time, the MCI has been a big source of corruption...instead of strengthening the component of medical education it has weakened it. I will go into the depth of it. I am not in favour of encroaching on its autonomy but the ministry should monitor and not allow them to be so corrupt. MCI is a big Pandora's box, I do not get stuck there right at the beginning. Let me stabilise the other things in a couple of weeks and I will get to the bottom of it," the minister said.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [Health minister Harsh Vardhan favours single medical entrance test](#)

The Asian Age- [MCI a big source of corruption: Vardhan](#)

Publication: Deccan Chronicle

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [New population control policy soon: Health minister Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Having been neglected for a long time, issues related to family planning and population stabilisation seems to be back into the political discourse. The national commission on population headed by the Prime Minister is expected to meet soon. The commission had last met in 2011. "It is the irony of this country that issues related to population stabilisation have been ignored for long. The commission had not met in last four years. Since its inception it met only twice and the decision which were taken then also have just been gathering dust. We are serious about the issue and will soon write to the PM to give his time so that the meeting can be held soon," Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said.

Similar report in-

The Asian Age- [PM to lead population panel meet soon](#)

Indo – US ties

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 8, 2014

Headline: [Top US official Nisha Desai Biswal arrives, to boost ties with Narendra Modi](#)

Synopsis: US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal arrived in Delhi on Saturday aiming to engage

with the Modi government less than 15 days of the swearing in of the new Prime Minister. This is the first visit by high ranking US official to India since BJP was voted to power. Biswal visit coincided with the arrival of US interim envoy Kathleen Stephens in India.

Modi government

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [Narendra Modi's mega investor show: Vibrant India Summit may happen around November](#)

Synopsis: A Vibrant India global investors summit, modelled along the lines of Vibrant Gujarat summits that helped build Narendra Modi's reputation as Gujarat chief minister, may be held in early November in Delhi. The likely dates for a Vibrant India summit will be close to the November 4-6 period, when the World Economic Forum (WEF) is slated to hold its annual India show this year. Key Modi government officials are working closely with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and other business associations to work out the details of a Vibrant India summit. Speaking to ET, CII's Director-General Chandrajit Banerjee confirmed the idea of a Vibrant India summit is under discussion but it is yet to take a final and formal form.

Drug pricing

Publication: The Economist

Edition: National

Date: June 7, 2014

Headline: [Costly cures- An American fight over expensive new treatments has global implications](#)

Synopsis: The report highlights that high prices of cancer medicines is becoming a concern in America. And it is not just cancer treatments that are worrying; a hepatitis drug sold by Gilead for \$84,000 caused outrage among politicians and insurers and led to a campaign against "unsustainable and abusive" prices on May 28th. For drug companies this raises a ghastly spectre: that America might, at last, begin to act like the rest of the world. John Castellani of PhRMA commenting on the issue said that, "American prices subsidise innovation that benefits patients elsewhere. Indeed Gilead is negotiating lower prices for its hepatitis C drug, Sovaldi, in poor countries. In allowing those prices Gilead assumes it will get higher ones in America".

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: June 7, 2014

Headline: [Launch price of drugs to be capped](#)

Synopsis: To keep down the prices of medicines, the drug price regulator has decided to cap the launch price of a new medicine on a par with the most expensive brand in a particular therapeutic segment. "The monitoring division will monitor the prices of these single ingredient formulations launched by manufacturers for the first time on the basis of monthly MRP (maximum retail price)-based data of IMS Health," announced the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. "Wherever prices of such formulation packs are found to be more than the price of the highest price brand, the monitoring division will initiate price fixation of those packs to reduce to the level of existing highest price brand, under para 19 of the Drug Price Control Order, 2013."

FDI- Pharma

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [DIPP wants more restrictions in Pharma sector, seeks FIPB nod for FIIIs](#)

Synopsis: The department of industrial policy & promotion (DIPP), which had spearheaded curbs on foreign direct investment in the pharmaceutical sector, now wants more restrictions, this time on portfolio investment in the sector. It wants that increase in foreign institutional investment in listed pharmaceuticals companies beyond the default 24% threshold should require permission of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: June 8, 2014

Headline: [FIPB to take up 32 foreign investment proposals on June 11](#)

Synopsis: Meeting for the first time after formation of the new government, the FIPB proposes to take up 32 foreign direct investment proposals from the likes of Pfizer, BNP Paribas and Bulgari International Corporation on June 11. Of the 32 investment proposals before the 206th meeting of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), eight relate to the pharmaceutical sector. The pharmaceutical sector proposals include those from Pfizer, Willmar Schwabe India and Reckitt Benckiser.

Similar reports in-

The Asian Age- [FIPB to take 32 FDI bid](#)

NDTV- [Investment Board to Take Up 32 FDI Proposals on June 11](#)

FDA

Website: Tapan Ray.in [Tapan Ray, ex Director General, Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)]

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [Drugs From The Same Indian Plant: Safe For Europe, Unsafe For America, Why?](#)

Synopsis: Good number of stories on US-FDA banning several drug manufacturing facilities of major domestic players of India over serious quality related issues, have been doing the rounds since about a year and almost at a regular interval. The quagmire has snowballed into serious apprehensions on the quality of Indian generic drugs, across the globe. Various statements of US-FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, during her much talked about maiden visit to India, in February 2014, added further credence to the issue.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: June 8, 2014

Headline: [Doctors flout FDA rules, patients hassled](#)

Synopsis: Doctors of both the public and private hospitals have still not started following the revised rules of writing prescriptions, which have come into force from April 1, 2014 for making the prescriptions understandable and medicines affordable to the patients. Mentioning the name of generic medicines is one of them. Generic medicines are those with similar chemical composition and effect, but are available at a lower price than ones prescribed. According to the doctors, they are not following the rule for two main reasons. First, they have not yet been informed about the new regulations as no notice has been circulated in their departments. Secondly, it would be difficult for them to give the generic name of every medicine as there are thousands of combination drugs and it is

difficult to put down the generic names for each one of them.

Cancer

Publication: Forbes

Edition: Online

Date: June 9, 2014

Headline: [Can Novartis Chief Joseph Jimenez Cure Cancer?](#)

Synopsis: Jimenez is focusing his pharmaceutical giant on a simple mission: Cure cancer. Cancer drugs represent \$11.2 billion of Novartis' \$58 billion in annual sales, but he says he's "doubling down" on the cancer business. In April he did a deal that essentially traded Novartis' unprofitable vaccine and consumer businesses and up to \$9 billion in cash to GlaxoSmithKline in return for Glaxo's cancer drugs, which generate \$1.6 billion in sales but which Jimenez says include three pills he can turn into \$1 billion sellers. The same day, he sold his veterinary business to Eli Lilly. He calls it "precision M&A"—bartering for the divisions you want, instead of bidding \$100 billion for an other rival, as Pfizer is doing with AstraZeneca. Jimenez's move, which he terms "the antithesis of megamergers", will drop Novartis' 2016 sales 5 percent but boost earnings per share (before extraordinary items) by 10 percent, according to investment bank Jefferies.

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: June 9, 2014

Opinion piece: Ashish Goel, VP, regional head, Life Sciences, Europe, Infosys

Headline: [Crowd-funding healthcare is a global solution](#)

Synopsis: So what if the world's healthcare providers could leverage the same kinds of technology that social entrepreneurs are currently using in the banking space? I like to think of it this way: If a patient in a rural area visits a trained nurse who can feed a list of that patient's symptoms into a database, that information, stored on Cloud, can be accessed by a physician who specialises in whatever the ailment might be. Because you are aligning the patient's likely sickness with the right specialist, the doctor doesn't have to be physically present. In a world where there's a shortage of 4 million medical providers, using digital telecommunications platforms to connect patients to providers is an efficient way of tackling the issue.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: June 7, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy Lab's Toansa unit to get export certificate back](#)

Synopsis: India's drug regulator is set to restore the export certificate for Ranbaxy Laboratories' biggest ingredient facility at Toansa in Punjab. This will allow the embattled manufacturer to resume exporting medicines to European markets, which use raw materials made at the plant, officials at Drug Controller General of India's office told ET. The decision comes after global regulators from various European countries including Germany, UK and Ireland as well as inspectors from Australia and Switzerland conducted a surprise inspection at the plant and announced on Thursday that drugs manufactured at the site were fit for consumption.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [US FDA differs with EU on Ranbaxy plant safety](#)

The Financial Express- [Regulators in Europe, US differ on safety of Ranbaxy's Toansa facility](#)

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: June 8, 2014

Headline: [Healthcare 2.0: New tools to keep you fit and fine](#)

Synopsis: Technology is taking us into exciting areas and none more exciting and promising than in the area of health and treatments. Some areas on the verge of major breakthroughs are: Anti-ageing drugs, Organ printing, Personalised medicine, Organ replacement, Biometric sensors, Medical tricorder, Labs on chips, Nanobots and Bionic implants.