



News Updates: March 11, 2014

OPPI

Publication: Express Pharma

Edition: National

Date: March 1- 15, 2014 edition

Interview: Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India

Headline: ["I think we have to first empower ourselves"](#)

Synopsis: As the first woman to become the Director General of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, Ranjana Smetacek, believes that women bring a different and enriching viewpoint to the table and this perspective makes for more robust decisions and leads to better results.

Patents/Compulsory Licensing/Intellectual Property

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [India readying rebuttals to US charges on patent regime](#)

Synopsis: New Delhi is preparing responses to issues that may be raked up during the US' internal investigation on India's intellectual property regime and what it calls trade barriers. The Foreign Ministry, at the request of the Indian Mission in Washington, is collecting information from various Ministries and Departments on US-related trade matters.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [US Pharma vs US Inc](#)

Synopsis: Given how powerful pharmaceutical firms in the US are trying to lobby the US government to take strong action against India for its weak IPR laws, India needs to learn some lessons from China. For years, sections of the US government wanted to declare China a currency manipulator, but US corporations that made lots of money from China weighed in and, as a result, China managed to get away quite lightly. In quite the same manner, India needs to get those sections of US business that are earning big money in India to actively lobby on its behalf, to convince US lawmakers that the picture is nowhere as one-sided as Big Pharma is making out to be.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [Indian patent laws sound, unchallenged: Drug companies tell US International Trade Commission](#)

Synopsis: The Indian drugmakers have told the US International Trade Commission that India's patent laws have been strongly endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and no country, including the United States, has challenged these laws at the WTO claiming that these infringe trade-related intellectual property rights. The commission, a quasi-judicial body set up by the US Congress, is investigating whether Indian policies discriminate against American manufacturers and is due to submit its views later this year.

Access

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Opinion piece: Kalyani Menon-Sen, campaign coordinator, the Campaign for Affordable Trastuzumab

Headline: [Making cancer drugs affordable](#)

Synopsis: The announcement by Indian biotech company Biocon Ltd in November 2013 of marketing approval for a biosimilar of the breast cancer drug trastuzumab was a morale booster for women with HER2+ breast cancer across the developing world. Hailed as a breakthrough in cancer treatment, trastuzumab reduces the risk of recurrence and gives women with HER2+ breast cancer a better chance of a disease-free life.

Publication: The Western Times

Edition: Ahmedabad

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: India pledges new low-cost drugs to developing nations (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Stressing that India's pharmaceutical technology was appropriate for Africa, Commerce Minister Anand Sharma said India is committed to making available to developing countries newer generation life-saving drugs also.

Drug Pricing

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Interview: YK Hamied, Chairman, Cipla

Headline: [‘There could be more respect... 50 years of being an industry, a pioneer, and the government doesn't take me into confidence’](#)

Synopsis: The Indian Express today published YK Hamied's interview with Shekhar Gupta on NDTV's program Walk the Talk that was telecasted yesterday. YK Hamied speaks about his personal life, the early days of his company, industry issues and the documentary Fire in the Blood.

Publication: The Times Of India

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [Political parties asked to include non-scheduled drug pricing in its manifestos](#)

Synopsis: Having exposed the nexus of pharmaceutical companies-doctor-chemists in fleecing the cancer patients in Punjab, now a social organization has taken up bigger cause of making the mainline political parties including the price fixation of non-scheduled general medicines in its poll manifestos.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Times Of India

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [Clinical trials: Supreme Court asks details on deaths from Centre](#)

Synopsis: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Centre to provide details on the number of deaths and severe adverse effects caused to people who were subjected to clinical trials. A bench headed by

Justice RM Lodha expressed concern over the issue saying the government must take a balanced approach so that development in the areas of research is not hampered and at the same time people's lives are also protected.

Similar reports in-

The Hindustan Times (Delhi)- Provide details of death due to clinical trials, SC tells Centre (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Financial Express- [SC asks govt to give details on adverse effects of clinical trials](#)

The Indian Express (Delhi)- Clinical trials: SC asks Centre for details of compensation (link unavailable, scan attached)

DNA- Clinical trials: SC asks details of deaths from Centre (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Telegraph- [SC shocked at clinical trial deaths](#)

Drug Regulation

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [Only 2% of drug samples are of not-standard quality, says regulator](#)

Synopsis: A special nationwide drive to check the quality of drugs by the national regulator for pharmaceuticals and medical devices has found that just a little over two per cent of the drug samples were not of standard quality. No spurious drugs were detected. The surprise checks, which the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) conducted together with the State Drugs Controllers to test the quality of drugs on a monthly basis, also showed that the Jammu region had the highest number of substandard drugs. Of the 156 samples collected from government hospitals and retail and wholesale dealers in April 2013, only 27 were not of standard quality. The State Drugs Controller has been asked to stop further distribution of these drugs in the market and initiate action against the manufacturers under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Publication: The Times Of India

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [Activists seek health ministry intervention to stop MCI diluting code of ethics](#)

Synopsis: Several organisations representing a nationwide coalition of social organisations, health professionals and academia working on public health have written to the health minister seeking "prompt and appropriate response" to "the illogical and distorted manner" in which the Medical Council of India (MCI) was trying to abdicate its responsibility to regulate the ethical conduct of professional associations of doctors.

General Industry

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [GSK pays Rs.6,400 crore to lift Indian unit stake to 75%](#)

Synopsis: UK drug maker GlaxoSmithKline Plc. (GSK) has increased its stake in its Indian arm to 75% from 50.7%, after it bought back shares in an open offer that ended on 5 March, the company said on Monday. The parent company bought 20,609,774 shares in GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd at Rs.3,100 a unit through this buyback offer, paying nearly Rs.6,400 crore (£625 million) for the shares. The open offer began on 18 February.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [GSK raises India unit stake to 75% via open offer](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [UK parent hikes stake in GSK Pharma, thanks to open offer](#)

The Times Of India- [GSK pays \\$1bn to lift Indian unit stake to 75%](#)

The Indian Express- [GlaxoSmithKline raises India unit stake to 75% via open offer](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: March 11, 2014

Headline: [Sun Pharma recalls some generic drug batches in US](#)

Synopsis: Indian generic-drug maker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. has recalled some batches of drugs in the US after complaints of bottling mix-ups.

Sun Pharma is recalling a batch of generic diabetes tablets after a customer complained of finding pills of an epilepsy medication mixed in. Separately, rival Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. pulled two batches of its version of Pfizer Inc.'s Lipitor cholesterol-lowering drug from the US market. Both recalls were listed in the Food and Drug Administration's enforcement report for the week of 5 March.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [Sun Pharma falls on anti-diabetes drug recall](#)

Business Standard- [Sun Pharma declines on buzz of drug recall](#)

The Times Of India- [Sun Pharma recalls batch of drug in US](#)

Reuters- [Sun Pharma falls on anti-diabetes drug recall](#)