



**News Updates: March 14, 2014**

**Intellectual Property/Compulsory License/Patents**

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: March 14, 2014**

**Opinion Piece: Anil Kumar Kanungo (The author is with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi)**

**Headline: [Don't trip-up public health](#)**

**Synopsis:** Public health is once again in the spotlight with the chief of the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Margaret Hamburg, vociferously outlining the quality of the medicines that can be exported to America. However, affordability of medicines and public health has become an issue of concern the world over, especially in the wake of major epidemics like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, etc. With public health coming under the trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) agreement of the WTO, it is timely to analyse its implications for the developing nations.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: March 14, 2014**

**Headline: [US firms like Honeywell and Boeing, professors back India on patent regime](#)**

**Synopsis:** Leading US companies such as Honeywell and Boeing, and professors of US universities have backed India before the US Trade Representative (USTR) that is currently assessing the country's intellectual property and patents regime. If the USTR feels the regime for protection of innovation, patents and intellectual property has deteriorated, it could categorise India as a 'priority foreign country', inviting trade sanctions from the US.

Countries that do better on these counts are put on the 'priority country' list in the Special 301 report of the USTR. The backing from within the US could help strengthen India's case, which has maintained that its laws and policy are compliant with the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) regime of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The US India Business Council has also strongly recommended against India being designated as a priority foreign country.

**YK Hamied retires**

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: March 14, 2014**

**Headline: [Cipla board approves retirement of YK Hamied](#)**

**Synopsis:** Drug firm Cipla today approved the retirement of its Executive Vice-Chairman, YK Hamied with effect from March 31, 2014. Hamied, (73) however, will continue to be the Vice-Chairman of the company in a non-executive role effective April 1.

**Similar reports in:**

**Business Standard - [Cipla board approves retirement of M K Hamied](#)**

## HIV

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** March 14, 2014

**Headline:** [HIV patients stage protest against drug scarcity](#)

**Synopsis:** HIV/AIDS patients are going to protest against the scarce supply of drugs that requires them to frequent the treatment centres way too often. The protest is going to be staged outside the Maharashtra State Aids Control Society (MSACS) office in Wadala on Thursday. Patients are livid that they are given only a week's supply of the antiretroviral therapy medicines when the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) allows the patients to take home a month's quota. MSACS is responsible for giving free HIV drugs medicines to all patients across the state, but has done little to tackle the severe shortage of HIV medicines.

**Similar reports in:**

**DNA -** [HIV patients hurt by drugs shortage cry for help](#)

**Mumbai Mirror -** [Shortage of second line HIV drugs hits city's patients](#)

## Drug Pricing/Drug Regulation

**Publication:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** March 14, 2014

**Headline:** [DoP rejects review petitions by Cipla and two other firms against price revision of scheduled drugs](#)

**Synopsis:** The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has rejected the review petitions by Cipla and two other drug manufacturers against the revision of prices of scheduled formulations by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Cipla approached the Department against NPPA's ceiling price fixation order (No. S.O.2500 dated 11.10.2010) under DPCO, 1995 in respect of ciprofloxacin +tinidazole tablets. The Department, after going through the petition and subsequent hearing, rejected the review plea.

**Publication:** The New Indian Express

**Edition:** National

**Date:** March 14, 2014

**Headline:** ['Regulate Medical Devices'](#)

**Synopsis:** Asking for more transparency in the pricing of medical devices, members of a trust have approached the government demanding that the procurement, sale and monitoring of these equipment be regulated to ensure patients' safety. The Surakshit Vatavaran Charitable Trust has launched a nationwide e-petition to garner support for this cause. It is also pushing for the enactment of the Drugs and Cosmetics Amendment Bill, 2013 which is still pending in Parliament.

## FDA

**Publication:** The Financial Express

**Edition:** National

**Date:** March 14, 2014

**Headline:** [US FDA delegation to visit India in March third week \(No link available, scan attached\)](#)

**Synopsis:** A high-level delegation members of the USFDA are set to visit India in the third week of March. On the expected agenda are discussions on the various parameters of the pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in the country. The visit is a part of the joint working group between India and the US, that follows the USFDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg's visit a month ago.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: March 14, 2014**

**Headline: [Now, USFDA's import alert on Sun Pharma's Karkhadi plant in Gujarat](#)**

**Synopsis:** Sun Pharmaceuticals, India's largest drugmaker by market capitalisation, joined the growing list of top domestic pharma firms facing US regulatory heat as one of its Gujarat-based facilities was barred from shipping to the world's biggest drug market. A company spokesperson confirmed receiving an import alert from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on its Karkhadi plant that makes anti-infective cephalosporin. The company doesn't see this having any material impact on earnings. "Sun Pharma maintains its financial year 2013-14 consolidated sales growth guidance," he said.

**Similar reports in:**

**The Financial Express - [USFDA bans import from Sun Pharma facility in Gujarat](#)**

**The Hindu - [US FDA bans imports from Sun Pharma's Gujarat facility](#)**

**Mint - [FDA import alert for Sun Pharma's Karkhadi plant](#)**