



News Updates: March 15- 18, 2014

Patents/Compulsory Licensing/Intellectual Property

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: March 18, 2014

Headline: [Patented drugs less affordable in India, but cheaper, says study](#)

Synopsis: Patented drugs are much less affordable in India than China, Mexico, Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa despite selling at 46 per cent of the prices prevailing in developing countries on an average partially because of poor health insurance coverage and the government picking up less of the tab, according to a study for the Planning Commission by IMS Health, a pharmaceutical market research firm.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: March 18, 2014

Headline: [US lens on India's IPR Regime](#)

Synopsis: United States Trade Representative (USTR) is assessing India's intellectual property and patents regime. Depending on the outcome of the assessment, in the worst-case scenario India could face trade sanctions from the United States.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: March 16, 2014

Headline: [Don't repeat trade sanctions history: USIBC president Ron Somers](#)

Synopsis: Ron Somers, president of the lobby group US India Business Council (USIBC), has made a case for averting a potential downgrade of India by the US over intellectual-property issues, which could trigger trade sanctions like those followed the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests. "Let us not repeat history if we know that history was not good," Somers told ET over the phone from the US, voting against trade sanctions that may be imposed if India is downgraded to a 'Priority Foreign Country' status by the US Trade Representative Office (USTR).

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: March 18, 2014

Opinion piece: Meir Perez Pugatch, professor of intellectual property, innovation and entrepreneurship at the University of Maastricht, Netherlands; managing director, Pugatch Consilium and part of the team that constructed the GIPC index

Headline: [On intellectual property, a new strategy](#)

Synopsis: Back in 2007, when I visited India for the first time, I had the privilege of meeting some of the brightest and most talented minds in the fields of science and technology. I also had the pleasure of discussing and debating India's level of intellectual property (IP) protection. Essentially, what we were debating boiled down to one major theme: the extent to which India's IP environment allows it to unleash and leverage the huge brain power and creativity of its citizens, not to mention being able to attract the knowledge, knowhow and funds of global innovators. Fast-forward to 2014, and the

answer is still not satisfactory.

FDA

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: March 15, 2014

Headline: [Supreme Court issues notice to Ranbaxy](#)

Synopsis: The Supreme Court, on Friday, issued notice to the Centre and Ranbaxy Laboratories on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), seeking cancellation of the company's licence for allegedly supplying adulterated drugs in the country. A bench headed by Chief Justice P. Sathasivam, however, refused to pass any interim order for restraining the company from manufacturing drugs. "The matter requires consideration, and we will examine it, but we cannot grant any interim stay," the bench said. Reacting to the development, the company spokesperson said Ranbaxy was compliant with all the requirements under Indian laws, and maintained that all the drugs sold by the company in the domestic market were safe and effective.

Similar reports in-

The Economic Times- [Drugs sold by company in the Indian market are safe: Ranbaxy](#)

Mint- [SC issues notice to Ranbaxy, Centre for adulterated drugs](#)

Business Standard- [Ranbaxy says drugs sold in India safe](#)

The Times Of India- [Supreme Court notice to Centre, Ranbaxy on plea for cancelling its licence](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Apex court allows petition seeking cancellation of Ranbaxy's licence](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Ranbaxy gets Supreme Court notice for 'adulterated drugs'](#)

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: March 18, 2014

Headline: [It's bitter medicine by the spoonful for pharma](#)

Synopsis: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has banned imports from Indian generic drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd's plant at Karkhadi in Gujarat, in the latest quality blow for India's drug sector. The FDA has imposed a rash of regulatory sanctions on Indian generic makers in the last year, triggering concerns about the quality of the medicines supplied by the \$14 billion industry to countries including the United States, the biggest market.

Publication: The Western Times

Edition: Ahmedabad

Date: March 17, 2014

Headline: Indian Pharma industry could face US sanctions (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The acrimonious U.S.-India exchange with regard to trade relations could degenerate with the news that the U.S. could designate India a 'Priority Foreign Country' (PFC) or even the more stringent 'Foreign Country Watch List' inviting unilateral trade sanctions.

FDI

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: March 17, 2014

Headline: [FDI in pharma doubled during April to December](#)

Synopsis: Foreign direct investment in the pharma sector has more than doubled to \$1.26 billion

during the April-December period of 2013-14 fiscal amid concerns over increasing acquisitions of domestic firms by multinationals. FDI in drugs and pharmaceuticals was \$589 million in the April-December period of 2012-13, according to the latest data of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [FDI in pharma doubled during Apr-Dec](#)

The Financial Express- [FDI by domestic companies recovers in FY14, around \\$30 bn so far](#)

The New Indian Express- [FDI in Pharma Sector Doubled in April-Dec](#)

Business Today- [India Inc snaps up overseas assets worth USD 29.3 billion](#)

NDTV- [FDI in India's pharma sector doubles during April-December](#)

Clinical Trials

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: March 18, 2014

Headline: [Apex committee on clinical trials to have greater say in waiving off requirement for local trials for foreign drugs](#)

Synopsis: The Apex Committee, set up by the Union health ministry to regulate and supervise the clinical trials, is going to be the final authority to extend waiver of local clinical trial requirement for approval of new drugs which have been approved in other countries. The waiver would be granted only under certain criteria like national emergency, extreme urgency, epidemic and for orphan drugs for rare diseases and drugs indicated for conditions and diseases for which there is no therapy and will be vetted by the apex panel, according to the health ministry.

Access

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: March 16, 2014

Headline: [Strong Medicine](#)

Synopsis: In Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass, Humpty Dumpty pompously tells an incredulous Alice that he can make words mean anything he likes. In the real world too, words can mean different things to different people. For a public health academic or activist, equity is a value that places high premium on bridging the health disparities that separate different population groups. To the financial analyst, equity is a market instrument used to invest for profit. When you open a book on "healthcare industry" which has a whole chapter titled 'Opportunities in Healthcare Private Equity in India', there is no confusion about the perspective that defines the book's content.

Publication: The Guardian

Edition: Online

Date: March 17, 2014

Headline: [New hepatitis C drugs must be affordable worldwide, say campaigners](#)

Synopsis: There are 185 million people in the world chronically infected with hepatitis C virus, which attacks the liver and can cause liver cancer and cirrhosis. Around 350,000 people die as a result every year. Hepatitis C is blood-borne, may show no symptoms for years and, until recently, its treatment has been far from ideal. Even if you can get interferon and ribavirin, which are not available everywhere, the combination does not work in everybody. Those who are infected have felt stigmatised and neglected.

Drug Regulation

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: March 15, 2014

Headline: [Go after inferior drug makers: regulator](#)

Synopsis: Faced with criticism internationally over quality of medicines produced in the country, the Drugs Controller-General of India has issued directions for taking prompt and strict action for any violation of quality, safety and efficacy. Drugs Controller-General G.N. Singh has asked the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation to ensure that drugs, cosmetics and medical devices, manufactured, marketed, imported or exported, meet the quality parameters and safety provisions prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Drug Pricing

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: March 17, 2014

Headline: [Crocin headache for GSK Healthcare](#)

Synopsis: GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare has run into trouble with the drug regulator in Maharashtra over the company's popular fever and pain medicine Crocin. The medicine has not been available at local chemists after the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sent GSK a notice for over-charging on the drug, and stopped supplies. Girish Vakharia, Assistant Commissioner (Bhiwandi), said the regulator has stopped supplies from the company's main stockist for the State, located at Bhiwandi, on the outskirts of Mumbai.

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: March 15, 2014

Headline: ['Make right to health a law in poll manifestos'](#)

Synopsis: Everyone in the country should have the 'right to health' by law, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA), a coalition of over 20 networks and 1,000 organisations working on public health issues, has said in its manifesto sent to all political parties ahead of the general elections. The coalition has called for steps such as addressing gender and caste discrimination in the healthcare system, and increasing public expenditure on healthcare to 3.6 per cent of the GDP to ensure health for all.

Similar report in-

The Indian Express- [Journal attempts to bring healthcare to poll arena](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: March 17, 2014

Headline: ['It is critical for India to maintain its polio-free status'](#)

Synopsis: After being polio free for three years, India expects a final certification from the World Health Organisation later this month. WHO India-representative Nata Menabde, in an email interview, outlines why it is critical for India to remain polio-free as outbreaks are sometimes reported from previously polio-free countries.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: March 15, 2014

Headline: [Small victories over cancer](#)

Synopsis: A team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, or MIT, has taken a significant step towards developing a method that can help detect cancer within minutes through a simple urine test. Far away in Hyderabad, a startup company has arrived at another uncomplicated and quick technique for diagnosis. It has developed a kit to detect breast cancer through a simple blood test. The finding is crucial, considering that breast cancer is the most common cancer in Indian women, killing one out of every two cancer patients.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: March 17, 2014

Headline: [Getting women on board](#)

Synopsis: The new Companies Act has made it mandatory to appoint women directors. As a result the search is on for experienced candidates with domain or functional skills and cultural compatibility to sit on the boards of companies. According to the Ministry of Company Affairs, there were 4,83,103 women directors in 2013 — comprising a dismal 7 per cent of the total number of board seats. Compare this with the top 25 countries where the share ranges from 8 to 36 per cent. India has not come up to even half the US' proportion.