



News Updates: March 20, 2014

Patents/Compulsory Licensing/Intellectual Property

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: March 20, 2014

Headline: [US experts, non-profits back India's intellectual property laws, say any downgrade unwarranted](#)

Synopsis: Even as Washington deliberates imposing trade sanctions on India, a move that could impact import of pharmaceutical, gems & jewellery and petroleum products into the US, India's intellectual property (IP) regime and patent laws have got strong support from US-based law professors and non-profit organisations as well as leading MNCs such as Boeing and Honeywell. According to Matthew Kavanagh of Health GAP (Global Access Project), "India's adoption and one-time use of compulsory licensing and Section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act are TRIPS-compliant and do not justify elevation of India on the US's 2014 Special 301 Watchlist".

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: March 20, 2014

Headline: [Merck HIV drug strategy in India seen shielding patent](#)

Synopsis: Merck and Co. is set to sell an HIV medication in India by mid-year in partnership with local company Cipla Ltd, a strategy that may help the US drug maker protect its patent as India seeks cheaper generics. The price of the co-marketed product will be announced in about three months, according to Cipla's chief medical officer Jaideep Gogtay. The therapy, sold under the brand Isentress, is among more than 20 that an Indian government panel was preparing to assess for compulsory licences, which allow cheaper local copies without the patent owner's consent.

FDA

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: March 20, 2014

Headline: [Maharashtra FDA cancels J&J's cosmetics licence](#)

Synopsis: The Maharashtra's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has scrapped Johnson & Johnson India's licence to make cosmetics at its unit in Mulund, a Mumbai suburb. The order was issued by the joint commissioner on March 15 while giving time till April 21 to appeal the decision. The authority has upheld the order by the state's appellate authority in June. The company has been held responsible for the violation of the Drugs & Cosmetic Act and the rules framed in 1945.

Drug Quality

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: March 20, 2014

Headline: [2.3 per cent of Indian drugs found sub-standard, US doctors raise doubts on quality](#)

Synopsis: About 2.3% of drugs tested by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) since December 2012 were found to be sub-standard. As many as 1,123 samples were tested of which 26 failed to

qualify, according to a surveillance report prepared by the central drug regulator early this month. This latest set of data from the government comes amidst doubts raised by a section of American doctors and academicians over the quality of generic drugs originating from India.

Innovation

Website: Moneycontrol

Edition: National

Date: March 20, 2014

Headline: [BioAsia2014: Is innovation a viable biz model for India?](#)

Synopsis: For India, known around the world for its cheaper generics, the last few years have seen a surge in innovative research in the pharmaceutical sector. Be it research on biosimilars or complex generics or initial level research in small molecules, India is no longer a laggard when it comes to the race of bio-innovation. CNBC-TV18'S Archana Shukla in conversation with top global pharma leaders in attendance at the BioAsia 2014 summit finds out that India's focus on relevant solutions remains its biggest advantage.

General Industry

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: National

Date: March 20, 2014

Headline: [Industry wants health ministry to come out with rejoinder clarification to protect image of Indian generic industry](#)

Synopsis: Concerned over the disturbing media reports published recently, questioning the quality of Indian generic drugs exported worldwide, Indian drug manufacturers across the country have demanded to the Indian government to immediately issue a rejoinder clarification on this matter, clearing the air. The industry fears that failing to take any requisite action, in time, may impact the reputation of the Indian pharma industry as majority of the companies thrive on exports.