



News Updates : March 5, 2014

Patents/Compulsory Licensing/Intellectual Property

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: March 5, 2014

Headline: ['India rejects US allegations; says IPR regime WTO compliant'](#)

Synopsis: Brushing aside the US allegations on intellectual property regime, India today asserted that its laws are fully compliant with international agreements and the country has never deviated from global practices. "When it comes to intellectual property rights (IPR), I must firmly put on record that India is signatory to Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and our laws are fully compliant with the agreement of the WTO. India has never deviated, never diluted (its law)," Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma told reporters here.

Similar reports in-

The Times Of India- [India's IPR regime in line with global pacts: Anand Sharma](#)

Mint- India hardens stance against US protectionism (link unavailable, scan attached)

The Hindu Business Line- [India hardens stance, accuses US of protectionism](#)

The Financial Express- [India rejects US allegations, says IPR regime compliant with World Trade Organization agreements](#)

The Asian Age- [India hits back over US charges on IPR](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: March 5, 2014

Opinion piece: Arvind Panagariya, professor at Columbia University, New York

Headline: [India must call the US' bluff on patents](#)

Synopsis: Apart from the deterioration of the business environment generally, which impacts both domestic and foreign investors, retrospective taxation has figured most prominently in the media as the principal cause of growing scepticism among foreign investors. Entirely missing from the discourse has been an equally potent factor with wholly foreign origins: the hijacking of the economic policy dialogue between the United States and India by pharmaceutical lobbies in the US. Big Pharma has convinced the US government that the country's interests are synonymous with its own. With its own list of grievances against trade restrictions in India, the National Association of Manufacturers, a lobby group of the United States manufacturers, has lent its support to the pharmaceutical industry.

Drug regulation

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: March 5, 2014

Headline: [Novartis may be fined for submitting 'fake' document to Drug Controller General of India](#)

Synopsis: Swiss drug innovator firm Novartis may face penalties in India for submitting 'fake' document to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for a veterinary medicine. The Indian arm of Novartis has admitted before the DCGI that it had submitted a document that was later found to be 'fake' with regard to its site of manufacturing for Tiamulin Hydrogen Fumarate (80% granule).

Generics

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Chennai

Date: March 5, 2014

Headline: Indian pharma draws a bead on complex generics (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Indian pharmaceutical companies are increasingly shifting their focus to complex generics in regulated markets, attracted by high margins and less intense competition in that space. They are also increasing their R&D spending significantly to line up a healthy complex generics pipeline, analysts and industry experts said. Complex generics are off-patent copycat drugs with high-entry barriers that involve either difficult ingredients or formulation processes. Moreover, they may be characterised by unique drug delivery methods or a combination of drugs and medical devices. The high costs involved in coming up with complex generics prevent small and medium companies from venturing into the space.

General Industry

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: Delhi

Date: March 5, 2014

Headline: Can Lipitor save Big Pharma (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Big Pharma could look at off-patent drugs competing with generics for the over-the-counter space on the strength of the brand name.

Similar report in-

Bloomberg- [Can Lipitor Save Big Pharma?](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: March 5, 2014

Headline: [Serum Institute, Dutch arm halve price of polio vaccine'](#)

Synopsis: In support of the end-game initiative to eradicate polio globally, India's Serum Institute and its Dutch subsidiary Bilthoven Biologicals BV jointly said they would substantially reduce the price on inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), compared to the prevailing market price.

Serum had bought the Dutch company in 2012 and this is for the first time that the two companies have joined hands to make IPV available to UNICEF at a subsidised rate, which in turn resulted in triggering a global reduction in price of IPV, the company said.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: Delhi

Date: March 5, 2014

Opinion piece: Rajiv Chugh, tax partner, EY

Headline: [Tax twists in CSR spends](#)

Synopsis: With the enactment of the Companies Act, 2013, India has become the forerunner to mandate spend on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities through a statutory provision. While many corporate houses have been traditionally engaged in doing CSR activities voluntarily, the new CSR provisions put formal and greater responsibility on companies in India to set out clear framework and processes to ensure strict compliance. However, what the Companies Act does is bring more companies into the fold and increase the total CSR spend.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: March 5, 2014

Headline: [Ukraine crisis to have limited impact on Indian pharma](#)

Synopsis: As the Ukraine crisis brought jitters to bourses worldwide, the Indian market also saw a correction on Monday. While it rebounded on Tuesday on indications of the crisis easing, the BSE Healthcare Index is still down over two per cent — it saw a larger crack of 1.5 per cent on Monday and was down by another 0.5 per cent on Tuesday.

Analysts, however, attribute the correction to profit-booking after a prolific run-up in the previous few days and say there is a limited bearing of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Sarabjit Kaur Nangra at Angel Broking says the Russian threat of a military strike on Ukraine's Crimean region is a minor irritant for the Indian pharmaceutical sector. The only case to watch is Dr Reddy's, which among Indian players has the largest exposure to the troubled region.