



News Updates: May 1-2, 2014

USTR Special 301 Report/Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: Mint
Edition: National
Date: May 1, 2014

Headline: [No downgrade but India still on US priority watch list on intellectual property rights](#)

Synopsis: The US on Wednesday desisted from further downgrading India's status in its records to protect intellectual property rights (IPR), citing its willingness to engage with a new government to resolve its differences on the matter. The US, however, said it will conduct a review of the progress achieved regarding its engagement with a new Indian government in the fall of 2014. In the Special 301 report released by the US trade representative on Wednesday, the US continued to keep India under its "priority watch list". There were fears that the US may further downgrade India and categorize it as a "priority foreign country", which could have invited trade sanctions.

Similar reports

- **The Times of India - [India dodges bullet from Big Pharma in patent war](#)**
- **The Economic Times - [US Defers Call on Downgrading India's IPR Regime](#)**
- **Business Standard - [US maintains status quo on India's patent regime](#)**
- **The Hindu - [U.S. trade representative retains India on IPR 'Watch List'](#)**
- **The Hindu Business Line - [IPR : US Does not black list India](#)**
- **DNA - [Three major US firms back India's patent regime](#)**
- **The Pioneer - [US retains India on IPR priority watch list](#)**
- **The Financial Express - [India stares at worst IPR tag from the US](#)**
- **The Telegraph - [Status quo on US Trade watch](#)**
- **The Indian Express - [India not in US list of patent rights offenders](#)**
- **Hindustan Times - [US bets on new govt, spares India IPR taint](#)**

Publication: The Hindustan Times
Edition: National
Date: May 1, 2014

Headline: [Modi card helped India fend off US trade sanctions'](#)

Synopsis: The UPA government leveraged the general elections to persuade the White House to block the US pharmaceutical industry's attempts to put India on the US trade blacklist, say a number of US and Indian sources. The US trade representative's office was expected to list India as a "priority foreign country" when it issued its annual report on Wednesday. This would have opened India to trade sanctions. Instead, the report effectively announced another year-long review of India's policies.

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: National
Date: May 2, 2014

Headline: ['India defends IPR laws, won't take part in unilateral US probe'](#)

Synopsis: The US extended an olive branch on India's intellectual property rights regime by saying it will take a decision after the new government assumes office but New Delhi signalled its displeasure at the investigation into this not being closed by saying it will not cooperate in further enquiries. The US Trade Representative (USTR) on Wednesday put off a decision on India's patents regime in its annual Special 301 report and said it would hold an 'out-of-cycle' review of the case later this year.

Similar reports

Business Standard – [Commerce secy raps US step on IPR issue](#)

The Indian Express - [IP policy WTO-compliant, won't support unilateral US probe: India](#)

Financial Chronicle - [India rejects unilateral US probe in patent law](#)

The Financial Express - [India won't participate in unilateral US probe on IPR](#)

The Financial Express - [Editorial: Patenting friends](#)

The Financial Express - [Column: The US IPR hypocrisy](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Date: May 1, 2014

Headline: [Government plans special purpose vehicle for 'Brand India Pharma' promotion](#)

Synopsis: The government will create a special entity in partnership with private firms for a 'Brand India Pharma' campaign aimed at refurbishing drug exporters' image after recent setbacks overseas. The special purpose vehicle will come into being within the next few weeks, commerce secretary Rajeev Kher told ET. The government is also considering stern action against copycat medicine producers who make substandard and spurious drugs, he said.

Drug pricing/Drug development

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: May 2, 2014

Headline: Patients gasp as branded drug prices double since '07 (Scan attached)

Synopsis: Since 2007, the cost of brand-name medicines has surged, with prices doubling for dozens of established drugs that target everything from multiple sclerosis to cancer, blood pressure and even erections, according to an analysis conducted for Bloomberg News. Starting prices of new drugs are escalating as well. Today, a cholesterol-lowering treatment for certain rare cases cost \$311,000 a year and a cystic fibrosis medicines-developed partly with funding from a charity-costs \$300,00 annually.

General Industry

Publication: The Indian Express

Date: May 1, 2014

Headline: [Delhi Medical Council issues order against cross pathy](#)

Synopsis: The Delhi Medical Council (DMC) recently issued an order warning registered doctors against the practice of cross pathy — prescribing homoeopathy and ayurvedic drugs along with allopathy medicines. The order has come at the time when, according to DMC office bearers, the practice of cross prescription has become common among physicians. The order issued by the registrar of DMC states that “doctors registered with DMC are hereby directed not to practise or prescribe ayurvedic drugs”. It says “no cross pathy practise is allowed by any medical practitioner unless such person is also registered in that system in which he is practising.”