



News Updates: May 10-12, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: The Hindu
Edition: National
Date: May 12, 2014
Opinion piece: Prabha Sridevan, former judge, Madras High Court
Headline: [Defending India's patent law](#)

Synopsis: India and its intellectual property (IP) laws have been the subject of sharp criticism recently. Now, there is talk of the government invoking emergency provisions with regard to Dasatinib, a cancer drug. The decibel level may go up several notches. Let us look at our law. The sovereignty of a country includes its power to make laws. Any person who pursues commercial interests in another country must submit himself/herself to the laws of the country. No one can attack our regime as being weak only because his/her invention did not stand up to the test of our legislation. Nor can India be accused of robbing Peter to pay Paul. It sounds romantic, but it is still robbery.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: National
Date: May 11, 2014
Headline: [Govt looking at incentive scheme to retain patent examiners](#)

Synopsis: With the Indian Patent Office finding it difficult to retain patent examiners on Government pay-scales, a move is underway to increase remuneration by introducing an incentive scheme. The Indian Patent Office, with less than 100 patent examiners, is struggling to clear a backlog of over one lakh pending applications.

FDA

Publication: The Financial Express
Edition: Online
Date: May 10, 2014
Headline: [GSK, Pfizer other global pharma companies too come under USFDA net](#)

Synopsis: While the growing concern in the US about the quality of drugs being manufactured at Indian facilities may be valid, given 40% of the generics sold in that market are of Indian origin, not all USFDA regulatory action is targeted at Indian drug makers. Indeed, the USFDA has on several occasions found fault with global pharma majors too.
If the US Department of Justice imposed a \$550-million fine on Ranbaxy in June last year as felony charges for manufacture and distribution of certain adulterated drugs, close to \$13.5 billion has been levied on major pharmaceutical companies, US and otherwise, since 2009. Among those that have been asked to pay up are Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi and Amgen.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [Indian drug makers to benefit as US expedites generic clearances](#)

Cancer

Publication: Deccan Herald
Edition: National
Date: May 12, 2014

Headline: Revival of Immunity (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: New medicines that shrink tumours and have beneficial effects lasting for months to years in some cancer patients are helping breathe new life into an old idea: using a patient's own immune cells to attack malignant cells. Several drug makers are trying to prove the safety and efficacy of new medicines that harness the body's own lines of defense. Merck, for one, is testing an immune-modulating compound in patients with metastatic, or spreading, melanoma.

Publication: The Telegraph

Edition: National

Date: May 11, 2014

Headline: [Kill bills](#)

Synopsis: Ironically, as treatment for cancer gets better and better, most Indians are finding it more and more difficult to fight the disease, thanks to exorbitant drug prices and multiple diagnostic tests. The growing economic burden of cancer affects not just people below the poverty line but also the middle class. Lack of access to government hospitals, private health facilities are the first point of contact for almost 50 per cent of cancer patients, and the cost of diagnosis and treatment for cancers in private hospitals is enormous.

General Industry

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: May 11, 2014

Edited excerpts from an address by M Hamid Ansari, vice-president of India at the golden jubilee of Govind Ballabh Pant Hospital at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, April 30, 2014

Headline: ['Affordability of health care is a serious problem'](#)

Synopsis: Affordability of health care is a serious problem for the vast majority of the population, especially in tertiary care. Lack of extensive and adequately funded public health services pushes large numbers of people to incur heavy out-of-pocket expenditures on services purchased from the private sector. Inadequacy of resource allocation is reflected in the fact that India currently spends only 1.2 per cent of its GDP on publicly-funded health care. This is considerably less than most other comparable countries.

Publication: The Hindustan Times

Edition: Delhi

Date: May 11, 2014

Headline: Consumer courts have helped but India still needs a law to protect patients (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: Several countries around the world have recognized the rights of patients through specific laws or charters. The European Charter of Patients Rights, for example, recognizes fourteen rights of patients, including the right to choice, right to information, right to consent, right to privacy and confidentiality, right to compensation and the right to participate in policymaking in the area of health. In India, even though the government is yet to turn its attention to this crucial aspect pertaining to patient-physician relationship, the courts, particularly the consumer courts, have stepped in to protect the patients. Their orders have helped define the rights of patients and it is imperative that consumers be aware of them.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: May 11, 2014

Headline: [Opinion divided in U.S. on Modi as PM](#)

Synopsis: While a large segment of the U.S. media and its viewership may be unaware of “the biggest elections in human history,” three broad constituencies in America are likely to be tracking the ongoing polls closely — the Obama administration’s State Department, Trade Representative and Chambers of Commerce, private sector corporations engaged in bilateral trade and investment and an eclectic constellation of human rights advocacy groups. With an important component of the U.S.-India relationship at stake for each of these observers, they must all be pondering the same question: if, as numerous polls predict, Gujarat Chief Minister and BJP leader Narendra Modi becomes Prime Minister, what will that mean for the bilateral relationship?