

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property**Publication: The Financial Express****Edition: National****Date: May 13, 2014****Opinion piece: Pravin Anand, patents lawyer with Anand and Anand****Headline: [Get prudent with the patents law](#)**

Synopsis: The article highlights that the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) is an important contributor to economic, social and technological progress in a country. It further adds that India has granted numerous pharmaceutical patents, however, looking at the total number of patents granted is not the appropriate way to characterise the strength of the IPR environment. Pharmaceutical patents can be related to different inventions ranging from manufacturing steps to delivery devices to new molecule discoveries, and the number is not necessarily indicative of a single new drug. The nuances of India's patent laws will continue to generate attention and it is important to understand the myriad complexities of Indian patent laws in the pharmaceutical and other arenas.

Publication: BusinessWorld**Edition: Online****Date: May 12, 2014****Headline: [How USIBC Lost Pfizer, Roche](#)**

Synopsis: Global pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and Roche have reportedly disassociated with the US India Business Council (USIBC) – a grouping of top global companies (mostly US) and leading Indian firms with interests in the US - after USIBC failed to toe the hard line position the drug companies wanted it to take against India. While the multinational drug companies wanted USIBC to ask the US Trade Representative (USTR) to bracket India among the nations with the worst compliance level of intellectual property rights (IPR), USIBC took a milder position by arguing that India should not be penalised on an election year when a new government is about to take charge. Instead USIBC called for a long term engagement where these issues could be handled through bilateral discussions, a position which is closer to the official line taken by Indian officials.

Publication: Deccan Chronicle**Edition: National****Date: May 13, 2014****Headline: [Crores spent on research show poor results in India](#)**

Synopsis: Despite the hue and cry over lack of research funding, crores of rupees are pumped into Research and Development every year with results that are nothing to write home about. A new analysis of innovation patents filed by Indian inventors in comparison to other countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation found that despite lesser population, lower capability and far lower R&D expenditure, strife-torn Sri Lanka had a better output than India.

FDA**Publication: The Indian Express****Edition: National****Date: May 13, 2014****Headline: [FDA intensifies drive against misleading adverts by drug companies](#)**

Synopsis: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has intensified its drive against retailers and manufacturers of medicines that promote their products with misleading advertisements through electronic or print media. It has started issuing more notices and lodging FIRs against the offenders. In 2013-2014, the number of notices issued against such manufacturers, distributors or retailers for advertising drugs and medicines sky-rocketed to 1,434 from a mere 64 notices issued in 2010-2011. In 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, 377 and 1,276 notices were issued respectively.

Cancer

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 11, 2014

Byline article: Sandhya Srinivasan, consulting editor at the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics

Headline: [When research harms those it seeks to help](#)

Synopsis: There are various ways to tackle the problems of public health in this country. Sometimes researchers need to develop new drugs for malaria, or a diagnostic test for drug-resistant TB. But often what they really need to do is figure out how to get existing preventive and treatment methods to reach the poor. Unfortunately, sometimes scientists' obsession with proving the effectiveness of technologies can harm the very people for whom their research is intended. This is exemplified in three randomized controlled trials evaluating cheap screening methods for cervical cancer, a disease that kills at least 70,000 women every year in India and four times that number the world over.

Pfizer- AstraZeneca news

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 12, 2014

Headline: UK wants more guarantees from Pfizer over AstraZeneca bid (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The UK signalled it wants more guarantees from Pfizer Inc., the US drugmaker seeking to acquire AstraZeneca Plc, and held open the possibility of blocking the deal using a public interest defence. Prime Minister David Cameron reiterated on Sunday that he wants more from the company, while his deputy Nick Clegg said he wants exacting, binding commitments rather than aspirations. Their comments came after Pfizer on Saturday issued a series of videos extolling the scientific benefits of a deal, while downplaying the potential tax advantages. "I will always stand up for British jobs, British interests, British science, British R&D," Cameron said in an interview with the BBC's Andrew Marr programme.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: May 13, 2014

Headline: [Pfizer defends 'powerhouse' Astra buyout as CEO braces for grilling](#)

Synopsis: Pfizer defended the business case behind its plan to acquire AstraZeneca on Monday and questioned the UK drugmaker's ability to stand alone for much longer as the New York-based group's CEO prepared for a grilling from British lawmakers. Aiming to douse questions about its commitments to British jobs, Pfizer also said its agreement to complete AstraZeneca's new research centre in Cambridge, retain a factory in northwest England and put a fifth of its research staff in Britain if the deal goes ahead were legally binding.

Similar reports in-

Reuters- [Pfizer defends 'powerhouse' Astra deal as CEO braces for grilling](#)

Mint- [Under fire, Pfizer hits back as it weighs next AstraZeneca move](#)

Business Standard- [Pfizer boss enters lion's den of UK politics to sell AstraZeneca deal](#)

The Indian Express- [Pfizer defends 'powerhouse' Astra deal](#)

Drug pricing

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: May 12, 2014

Headline: [IDMA to create a level playing field for pharma marketing professionals in new pricing regime](#)

Synopsis: In the wake of Medical Council of India (MCI) regulating marketing activities, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) regulating FDCs and introduction of new Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA) organised a conference under the theme –Current Challenges and Opportunities in Pharma Market in Mumbai recently to create awareness and a level playing field for professionals working in small and medium enterprises. With over 700 companies under its fold, IDMA has made several representations to government in order to bring better coordination between Health Ministry and Department of Pharmaceuticals for bringing more clarity in the context of the new pricing policy and MCI guidelines.

General Industry

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 13, 2014

Headline: [Cipla to buy 14.6% stake in US drug research firm Chase Pharmaceuticals](#)

Synopsis: Pharmaceutical company Cipla Ltd said on Monday that it plans to invest \$1.5 million to buy a 14.6% stake in US-based drug research and development company Chase Pharmaceuticals Corp. The US company is developing drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Cipla informed stock exchanges that it will invest another \$4.5 million in the company upon achievement of a certain milestone in the drug's development.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [Cipla to invest USD 1.5 million in US based Chase Pharma](#)

The Hindu- [Cipla buys stake in U.S. firm](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Cipla invests \\$1.5 million in Chase Pharma](#)

The Financial Express- [Cipla to buy 14.6% in US-based co for \\$1.5 m](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: May 13, 2014

Headline: [Import alerts unlikely to impact pharma exports to US](#)

Synopsis: While import alerts are on the rise after several manufacturing facilities have come under scanner, analysts and industry insiders, however, feel that there would not be much impact on the existing US exports from India as product approvals are also on the rise. Moreover, as most of the facilities that have come under scanner are bulk drug making units. As per a latest report by India Ratings & Research, estimated impact on the existing exports revenue to be around 7-8 per cent of the total exports to the US, and around two per cent of the overall 2013 pharmaceutical exports from India.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 13, 2014

Headline: [India's pharmaceutical exports up 10.5% in April](#)

Synopsis: India's pharmaceutical exports grew 10.5 per cent, year-on-year, to \$1.26 billion in April,

according to the Commerce Ministry data. "This year we are expecting a healthy rate of growth in pharma exports. Regions like Africa will help in enhancing exports," said an official. Pharma exports registered slowest growth in at least 15 years at 1.2 per cent to \$14.84 billion in the 2013-14 fiscal amid growing tension with the US over intellectual property rights related issues.