

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property**Publication: BusinessWorld****Edition: Online****Date: May 13, 2014****Headline: [Men At Work](#)**

Synopsis: The ministry organised a special screening of the documentary, Fire In The Blood, before representatives of foreign embassies and the international media. The film was screened two days after the United States Trade Representative (USTR), in its annual Special 301 Report, put India on the “priority watch list”, indicating the serious concern that the USTR had about India’s “intellectual property rights (IPR)” compliance levels. India’s response to the USTR report was not limited to this act of public diplomacy. The commerce ministry — the administrative ministry for trade and IPR issues — has already conveyed its stand. Rajeesh Kher, commerce secretary, has informed USTR that the right forum to discuss the concerns of the US industry will be the bilateral Trade Policy Forum (TPF) that is already in place. “We have decided to have the next TPF in June. The secretary (commerce) will meet the deputy USTR during this meeting,” a ministry official said.

Publication: Forbes**Edition: Online****Date: May 13, 2014****Headline: [Fix the FDA, Fix Patents, Save Lives](#)**

Synopsis: Bringing life-saving drugs to market isn’t cheap – the capitalized cost of bringing a typical drug to market is around \$1.2 billion and continues to grow every year. And thanks in no small part to heavy-handed FDA regulations, this cost is slated to keep growing, especially for new, highly targeted medicines for diseases ranging from cancer to type 2 diabetes.

Clinical Trials**Publication: The Economic Times****Edition: Hyderabad****Date: May 14, 2014****Headline: [In clinical trials, all are being punished for errors of a few, says Satish Reddy \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)**

Synopsis: Satish Reddy, who was appointed chairman of Dr. Reddy’s Labs on Tuesday, told ET that in the clinical trials space the entire drug industry was being punished for errors committed by a few. Reddy, also chief of the Indian Pharma Alliance, a grouping of top local drugmakers, feels that the US threat of trade sanctions is far from over.

Publication: The Indian Express**Edition: National****Date: May 14, 2014****Headline: [Trials for ‘safer’ cancer therapy a success in India](#)**

Synopsis: Phase II clinical trials of Dendritic Cell Therapy (DCT), often referred to as the fourth flank against cancer after chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery, have successfully been completed across six sites in India. The drug controller’s approval has now been sought to make the therapy available to patients with malignant solid tumours. It is likely to cost anywhere between Rs 5-7 lakh. The trial results published in the journal Cytotherapy showed that DCT is safe. In 51 patients with refractory cancer (with a life expectancy of three months or less) a median overall survival of 397 days was recorded. But

researchers said the trials were conducted on patients with an advanced stage of the disease, and that ideally therapy should be started earlier.

Similar report in-

The Financial Express- [Trials for 'safer' cancer therapy a success in India](#)

FDI- Pharma

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 14, 2014

Headline: [Government clears KKR's proposal to buy stakes in Gland Pharma and Gland Celsus Bio Chemicals](#)

Synopsis: The government on Tuesday cleared private equity firm KKR's proposal to acquire stakes in two drug firms — Gland Pharma and Gland Celsus Bio Chemicals — in deals of over Rs 1,400 crore. KKR plans to pick a 37.9% stake in Gland Pharma for \$191 million (Rs 1,150 crore), and invest \$39.8 million (Rs 240 crore) for a 24.9% in Gland Celsus Bio Chemicals. The deal had already got green signals from the Competition Commission of India and Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) earlier this year.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Cabinet clears KKR investments in 2 pharma companies](#)

Business Standard- [Cabinet clears KKR's pharma FDI proposal](#)

The Hindu- [CCEA nod for \\$400-million FDI deal](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [In a parting gift, Cabinet clears KKR's Rs. 1,400-crore pharma FDI proposal](#)

The Indian Express- [FDI in brownfield pharma: Cabinet clears \\$400-mn KKR proposal](#)

Universal Health Coverage

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 14, 2014

Opinion piece: A. K. Shiva Kumar, member of India's National Advisory Council

Headline: [Fixing India's healthcare system](#)

Synopsis: India's healthcare system in many respects is on life support. The country trails behind sub-Saharan Africa, Bangladesh and Nepal on numerous health fronts, despite higher per-capita income and two decades of spectacular economic growth. Inequities in the availability and outcome of care abound, determined in large part by gender, socioeconomic status and geographical location. And most Indians seeking care are confronted by two unpalatable choices—a public health system that is almost entirely free but of poor quality if it is accessible, and a largely unregulated private-sector system that provides world-class service to some but too often charges ruinous prices, dispenses inappropriate or unnecessary care, and is riddled with practitioners with little or no formal training.

Drug Affordability/ Access/ Drug pricing

Publication: The Boston Globe

Edition: Online

Date: May 12, 2014

Headline: [Biogen gives hemophilia drugs to help poor nations](#)

Synopsis: Biogen Idec Inc. said Monday that it will make the largest donation ever of hemophilia drugs to developing nations, where the costs prevent thousands of people afflicted by the bleeding disorder from getting treatment. The Cambridge biotechnology company pledged to donate 1 billion units of clotting factor, the manufactured proteins that help prevent hemophiliacs from bleeding uncontrollably, to poor countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America over the next 10 years. A severe hemophiliac may use up to 5,000 units of clotting factor a week.

Website: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Date: May 14, 2014
Headline: [Violation of DPCO 2013](#)

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has initiated action in 89 cases of overcharging of medicines by pharmaceutical companies in violation of the Drug Price Control Order during the year ended March 31,2014. With this the total number of drug price violation cases in the country stands at 1018 for an amount of Rs 3381.91 crore. Last year's claim of NPPA on pharmaceutical companies amounted to Rs 384.51 crore in 103 cases. Out of the total claim of Rs 3381.91 crore, the authority was able to get only Rs 274.43 crore till date, as most of the cases were still stuck in various courts.

Publication: Deccan Herald
Edition: National
Date: May 14, 2014
Headline: [Internet for health sector reforms](#)

Synopsis: Both developed and developing countries are at some stage of health sector reforms. They focus on equitable, affordable access to quality health care to their population. In India too, the Union government has declared its intention to remedy the present situation by initiating reforms in the health system. Though, as a part of the formulation of the 12th Five Year Plan, the government had set up a high level expert group, with the mandate of formulating a plan for Universal Access to Health Care (UAHC), the recommendations of the group failed to realise the immense possibilities of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to augment affordability and accessibility of health care.

Drug quality

Publication: The New Indian Express
Edition: National
Date: May 14, 2014
Headline: [95 Percent of Drugs in Market Untested](#)

Synopsis: The availability of substandard drugs harmful to health is on the rise in the state, reveals data received from the Kerala State Drugs Control Department. A matter of serious concern is that the department checks the quality of only less than 5 per cent of the medicines available in the market owing to the lack of enough number of drug testing laboratories. At present, there are only two drug testing labs in the state, one in Thiruvananthapuram and the other in Ernakulam.

Pfizer- AstraZeneca news

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: National
Date: May 14, 2014
Headline: [AstraZeneca deal: Pfizer chief Ian Read says jobs will go in takeover](#)

Synopsis: Pfizer Inc.'s chief executive acknowledged Tuesday that a potential merger with AstraZeneca would lead to job losses _ but promised to keep key research jobs in Britain as part of its \$106 billion takeover bid. CEO Ian Read refused to give specifics on where the cuts might take place as he testified before Parliament's Business Innovation and Skills Committee but described them as an inevitable outcome of the merger. Still he told skeptical lawmakers the company would honor its promises to keep 20 percent of its global research and development workforce in the U.K.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Pfizer CEO makes AstraZeneca takeover case to Parliament](#)

Business Standard- [Pfizer urges AstraZeneca to talk as UK lawmakers slam offer](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Pfizer allays fears over bid for AstraZeneca](#)

The Indian Express- [Pfizer urges AstraZeneca to talk, says may up offer](#)

The Financial Times- [Pfizer's AstraZeneca bid: How MPs probed proposed deal](#)

Cancer

Publication: The Telegraph

Edition: National

Date: May 14, 2014

Byline article: Uddalak Mukherjee, Asst Editor

Headline: [Dead weight](#)

Synopsis: If the electoral manifestos of the leading political parties are an indication, India's health policies are floundering while coping with the threat posed by cancer. The Bharatiya Janata Party, which is tipped to come to power, has made vague noises about investing in research and development to find a 'solution' to cancer. The Congress, which has pledged to make healthcare a fundamental right, has promised to introduce mobile healthcare vans equipped to conduct mammography tests in every district. This in a nation which, according to a report in The Lancet, is expected to register 1.7 million new cancer cases annually by 2035.

General Industry

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: May 14, 2014

Opinion piece: Devi Shetty, founder and chairman, Narayana Health

Headline: [Body blow to the medical profession](#)

Synopsis: The recent Supreme Court ruling on medical compensation of Rs.11 crore in Kolkata has raised several issues related to the medical profession and its practice. The Supreme Court has rightly upheld the law of the land. Medical malpractice deserves punishment. Doctors who have neglected the patient are punished through the Medical Council, which can remove their right to practice temporarily or permanently, and this is one of the worst punishments for a doctor. Added to that some financial compensation is definitely required. However, if the compensation is going to ruin the doctor, his family and his future, we are not far away from the rule of Hammurabi. As a country, we need to protect everyone's life. But if we try to implement first-world regulatory structure with third-world infrastructure, we will be in trouble. We are a country short of one million doctors, two million nurses and three million beds. With this scarcity, we should concentrate more on improving the infrastructure, creating the right regulatory framework to protect the life of the patients as well as an ideal working environment for the doctors. On this issue, governments' mandate should be to cap the malpractice compensation.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 14, 2014

Headline: We are stepping up investments in complex specialty generics (link unavailable, scan attached)

Synopsis: The bulk drug business is affecting the margins and only when this business turns around in the next 2-3 quarters will margins expand, said G.V. Prasad, chairman and chief executive of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. "We hope that in FY15 we will get the business back to its historical trajectory," Prasad said in an interview.

Publication: The Wall Street Journal

Edition: National

Date: May 14, 2014

Headline: [FDA Asks: What Would Happen if Drugs Advertised Their Price?](#)

Synopsis: If more prescription drug ads contained prices, would consumers and doctors ignore important information about safety and effectiveness? Very few ads contain pricing or make cost comparisons, but the FDA is concerned such data may become a serious distraction. So the agency is planning a study to understand how pricing data may be perceived and the extent to which safety and effectiveness information can sway any impression that “price is the main factor to consider,” according to a notice in the Federal Register.