



News Updates: May 16, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: Business Insider

Edition: Online

Date: May 16, 2014

Headline: [IP, Patents May Set The Tone For The Next Battleground](#)

Synopsis: The report highlights India's role in economizing life-saving essential medicines and enhancing access to quality healthcare when it comes to the underprivileged. As a result, India has often been singled out by the US government and the multinational pharma industry on the grounds of insufficient enforcement of intellectual property protection. While the US remains the single biggest investor in research and development, the annual global research spending in the country has significantly dropped from 37% to 30% in the recent years. That is why the country is slowly training its gun on nations such as India, which are among the biggest Patent Cooperation Treaty consumers. The report adds that for India, keeping the knowledge free and open for sharing, especially when it comes to saving lives, seems to have become a philosophy by which the country lives. And the rest is for the countries to slug it out in courts.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 16, 2014

Headline: ['Why only male subjects? Include females in lab tests'](#)

Synopsis: In an article published on Wednesday in the journal Nature, Dr Francis Collins, director of the NIH, and Dr Janine A Clayton, director of the institutes' Office of Research on Women's Health, warned scientists that they must begin testing their theories in female lab animals and in female tissues and cells. The new requirement announced by the NIH for researchers applying for funding is likely to have a big influence because the agency is one of the world's top financial backers of biomedical studies, spending about \$30 billion annually. The NIH has already taken researchers to task for their failure to include adequate numbers of women in clinical trials. The new announcement is an acknowledgment that this gender disparity begins much earlier in the research process.

FDA

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: May 16, 2014

Headline: [Maha FDA approaches Centre to plug loopholes to end illegal sale of drugs through websites](#)

Synopsis: Concerned over the increasing incidents of illegal sale of prescription drugs through websites, the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has written to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and the union commerce ministry to prepare an action plan to put an end to this clandestine activity. Stating it as a nationwide phenomenon, an FDA official informed that the state regulatory body is in constant touch with DCGI to plug the loophole in the regulatory system and take appropriate action under the D&C Act before it culminates into an alarming situation.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: National
Date: May 16, 2014
Byline article: Vidya Ram, European correspondent
Headline: [Pfizer pill, a hard one to swallow](#)

Synopsis: If one were to pick a European nation known for government interference in commercial matters, particularly takeovers, France would probably top most lists. France's approach has traditionally been looked down upon by its European neighbours, though as one country is fast learning, touting a lofty laissez-faire policy and acting on it are entirely different things. Ever since Pfizer launched its hostile approach for AstraZeneca, the British government has been dabbling. First it was accused of "cheerleading" the deal because of the speed with which it welcomed Pfizer's assurances on jobs and keeping research facilities in the UK (the Financial Times subsequently reported that AstraZeneca's chairman had had to urge Prime Minister David Cameron to remain neutral).

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: Online
Date: May 15, 2014
Headline: [Promising cancer drug data helps AstraZeneca in Pfizer fight](#)

Synopsis: New data showing an experimental AstraZeneca lung cancer drug shrank tumors in more than half of patients gave the British group fresh ammunition to argue that Pfizer's takeover offer undervalues it substantially. Britain's second-biggest drugmaker said on Thursday the strong results were among a raft of recent updates that showed accelerating progress in its pipeline of experimental medicines.

Indo- US ties

Publication: Business Standard
Edition: National
Date: May 16, 2014
Headline: [Work towards India's ascension to UNSC says Bera](#)

Synopsis: Calling for moving the Indo-US relationship ahead, two influential American lawmakers have called upon the Obama Administration to work towards making India a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. "If the US and India can move our relationship further ahead, it could benefit our own constituents, as well as people throughout the world. Working on a path for India's ascension to the United Nations Security Council is one important way to take concrete steps forward," Congressmen Joe Crowley and Ami Bera wrote in an op-ed to The Hill newspaper yesterday.

Similar report in-

The Indian Express- [Work towards making India permanent UNSC member, says Ami Bera](#)

Cancer

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: Online
Date: May 16, 2014
Headline: [Future lies in cancer, healthcare analytics: Ravi Venkatesan, Strand Life Sciences board member](#)

Synopsis: Ravi Venkatesan, who joined the board of Bangalore-based Strand Life Sciences, is bullish on the healthcare data analytics firm offering genetics-based treatment, which he believes will transform cancer treatment globally. For this reason, Indian Institute of Science founded Strand Life Sciences which is aiming to make it big in the diagnostic space to help it more than double its

revenues from the current \$8 million in the coming 12 months.

Drug pricing

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: May 16, 2014

Headline: [No overcharging instance comes to notice of NPPA in April](#)

Synopsis: During April, the first month of the current fiscal year, no cases of overcharging has come to the notice of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), even the agency managed to recover about Rs. 8 crore from the outstanding arrears. According to the latest list of defaulters, the total number of violations stood at 1018 since its inception for a total amount of Rs. 3382.69 crore. However, the total recovery rose to Rs. 282.73 crore, after it managed to collect Rs. 8.30 crore during April.

Drug regulation

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: May 16, 2014

Headline: [Southern states reach out to Gujarat cos for drugs supply](#)

Synopsis: Officials from the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have recently met pharma companies in Gujarat to initiate the process of procuring drugs for distribution in their public health facilities. Most states, including Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have drug procurement agencies like the Gujarat Medical Services Corporation limited (GMSCL), Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) and Kerala Medical Services Corporation (KMSCL). These corporations essentially procure drugs through tendering processes which they then distribute in their public health facilities.

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 16, 2014

Headline: [Novartis, Sun Pharma settle dispute over generic Gleevec drug](#)

Synopsis: Novartis won a seven-month reprieve from generic competition to its blockbuster leukemia drug Gleevec after reaching a settlement on Thursday with Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. Competition from copycat drugs is a major worry for the Basel-based drugmaker, which unveiled a series of deals worth over \$25 billion aimed at strengthening its cancer business and exiting underperforming operations last month.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Sun Pharma settles patent suit with Novartis in US for Gleevec copy](#)

Business Standard- [Sun settles US suit with Novartis](#)

The Times of India- [Sun Pharma settles suit with Novartis in US over Gleevec](#)

The Hindu- [Sun Pharma settles litigation with Novartis](#)

The Hindu Business Line- [Sun settles Gleevec case with Novartis in the US](#)

The Financial Express- [Sun Pharma settles lawsuits with Novartis over cancer drug](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [Sun Pharma ends cancer drug litigation row with Novartis](#)

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: May 16, 2014

Headline: [US officials advocate use of HIV pill to fight AIDS](#)

Synopsis: Federal health officials recommended on Wednesday that hundreds of thousands of Americans at risk of AIDS take a daily pill that has been shown to prevent infection with the virus that causes it. If broadly followed, the advice could transform AIDS prevention in the US — from reliance on condoms, which are effective but unpopular with many men, to a regimen that relies on an antiretroviral drug. It would mean a 50-fold increase in the number of prescriptions for the drug, Truvada — to 500,000 a year from fewer than 10,000. The drug costs \$13,000 a year, and most insurers already cover it.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: May 15, 2014

Headline: [Volume rises but value falls for M&A deals in global pharma & biotech industry: Frost & Sullivan](#)

Synopsis: The challenges posed by expiring patents, the global economic slowdown, and price premium pressures are forcing the pharmaceutical and biotech industry to restructure and streamline strategies to boost profitability. Mergers and acquisitions (M&As) have become the preferred approach to counter low margins as they give access to new markets while creating more revenue pools and, to some extent, compensating for depletion in the research and development pipeline.

Website: Bloomberg Businessweek

Edition: Online

Date: May 15, 2014

Headline: [Lilly Loses Patent Dispute With Actavis Over Cancer Treatment](#)

Synopsis: Eli Lilly & Co. lost a U.K. lawsuit over its Alimta cancer treatment when a judge ruled that a generic version planned by Actavis Plc doesn't breach European patents. Judge Richard Arnold in London rejected Lilly's argument that Actavis's planned pemetrexed disodium product infringed patents registered in the U.K., France, Italy and Spain. Lilly said it would appeal the ruling, part of which relates to the use of vitamins.

Similar report in-

The Wall Street Journal- [Lilly Says U.K. Court Rules in Favor of Generic Maker on Alimta](#)