



News Updates: May 7, 2014

Patents/ Compulsory Licensing/ Intellectual Property

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [Not by busting intellectual property](#) (scan attached as well)

Synopsis: The health ministry has reportedly sought a waiver of drugmaker Bristol-Myers Squibb's (BMS) patent rights for cancer drug Dasatinib, citing an emergency. This is an ill-conceived move, particularly at a time when pharma majors are waging a campaign to have India labelled a habitual violator of intellectual property rights. Cancer drugs should be made affordable. However, the first tool to deploy to this end cannot be compulsory licensing. The right step would be to bring expensive patented drugs under price control.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [Global pharma looks for new cocktail therapies](#)

Synopsis: Generics, once the postulated salve for emerging markets, are now queering the pitch for these countries' ability to bargain in the international space. The old bogey of patent protection is rearing its ugly head to push up costs as pharma companies are getting off multiple domains and focusing on single profitable patents. Or, what the pharmaceutical industry calls right-sizing.

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Interview: Biswajit Dhar, the director general of Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Headline: [Special 301 investigations are in violation of WTO norms](#)

Synopsis: Identification of India by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in its Special 301 report as a 'priority watch country' for failure to protect intellectual property is unjustified as the WTO doesn't permit unilateral action against the member countries. Biswajit Dhar, the director general of Research and Information System for Developing Countries, tells that India should challenge the USTR report and send a clear signal to the US that the country will not accept any intrusion into its domestic policy-making space.

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [Resist bullying](#)

Synopsis: The US has stepped back from the brink of declaring India 'a priority foreign country' for alleged violation of intellectual property rights but the US trade representative's (USTR) threat of action against the country still remains. The dispute between both countries over IPRs, especially in the pharmaceutical field, is long-standing and it aggravated recently over India's handling of drug patents. Drug majors, which wield influence on US policy, have campaigned with the administration to penalise India. India, as a result, was in the 'priority watch list' of countries with a lax IPR regime. The next step

would have been to designate India as a violator of IPRs in the 2014 Special 301 report which was issued last week. That would have led to possible trade sanctions against India, a confrontation and deterioration of relations.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [HealthMin fixes relief for clinical trial errors](#)

Synopsis: Companies conducting clinical trials in India will not be able to get away in case any untoward incident happens. According to the Union health ministry, the quantum of compensation in case of 100 per cent disability should be 80 per cent of the compensation which would have been due for payment to the nominees in case of death of the subject. According to the draft formula to determine the quantum of compensation in case of patients whose expected mortality is 90 per cent or more within 30 days, a fixed amount of `2 lakhs should be given. In cases where the serious adverse events (SAE) causing congenital anomaly or birth defect, the expert committee working on the draft formula has opined that the compensation in such cases should be a lumpsum amount such that if that amount is kept by way of fixed deposit or alike, it should bring a monthly interest amount which is approximately equivalent to half of minimum wage of the unskilled worker (in Delhi).

FDA

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [Indian drug makers face problems in US due to documentation and data maintenance: Report](#)

Synopsis: Problems faced by Indian drug makers in the US are not related with quality but more due to documentation and data maintenance, a senior government official today said. While stressing that India is already engaged with the USFDA to sort out the matter, the official, however, said domestic firms would have to meet the requirements of all the countries where their drugs are exported. "In none of those (cases taken up by the USFDA), quality was an issue. It was the documentation and data maintenance process...Quality was not an issue as far as supply of generics are concerned," Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry, Sudhanshu Pandey, told reporters here.

Similar reports in-

The New Indian Express- ['Indian Pharma Cos Face Problems in US Due to Documentation'](#)

The Asian Age- [Paperwork worries Indian pharma in US](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [India acts to repair reputation as drugs exporter](#)

Synopsis: India is launching a campaign to repair its reputation as a global supplier of cheap high-quality drugs, responding to bans imposed by U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on several suppliers, two top officials said on Tuesday. As part of the charm offensive, New Delhi has invited global regulators - including the FDA - to visit Indian production units to get first-hand evidence of measures taken to ensure the quality of locally manufactured generics.

Similar reports in-

The Financial Express- [India acts to repair reputation as global supplier of cheap high-quality drugs](#)

Deccan Chronicle- [India launches charm offensive on US FDA](#)
Moneycontrol- [India acts to repair reputation as drugs exporter](#)

Drug regulation

Publication: The Statesman

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [India is credible generics maker](#)

Synopsis: The \$34 billion Indian pharmaceutical industry with over 1400 WHO GMP certified manufacturing units will leverage the forthcoming 'iPHEX 2014' global exhibition in Mumbai to showcase to over 500 international buyers from over 110 countries, including government regulators from 25 countries that they remain a credible, affordable and sustainable pharmacy of the developing world. Addressing a Press conference here today, chairman of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), Ashutosh Gupta said besides key buyers and importers from major economies, regulators and government procurement agencies from 25 countries, including the USA and the EU, will be attending the 'iPHEX 2014', to be held between 21-23 May.

General Industry

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [India has highest number of maternal deaths](#)

Synopsis: India accounts for the maximum number of maternal deaths in the world — 17 per cent or nearly 50,000 of the 2.89 lakh women who died as a result of complications due to pregnancy or childbearing in 2013. Nigeria is second with nearly 40,000, stated the UN report on maternal deaths released on Tuesday. In contrast, China — with the largest population in the world — reported 5,900 maternal deaths in 2013 mainly due to its "one-child policy", the report added.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [India saw 50,000 maternal deaths in 2013](#)

Business Standard- [Decline of child, maternal mortality rate in India fast: Report](#)

The Times of India- [Maternal deaths falling, but not fast enough: WHO](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [Merck to sell consumer care business to Bayer for \\$14 billion](#)

Synopsis: Merck & Co has agreed to sell its consumer care business to Germany's Bayer AG for \$14.2 billion, the companies said on Tuesday, adding to a string of major cross-border healthcare deals. "This acquisition marks a major milestone on our path towards global leadership in the attractive non-prescription medicines business," Bayer's chief executive Marijn Dekkers said in a statement.

Similar reports in-

Mint- [Bayer to buy Merck's consumer unit for \\$14.2 billion](#)

The Hindu- [Germany's Bayer to buy Merck consumer business](#)

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: May 7, 2014

Headline: [A new CSR model to enthuse companies](#)

Synopsis: According to recent researches the great majority of CEOs believe that corporations should balance their obligations to shareholders with those to the wider society. What motivates most businesses is the sense that they are providing something that people want or need and will want or need again. Business, it seems, is less about serving a remote share index than about creating and sustaining long-term relationships with people. Despite getting evolved as an excellent idea CSR movement has not led to concrete practical programmes. In many enterprises CSR initiatives are just cosmetic exercises. Many enterprises are more than satisfied with their CSR initiatives by trying to restrict emissions of greenhouse gases from the staff kitchen, or recycling office stationery!