

# DRL loses patent case on \$4.4 bn drug to Eli Lilly

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Dr Reddy's Laboratories has lost a patent infringement suit filed by Eli Lilly for its US patent No. 5,229,382 relating to Zyprexa in the United States District Court for the southern district of Indiana. The court found Eli Lilly's patent to be valid.

DRL shares fell Rs 25.15 (3.4%) to Rs 711.8 on BSE after the ruling while Eli Lilly scrip jumped as much as 24% on the New York Stock Exchange.

Zyprexa generated \$4.4 billion of Lilly's revenue last year and has been its top seller since generic competition emerged in 2001 to the company's Prozac antidepressant. The Zyprexa ruling may shape how investors view the outcome of patent cases involving Pfizer Inc.'s cholesterol drug Lipitor and the Plavix blood thinner sold by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., analysts said.

"We are disappointed by the court decision and will appeal this decision to the Federal Circuit. De-

## DOCTOR IN PAIN

Three-week Zyprexa trial took place in January last year & centered on whether the patent on Zyprexa's main compound olanzapine, should have been issued by the US Patent and Trademark Office in the first place

spite the adverse ruling, our strategy remains unchanged and we continue to make consistent progress towards building a sustainable generics business in the United States," GV Prasad, CEO of Dr Reddy's Laboratories said in a release here on Friday.

However, when contacted, Dr Reddy's refused to comment on the financial implication of the court's decision. The court decision arises from a May 2001 suit filed by Eli Lilly against Dr Reddy's alleging patent infringement on the '382 compound patent listed on the Orange Book. The trial was completed in April 2004, a company statement said.

Zyprexa is the brand name for a medication approved for the treatment of schizophrenia. ♦