



**News Updates: February 01-03, 2014**

### Intellectual Property/Compulsory License/Patents

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 02, 2014**

**Journalist: Jasper MacSllarrow**

**Headline: [India's IP environment has deteriorated in last 2 years: Jasper MacSllarrow](#)**

**Synopsis:** In a scathing attack on India's intellectual property environment, New York-based Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) of the US Chamber of Commerce has ranked India at the bottom of the list of 25 countries in the 2014 International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, for the second consecutive time. The report cited several reasons - patentability requirements in violation of TRIPS, weak data protection, poor enforcement, not being party to major international IP treaties, among others - for India continuing to have "the weakest IP environment of all countries included in the Index"

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: Mumbai**

**Date: 3 Feb 2014**

**Headline: Experts, pharma firms doubt US intellectual property ranking; India lowest among 25 countries (No Link available, Scan attached)**

**Synopsis:** Intellectual property experts and generic drug firms in India have questioned the methodology and even the motive behind the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Centre (GIPC) index in which the nation has been ranked the lowest among 25 countries.

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 3, 2014**

**Journalist: Soma Das**

**Headline: [Experts, pharma cos doubt US intellectual property ranking](#)**

**Synopsis:** Intellectual property experts and generic drug firms in India have questioned the methodology and even the motive behind the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Centre (GIPC) index in which the nation has been ranked the lowest among 25 countries. The ranking calls those IP regimes strong which, unlike that in India, continue to promote weak and trivial inventions, patent experts argued while trashing the index that yet again placed the country the lowest in its second edition released last week. "Underlying this report is a major paradox that protecting weak patents makes the IP regime a strong one," IP expert Shamnad Basheer told ET.

### Drug Pricing/Pricing Policy

**Publication: The Hindu Business Line**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: February 2, 2014**

**Headline: [We have kept drug prices affordable, says regulator](#)**

**Synopsis:** Drug prices have not increased by more than 3 per cent year-on-year over the last seven years, indicating that the domestic market is maturing, according to CP Singh, Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. The rate regulator under the Department of Pharmaceuticals has periodically revised prices since its inception in 1997 to keep essential medicines affordable.

#### Drug regulation/FDA

**Publication:** The Hindu Business Line

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** February 02, 2014

**Headline:** [Indian drug regulator wants investigative powers like US FDA](#)

**Synopsis:** The Ministry of External Affairs is examining the powers available to the Indian drug regulatory agency, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), to inspect the overseas facilities of drug manufacturers doing business in India. The plan to inspect drug manufacturing plants located abroad that cater to the Indian market has been in the pipeline for a while now. "It is under active consideration," Drugs Controller General of India, G.N. Singh, who heads the CDSCO, told Business Line.

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** National

**Date:** February 1, 2014

**Headline:** ['Ranbaxy case compliance officer's worst nightmare'](#)

**Synopsis:** Days after the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) banned products from Ranbaxy Laboratories' biggest drug ingredient plant at Toansa, a senior official of the country's department of justice has dubbed the unravelling of a series of violations by the company over the past eight years "a compliance officer's worst nightmare". Even as Ranbaxy hired auditors and started to investigate evidence of abuses after receiving early warnings that something was wrong "its actions never translated into real change", Stuart Delery, assistant attorney general of US department of justice said in his address at the Pharma Compliance Congress in Washington DC earlier this week.

**Publication:** The Indian Express

**Edition:** National

**Date:** February 2, 2014

**Journalist:** Anil Sasi

**Headline:** [Banbaxy: Country's largest pharma firm on a slippery slope](#)

**Synopsis:** The country's largest pharma firm is on a slippery slope in the world's largest pharma market. ANIL SASI explains why, and adds that in the long run, the US FDA's ban on Ranbaxy's fourth and most crucial plant may get Indian companies to turn over a new leaf. At Ranbaxy's Toansa plant in village Rail Majra, just off the dusty industrial hub of Ropar in Punjab's Nawanshahr district, January 30 seemed to be just another day at work. First-shift workers boarded buses outside the factory gate in the early evening while those in the second shift streamed in. The plant's idyllic setting, nestled alongside the Satluj river with the Shivalik range in the backdrop, though, belied a palpable sense of uncertainty among the staffers.

**Publication:** DNA

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** February 2, 2014

**Headline:** [FDA commissioner warns chemists against mis-selling drugs](#)

**Synopsis:** Warning chemists of severe consequences of misselling drugs, Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) commissioner Mahesh Zagade asked chemists to put patients' safety on top while selling medicines. "There is a

need to spread awareness among the pharmacists in the city to maintain authentic prescription records, which is to say, the name of the doctor and the hospital, before selling any kind of medicine. They must also keep a copy of the prescription while selling sedatives as we need to consider patients' safety. By maintaining such records it will be easier to follow the guidelines set by the government and also report to the FDA in cases of misuse of the drugs," said Mahesh Zagade, commissioner, FDA, Maharashtra.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 2, 2014**

**Business Standard Editorial Comment**

**Headline: [India's failing regulators](#)**

**Synopsis:** It has been a terrible fortnight for Indian regulation across sectors. The latest has been a double whammy. The United States aviation regulator, the Federal Aviation Administration, has downgraded India's civil aviation safety rating to a level where it is in the company of either countries with poor safety records or small economies not in the same class. Plus, small Indian cars have failed the safety tests of the European New Car Assessment Programme. This compounds the damage already done to India's image and global competitiveness by the US healthcare regulator's ban on the fourth plant - thus covering all of them - of drug major Ranbaxy, which till not so long ago was the country's foremost pharmaceutical company. Reasons for these individual setbacks differ, but, coming in close succession, they tell a story of failure of regulation - and thus, by extension, of governance.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 1, 2014**

**Headline: [Major reshuffle at drug controller's office](#)**

**Synopsis:** At a time when the Indian drug regulator is under a spotlight following international scrutiny of domestic pharmaceutical companies, the government has ordered transfers in the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the office of the drugs controller general of India (DCGI). As many as nine transfer orders were issued earlier this week, of which five are related to top officials in the CDSCO. While four deputy drug controllers (DDC) are transferred from this headquarter to different zonal offices, one DDC with additional charge of west zone is being brought back to the New Delhi headquarters. The transfer order, issued on January 27, has been reviewed by Business Standard.

## FDI

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: February 02, 2014**

**Headline: [FDI in pharma jumps to \\$1.25 billion during Apr-Nov period](#)**

**Synopsis:** Foreign direct investment in the pharma sector has more than doubled to \$1.25 billion during April-November period of the fiscal even amid concerns about the spate of acquisitions of domestic firms by MNCs. FDI in drugs and pharmaceuticals was \$581 million during April-November 2012, according to the latest data of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

## General Industry News

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 2, 2014**

**Headline: [Apollo plans to go big on small cities](#)**

**Synopsis:** In the eighth decade of his life, with a huge healthcare empire to his credit, one would expect Apollo founder Prathap C Reddy to take it easy. But the man is still planning big. Having successfully created a chain of big, multispecialty hospitals across Asia, he now wants to take advanced healthcare to rural areas. At the Express office in Delhi on Friday for an Idea Exchange, a very dapper and sprightly Reddy revealed that four out of every five hospitals that Apollo builds in the next five years would be in tier II-III cities. Apollo is also betting on growth of high-speed mobile data technology to expand the reach and scope of telemedicine, which, Reddy said, would go a long way in creating awareness and options for affordable healthcare.

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 1, 2014**

**Headline: Pharma business under CCI watch (No link available, Scan attached)**

**Synopsis:** In order to underline unfair business practices in the pharma sector, the CCI on Friday listed out through a public notice, activities that amount to violation of competition laws.

**Publication: Business Standard (Reproduced from Reuters)**

**Edition: National**

**Date: February 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Novartis to cut or transfer up to 4,000 pharma jobs](#)**

**Synopsis:** Swiss drugs group Novartis (NOVN.VX) intends to cut or transfer up to 4,000 jobs, newspaper NZZ am Sonntag reported on Sunday, citing an internal email.

The plan affecting up to 6 percent of its pharmaceuticals workforce comes on top of a program to reduce the number of production sites and is part of a larger drive to cut costs, the newspaper said. Global drugmakers are under increasing pressure from investors to step up restructuring as patents on best-selling drugs expire and governments try to keep a lid on health costs. Company spokesman Eric Althoff did not confirm the job numbers but issued a statement saying that Novartis intends to prioritize and reallocate resources primarily in pharmaceutical operations to focus on planned product launches and other growth areas.

The measures "reflect the need to respond to a dynamically changing healthcare environment", it said, adding that Novartis expects group headcount to remain largely flat in 2014.

**Publication: PharmaBiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: February 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Cancer Aid Society urges govt to relax norms on oral morphine to provide relief to cancer patients](#)**

**Synopsis:** "Cancer patients undergo severe psychological stress due to the onslaught of this deadly disease, which is a life changing event in itself. Making matters worse is the pain associated with it, which becomes severe and intolerable as it progresses, affecting their life drastically. Especially for those with advanced cancer, patients will experience pain which has a major impact on daily living. The only plausible solution for them is having accessibility of a good pain relief medication, like oral morphine which is currently not an easily available option for patients in India due to the stringent laws," pointed out O P Berry, director general Cancer Aid Society. The organisation stressed that considering the current situation the government needs to relax its norms for accessibility of oral morphine. Berry stressed that cancer pain is perhaps one of the most feared symptoms associated with the disease and morphine plays a very important role in controlling the pain in patients by reducing the same to tolerable levels. In fact, according to reports it is understood that the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends taking an oral solution of morphine every four hours.

**Publication: The Economic Times (Reproduced from PTI)**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: February 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Revenue of healthcare players to grow 10-15% in FY'15](#)**

**Synopsis:** Revenues of most healthcare players are expected to grow 10-15 per cent in 2014-15 due to addition of more beds, but overall profitability might be affected by a long break-even period and high manpower costs, says a report. Credit profiles, especially of the standalone hospitals with recent bed additions, are likely to be stressed in FY15, according to India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra). Larger players with multiple hospitals would be better placed, its "2014 Outlook: Health Care" report has said. Based on the World Health Organisation's estimates, India has 6.5 doctors per 10,000 people against the world median of 14.2. To achieve the government of India's goal of 20 beds per 10,000 people by 2020, Ind-Ra estimates 1.5 million beds will have to be added.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: February 3, 2014**

**Headline: [HCL sees wealth in health care](#)**

**Synopsis:** The entry into health care by the Shiv Nadar-promoted HCL group, a big presence in information technology, has created a buzz. The company is to formally announce the project later this week. The venture, started by taking an equity position in Bharat Family Clinic, is aimed to capture the wellness and preventive health care market, it is learnt. The chain might focus on value-added services like doctor-on-call at home, among others. Currently, Bharat Family Clinic, renamed HCL Avitas, runs two outpatient clinics in the National Capital Region, at Noida and Gurgaon.