

Intellectual Property/Compulsory License/Patents**Publication: Business Standard****Edition: National****Date: February 06, 2014****Headline: [Turning down knowledge](#)**

Synopsis: India's dismal rating on the intellectual property (IP) environment by the United States Chamber of Commerce is worrisome, especially considering the country's aspirations to go in for knowledge- and innovation-based development. A poor IP regime is a formidable disincentive for foreign investment in hi-tech areas and the introduction of new drugs and innovative products. It also does not bode well for domestic investment in research and development. The 2014 International Intellectual Property Index, issued by the US apex trade body's Global Intellectual Property Centre (GIPC), has placed India at the bottom of the 25-nation index for the second time in a row. Worse, India's overall score on this count has been lowered from 25 per cent in 2012 to 23 per cent, indicating deterioration in the IP environment. In contrast, countries like China, which had a worse IP environment, have managed to improve their rating since 2012.

Clinical Trials**Publication: The Hindu****Edition: Online****Date: February 6, 2014****Headline: ['Clinical trial regime needs to balance stakeholders' interests'](#)**

Synopsis: The Indian regulatory regime governing clinical trials needs to balance the interests of all stakeholders, Union Minister for Health Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Wednesday. He was speaking to presspersons after inaugurating the Baxter Global Research Center, located at Biocon subsidiary Syngene's facility here.

Mr. Azad said, "The industry has complained that the regulations are too stringent, but there have also been complaints by Parliamentarians, NGOs and others that they are too lax, which the Supreme Court had taken note of. "We are happy with the current balance between the different interests, but industry also needs to be happy," Mr. Azad observed.

Publication: Business Standard**Edition: Online****Date: February 6, 2014****Headline: [Pharma cos may get a breather on trials](#)**

Synopsis: As the clamour to ease regulations regarding clinical trials grows in India, the Health Ministry has said it is trying to find a way to take into consideration the concerns of biotechnology companies, while implementing regulations to protect the subjects of clinical trials in India.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Health Ministry, pharma cos spar over clinical trials](#)

Synopsis: Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said the Indian regulatory regime governing clinical trials needs to balance the interests of all stakeholders. Speaking to mediapersons after inaugurating the Baxter Global Research Center, located at Biocon subsidiary Syngene's facility in Bangalore, Mr. Azad said, "The industry has complained that the regulations are too stringent, but there have also been complaints by parliamentarians, NGOs and others that they are too lax, which the Supreme Court had taken note of."

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: February 5, 2014

Headline: [Clinical trials: need to strike balance, says Ghulam Nabi Azad](#)

Synopsis: Noting that the industry has voiced concerns regarding regulations on clinical trials in the country, Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today said there is need to strike a balance on the issue. "...industry feels that regulations we have made are too difficult; ...I think, what we need to do is strike a balance...", Azad told reporters here.

Drug regulation/FDA

Publication: Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Public health first](#)

Synopsis: Drug regulation needs an overhaul. Start with more investment in human resources, infrastructure.

After the fourth unit of Ranbaxy Laboratories was banned from shipping to the US, its Food and Drug Administration commissioner is set to visit India to resolve several of these persistent contentions with the health ministry. Other Indian pharmaceutical companies, like Wockhardt and RPG Life Sciences, have also received notices from the US regulator about their shoddy manufacturing practices.

Publication: Business Today

Edition: Online

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [USFDA commissioner to visit India on February 10](#)

Synopsis: The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, on her first official trip to India, from February 10 to 18, intends to further strengthen cooperation between the USFDA and its Indian regulatory counterparts. "The FDA's ongoing engagement with our regulatory counterparts in India is critical to our ability to effectively promote the health and safety of American and Indian consumers," she says in the press release announcing her travel to India. "I look forward to enhancing our existing relationship and identifying additional opportunities for collaboration."

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Post Ranbaxy Laboratories turmoil, USFDA chief to visit India](#)

Synopsis: After imposing a ban on Ranbaxy Laboratories from shipping drugs and raw ingredients from its Toansa plant in Punjab to the US market, the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) commissioner Margaret Hamburg is likely to visit India next week to meet health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma. A senior official told The Indian Express that the meeting has been set up for February 10 and India will take up all the issues ranging from the Ranbaxy ban to access of certain fruits to the US market.

General Industry News

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Start-ups use technology to give back to society](#)

Synopsis: From a miniature tool to count blood cells to training rural healthcare workers, start-ups are coming up with affordable solutions to tough problems.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: National

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Biocon collaborates with Baxter to develop affordable parenteral therapeutics](#)

Synopsis: Syngene, Biocon's contract research arm, has collaborated with Baxter to pursue its research efforts to develop parenteral therapeutics like high quality and affordable versions of IV Fluids for dialysis, nutraceuticals and haemophilia. The facility located within the sprawling 90 acres of the Biocon Park in the Bommasandra Industrial Area in Bengaluru will house 100 scientists of multi-disciplinary talent.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy Laboratories posts Rs160 crore loss in Dec quarter](#)

Synopsis: Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd posted a loss of Rs.160 crore in the December quarter because of a one-time cost and higher tax expenses. The one-time cost was mainly on account of a write-off of inventory at its drug ingredients factory at Toansa in Punjab after the US food and drug administration (FDA) prohibited imports from the plant for failing to meet good manufacturing practices. The company also incurred a tax expense of Rs.98 crore during the quarter.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy -- Regulatory woes mask good show](#)

Synopsis: Despite improvement in its operational performance, Ranbaxy posted loss of Rs 159 crore for the December quarter. This was mainly due to inventory write-off worth ₹258 crore at its Toansa plant (Punjab), following a ban on exports from the plant to the US. Mitigating the loss though was a forex gain of ₹104 crore on foreign currency hedges. The loss on the bottom-line conceals Ranbaxy's good performance on the operating front.

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Ranbaxy says Toansa unit ban will hit US business by 10-12%](#)

Synopsis: Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd said on Wednesday the recent ban on its Toansa plant in Punjab from exporting drugs to the US, its largest overseas market, will hit company's American business by 10 to 12 per cent.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: February 6, 2014

Headline: [Drug-eluting stent cost to be cut by half](#)

Synopsis: Cardiac treatment is likely to get cheaper soon with leading manufacturers agreeing to cut down on the cost of drug-eluting stents by around 50%, bringing the price down from Rs 50,000 to Rs 23,650.