

**Patents****Publication: The Economist****Edition: Online****Date: January 4, 2014 Issue****Headline: [Hard pills to swallow](#)**

**Synopsis:** A new drug war is looming. The market is growing: patients in rich countries are ageing and those in developing ones are getting richer and suffering from chronic diseases. But as demand for drugs rises, so does concern at their price. A record \$1 trillion will be spent globally on medicines in 2014, predicts IMS Health, a research firm. "The costs of many new medical products are becoming unsustainable for even the wealthiest countries in the world," said Margaret Chan, the head of the World Health Organisation (WHO), in August. Skirmishes are breaking out from Brunei to New England. Negotiators for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a giant trade deal that would cover 12 countries, including America, are battling over access to medicines. Health activists are trying to block a costly Hepatitis C drug from being patented in India. Brazil and South Africa are mulling over patent reforms that could make drugs cheaper.

**Clinical Trials****Publication: The Times of India****Edition: National****Date: January 3, 2014****Headline: [Govt set to tighten clinical trial norms](#)**

**Synopsis:** The government is set to tighten regulation of clinical trials in India by mandating that ethics committees that clear clinical trials will not only have to be registered but also accredited. It has put together a three-member committee to identify experts who'll form the accreditation council. The three-member committee consists of Dr YK Gupta, head of the pharmacology department of AIIMS and national scientific co-ordinator, Pharmacovigilance of India; Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhury who headed the committee which submitted the report on guidelines on clinical trials; and Dr AK Aggarwal, ENT professor and former dean of Maulana Azad Medical College.

"All the ethics committees have been registered. But that is not enough. Now they have to be accredited. We have a long way to go for that because we have to decide basic issues such as procedure and frequency of accreditation, criteria of accreditation, whether the council will be under the Central Drug Standards Control Organization ( CDSCO) and so on," explained Dr Gupta.

**Drug Pricing****Publication: Business Standard****Edition: National****Date: January 3, 2014****Headline: [Gujarat pharma cos move towards ayurvedic, nutraceutical drugs](#)**

**Synopsis:** In order to de-risk their businesses from the impact of the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) which caps the prices of essential medicines based on a formula decided by the government, Gujarat based drug makers are making a shift towards nutraceutical and ayurvedic segments to protect overall margins. Chirag Doshi, chairman of the Gujarat State Board of the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association said that several manufacturers in the state who were making allopathic medicines have recently started making products in the nutraceutical and even ayurvedic range. At least 25-30 companies including small and mid-sized pharmaceutical firms have either started making such products or are in the process of developing them. "The turnover from the DPCO segment has been reduced in the range of 25-75 per cent depending on each company's portfolio. Margins too are under pressure," he said.

## FDI

**Publication:** The Economic Times

**Edition:** National

**Date:** January 3, 2014

**Headline:** [Novartis India strikes 8.7 lakh square feet office space deal in Hyderabad](#)

**Synopsis:** Pharmaceutical firm Novartis has picked up 8.7 lakh square feet of office space in Hyderabad in a bid to consolidate its operations in the city. "The new office space will have seating capacity for more than 8,000 employees and is the largest in the past five years," said a property broker in Hyderabad, who did not wish to be identified. The Indian arm of the Switzerland-based pharmaceutical company, Novartis inaugurated its first technology centre in 2007 and has over 2,300 employees working on various functions like drug development, medical operations, commercial operations and finance, technology support. "Our associates are currently located at different sites in Hyderabad. This will enable us to consolidate our operations and provide for future requirements," a company spokesperson said in an email.

## FDA / Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

**Publication:** Business Standard

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** January 2, 2014

**Headline:** [China, Japan high on R&D spending, US slides](#)

**Synopsis:** China and Japan, for the first time, are spending big on biomedical research and development, while the spending by the US has come down. Triggered almost entirely by reduced investment from industry, the R&D spending in the US dropped from \$131 billion to \$119 billion when adjusted for inflation from 2007-12, while China increased spending by \$6.4 billion and Japan by \$9 billion, says a new study. It means that while the US' overall global share of biomedical research spending remains way higher than China and Japan in terms of volume, it fell in percentage points from 51 percent in 2007 to 45 percent in 2012.

## General Industry

**Publication:** Business Standard

**Edition:** National

**Date:** January 3, 2014

**Headline:** [Biocon's chief executive contender Bamzai quits](#)

**Synopsis:** A reorganisation Biocon began a few quarters ago with the help of consultant McKinsey to help it achieve an ambitious sales target of \$1 billion by financial year 2018 has claimed its first big casualty. India's largest publicly held biotechnology company announced on Thursday Rakesh Bamzai, president (marketing), has decided to leave. He has been with Biocon from 1995 and was in this role since 2006. Bamzai was widely considered to be the next chief executive even as the company reorganises itself to bring the next level of professionals into leadership roles. Bamzai has played a major role in globalising Biocon in the US and Europe, from where the company gets bulk of its revenues.

**Publication:** Hindustan Times

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Date:** January 3, 2014

**Headline:** Pollution, cold winds bring Delhites down

**Scan of the report (link not available)**

# Pollution, cold winds bring Delhiites down

Rhythmia Kaul

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**NEW DELHI:** Cold, damp and pollution-laden winter air is taking a toll on Delhiites with local hospitals seeing a 25% surge in cases of respiratory illnesses and infections, in the past week.

With temperatures dropping to record-breaking levels, people are making a beeline for clinics and hospitals with cough, cold, breathlessness and fever – symptoms of a respiratory infection.

“Drop in temperature triggers various respiratory problems as the body’s defenses are weakest in cold weather. It is common to have a aggravated symptoms of



## DRESS WARM, AVOID DRAFTS

- Dress in layers, avoid exposure to cold air. Keep head, ears, hands and feet covered
- Don't take early morning or late evening walks. Avoid parks, it's colder around greenery
- Drink warm fluids. It will help clear chest congestion
- Don't eat pickles, chutney or sour edibles. Avoid curd at night
- Avoid heavy meals

asthma and bronchitis in the form of persistent dry cough, sore throat and chest congestion,” said Dr JC Suri, head of the department of Pulmonology and sleep medicine at Safdarjung Hospital.

The city’s air pollution prob-

lem is also aggravating the issue. Breathing in polluted air irritates the airway and causes inflammation that eventually leads to difficulty in breathing, wheezing and cough.

A senior AIIMS doctor from the department of pulmonology

said increased levels of sulphur and nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide in the air coupled with cold drafts helped viruses and bacteria circulate in the air. “It’s just ideal for contracting infections”.

“It is impossible to not fall sick unless one takes sufficient precautions, which is why we recommend taking vaccine shots before the change in weather takes place,” said Dr Suri.

People above 60 years of age, children and those with compromised immunity are at greatest risk of contracting a respiratory illness and should keep themselves warm by dressing in layers.

→ COLD WINDS, FOG AHEAD. P4

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [‘Tripling of tobacco taxes may prevent 200m deaths’](#)**

**Synopsis:** Tripling tobacco tax globally would reduce smoking by a third and prevent 200 million premature deaths from lung cancer and other diseases this century, researchers, including an Indian-origin scientist, say. Such a large tax increase would double the street price of cigarettes in some countries and narrow the price gap between the cheapest and most expensive cigarettes, which would encourage people to stop smoking rather than switch to a cheaper brand and help young not to start, researchers said. This would be especially effective in low- and middleincome countries, where the cheapest cigarettes are relatively affordable and where smoking rates continue to rise, said Dr Prabhat Jha, director of the Centre for Global Health Research of St Michael's Hospital. But it would also be effective in rich countries, said Jha, who is also a professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

**Publication: The Times of India**

**Edition: Mumbai**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Statewide strike hits medical services across Marathwada](#)**

**Synopsis:** The first day of the statewide indefinite strike called by the resident doctors in protest against the alleged assault of a resident doctor in Solapur's Civil Hospital by three cops on Tuesday morning, hit medical services in the region on Thursday. Although the cops have been suspended following a huge uproar against the alleged assault, Medical Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) members from the government hospitals in the region maintained that they would continue the strike till the cops are put behind bars.

**Also appeared in The Indian Express: [Resident doctors' strike hits medical services](#)**

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Bhupesh Bhandari: Confidence in business](#)**

**Synopsis:** Business confidence touched a new low in 2013, and so did confidence in business. Business confidence is expected to improve in the country, especially if Narendra Modi becomes prime minister in 2014 - at least that's what businessmen tell us. But will business inspire confidence during the year, or anytime in the next few years? There is no clear answer to that. Get your manufacturing in order - or else Made in India could become a liability once again. Nothing showed the rot better in 2013 than the pharmaceutical sector. India, owing to its long history of process chemistry, combined with inexpensive labour, has emerged as a large exporter of medicine. (Some would say this strength was built wrongfully by not recognising product patents till as recently as 2005.) But we found out to our horror last year that many leading names in the business have

merrily been cutting corners. Foreign particles like hair, and possibly even glass, were found in Indian medicine shipments. Factory after factory received warnings from drug regulators abroad. Ranbaxy paid \$500 million to close a case of data misrepresentation in the United States. The stories that tumbled out after the settlement were horrific, to say the least.

**Publication: The Telegraph**

**Edition: Calcutta**

**Journalist: G.S. MUDUR**

**Date: January 2, 2014**

**Headline: [Tax soft drinks more, save lakhs from diabetes](#)**

**Synopsis:** India could prevent an estimated 400,000 people from becoming patients of diabetes over the next decade if the government imposes a 20 per cent extra tax on sweetened beverages, a new study has suggested. The study by researchers at the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), New Delhi, and academic institutions in the US and the UK has also indicated that such a tax on soft drinks might avert 11 million cases of obesity or overweight between 2014 and 2023. The study, published in the journal PLoS Medicine yesterday, is the first to estimate how a special tax to discourage the consumption of soft drinks might alter the numbers of obese people or diabetes patients in the country. The findings come at a time when health policy makers have been arguing that a combination of education and disincentives should be used to curb the consumption of soft drinks. "Consumer behaviour is not always influenced by education alone," said K. Srinath Reddy, a cardiologist and president of the PHFI, who was not directly associated with the study. "At times, disincentives are needed to counter aggressive marketing."

**Publication: The Telegraph**

**Edition: Kolkata**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Godrej pact](#)**

**Synopsis:** Godrej Appliances has signed a technology transfer agreement with the Sure Chill Company Ltd of the UK for the development and manufacturing of vaccine storage devices for sale in India and in select overseas markets.

**Publication: Deccan Herald**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Cabinet nod for 58 new medical colleges](#)**

**Synopsis:** The government on Thursday a proposal to establish 58 new medical colleges at district hospitals in "deficient" states with intake capacity of 100 MBBS seats in each on Thursday. The proposal of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare got clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs at its meeting presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "This will result in an increase of about 5,800 seats," a government statement said. The total cost of establishment of one medical college under the centre-sponsored scheme has been estimated to be about Rs 189 crore.

**Publication: Deccan Herald**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Tax on cigarette, colas can prevent many premature deaths in India](#)**

**Synopsis:** Imposing steep taxes on cigarettes and colas may prevent premature deaths of millions of Indians, according to new research that exposes health risks behind glitzy advertisement campaign put out by the corporate world. Smoking being the biggest cause of premature death from chronic disease, doubling of cigarette prices may prevent over 300,000 deaths a year among under-70 population in India, says a review published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Thursday. Tobacco kills 10 lakh Indians every year of which

half of them are below 70 years. Worldwide, the governments have agreed on a UN target of reducing smoking by a third by 2025.

**Publication: The New Indian Express**

**Edition: Chennai**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Jaya Launches 24X7 Health Helpline at a Cost of Rs 1.2 Cr](#)**

**Synopsis:** Chief Minister J Jayalithaa on Thursday launched a round the clock 'Health Helpline 104', through which the public can get medical advice, information about first aid, HIV and counselling for mental health. The CM launched this facility, set up at a cost of `1.20 crore, through the video-conferencing facility at her Kodanadu camp office on December 30. The other information that can be had by ringing the Helpline are communicable and non-communicable diseases, nutrition, facilities available in the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, the hospitals and medical centres which offer treatment to specific ailments and doubts about venereal diseases. A registration number will be given to those who call the helpline and it can be used for future contacts.

**Publication: The Pioneer**

**Edition: National (Op-ed)**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Fighting Polio to the Finish](#)**

**Synopsis:** On January 13, India will complete three years without reporting a single new case of the wild polio virus since a girl was found infected in the Howrah district of West Bengal on the same day in 2011. It will then officially be declared as polio-free, saving millions of children from this crippling but easily preventable disease. This is no small feat for a country which till recently was the world's polio hotspot, accounting for half of all new cases between 1988 and 2009. Experts thought India would perhaps be the last country in the world to get rid of polio.

#### Pharma Industry 2013-14

**Publication: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [BSE Healthcare index gains 22.6% during 2013, index crosses 10,000 mark](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Indian pharmaceutical stocks remained in limelight during the year 2013 despite quality problems, forex losses, interest burden and Drug Price Controlled Order (DPCO). The pharma stock moved up slowly but continuously during the year with better top line as well as profit growth. The investors shown strong support and received good appreciation during 2013. The BSE Healthcare index of 16 leading pharmaceutical companies outperformed the BSE Sensex of 30 companies during 2013 and touched to its yearly high at 10,056.33 points on December 24, 2013 on account of new product launch, higher exports, higher investment in R&D and satisfactory financial working. BSE Healthcare improved by 22.6 per cent and closed at 9966.26 as at the end of December 2013. BSE Sensex moved up by 8.9 per cent and close at 21170.68.

#### Vaccine

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Killer hepatitis on the prowl, warn experts](#)**

**Synopsis:** Doctors plan to launch a foundation to make government and community pay greater attention to the problem. With hepatitis viral infections assuming menacing proportions and leading to very high mortality, a group of concerned doctors and non-medical individuals have decided to launch Hepatitis-free India Liver Foundation to make government and community pay greater attention to the problem. Good sanitation: "India is

emerging as the global capital of Hepatitis B virus (HBV), while the problem of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is also rising. More and more people are dying because of acute hepatitis which can be prevented by good sanitation and proper water supply”, said Dr. Manisha Bangar, chief consultant Hepatologist, Mediciti Hospitals and executive council member of the Indian Association for Study of Liver Diseases (IASLD), AP chapter. There is need for patients with chronic liver disease to get State-sponsored treatment like for TB and HIV and to include vaccination for HBV in the universal immunisation programme.

#### Access, Affordability, Innovation

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Hospital-ity](#)**

**Synopsis:** Though government-created hospital care is obviously the lowest-cost for patients, between 2002 and 2010, it has been the private sector that has created over 70% of the extra bed capacity in the country. Add to this a McKinsey estimate that hospitalisation levels in India will rise from 4.8 per 100 people to 6.5 people by 2022, and you’re talking of a fairly significant jump in healthcare costs in the country—it’s ironic that while the government remains focused on keeping costs of medicines even lower than they already are, it is hospitalisation costs that are skyrocketing. And not surprisingly, given the investment for setting up these hospitals is estimated at around \$70 billion. This is where there’s some good news, as FE reported on Thursday. While large private hospitals are growing at a fast pace—Apollo Hospitals’ turnover rose from R2,350 crore in FY11 to R3,350 crore in FY13 and Fortis Hospitals from R1,500 crore to R4,243 crore—smaller hospitals are growing equally fast. Narayana Hrudayalaya, for instance, has seen its turnover rise from R475 crore to R830 crore in the same period and Manipal Health from R310 crore to R690 crore. While that looks minuscule in comparison to the big chains, a more relevant comparison is that of hospital beds—while Apollo leads at 8,420 beds across 51 hospitals, Narayana Hrudayalaya is second at 6,380 beds across 17 hospitals. Manipal is behind Fortis’ 5,400 beds across 54 hospitals, but it isn’t that far behind since it has 5,000 beds across 15 hospitals.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Ranbaxy and its Japanese parent Daiichi Sankyo to learn from each other](#)**

**Synopsis:** Ranbaxy Laboratories and its Japanese parent, Daiichi Sankyo, are going through an exchange programme to enhance skills and capabilities. As part of the programme, executives from Daiichi Sankyo visited Ranbaxy’s facilities in Mohali and Mumbai during 2013. Similarly, representatives from Ranbaxy are working in the innovator company’s Japan and Germany factories, Arun Sawhney, Ranbaxy’s chief executive and managing director, said in an email communication. “One way to enhance skills and capabilities at Ranbaxy is through exchange of best practices with Daiichi Sankyo... during the year, we welcomed colleagues from Daiichi Sankyo Japan who came to India to work at our corporate office, R&D, Mohali and Mumbai locations. At the same time, colleagues from Ranbaxy are now working in Daiichi Sankyo in Japan and Germany under this exchange programme,” said Sawhney, while reflecting upon the challenges faced by Ranbaxy in the recent past and its plans for the future.

**Publication: The Hindu Business Line**

**Edition: New Delhi**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [Health to be focus for Smart Global](#)**

**Synopsis:** Singapore-based company Smart Global, which was Spice Global till recently, on Thursday launched Smart Living — an initiative under the company’s Smart Health City — in New Delhi. B.K. Modi, Chairman of Smart Global, said the aim was to provide curative and preventive healthcare solutions — such as age management, yoga, nutraceuticals, nutrition, cosmetic procedures, stem cell therapies and others — under one roof. “Now, our main vertical for growth in India will be healthcare,” Modi said, adding that they had already invested \$100 million in developing the healthcare facilities in India, which includes refurbishing of the Saket City

Hospital in Delhi as well as the Smart Living initiative. By 2016, Modi aims to invest about \$250 million in the healthcare initiatives and make Saket City Hospital a 1,000-bed unit. "We are talking about huge investments. It will be in billions of dollars. The Smart Health City is a \$3-billion project," he said. "This is the future." The aggressive focus on healthcare is also a part of the company's new business focus which has four verticals — healthcare, education, finance and entertainment.

**Publication: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 3, 2014**

**Headline: [DBT invites research proposals from start-up biotech cos under BIG scheme](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), under its Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) scheme, has invited research proposals from potential entrepreneurs from academia, start-ups or an incubatee (researchers, PhDs, medical degree holders, biomedical engineering graduates) who have an exciting idea which may be in the nascent and planning stage and there is an unmet need for mentorship and initial funding. The scheme would help to support and nurture these high risk early starters and their concepts.