

IDMA BULLETIN

VOL. NO. 53

ISSUE NO. 09 (PAGES: 28)

01 TO 07 MARCH 2022

ISSN 0970-6054

WEEKLY PUBLICATION



Indian APIs & Formulations for Global Healthcare

INDIAN DRUG MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

The poster for the IDMA 60th Anniversary event, titled 'INDIAN PHARMA - GLOBAL HEALTH CARE', is set for 14 & 15 April 2022. It commemorates IDMA's Diamond Jubilee. The event features 2 days, 25+ speakers, 5 panel discussions, and 5+ inspiring talks. It offers boundless opportunities to be future-ready and atmanirbhar Bharat. The event is held at Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai, with BAIN & COMPANY as the knowledge partner. Key guests include Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Shri Piyush Goyal. The poster lists several topics for discussion, such as India's role in global vaccine development and opportunities for private equity investments in the pharma business.

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Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers

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SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL
Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles

GAIN IDEAS & INSIGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF PHARMA INDUSTRY IN INDIA
India's Role in Global Vaccine Development
Explore Opportunities for Private Equity Investments in Pharma Business
Understand How to Enhance Value from Manufacturing to Consumer
Inspiring Management lessons from Ancient Scriptures
Pharmaceutical Innovations in India
Roadmap for Positioning India as the Global API Hub

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HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **ET Healthworld.com and IDMA : India Pharma World Summit on Technological Disruption in Pharma 2.0 to be held on 25th March 2022 (REGISTER NOW)**
(Page No. 5)
- ★ **IDMA Congratulates Gujarat State Board for New Office Bearers of IDMA - GSB for the year 2022 – 2023** (Page No. 10)
- ★ **Pharma exports may be hit if war extends** (Page No. 20)

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e-mail: publications@idmaindia.com/

actadm@idmaindia.com/ website: www.idma-assn.org

Published on 7th, 14th, 21st and 30th of every month

Annual Subscription

₹ 1000/- (for IDMA members)

₹ 2000/- (for Government Research/Educational Institutions)

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IDMA BULLETIN

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Issue No. 09

01 to 07 March 2022

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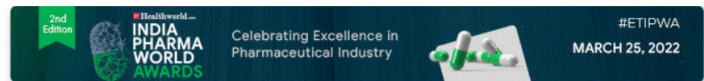
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Report on IDMA - GSB 43rd E-AGM

IDMA-GSB 43rd Annual General E-Meeting was held on Saturday 26th February at 04:00 pm. Many participants including Past Presidents, Invitees, National Executive Committee members were present. Mr. Jay D. Patel, Hon. Vice Chairman, IDMA-GSB welcomed to august present and thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

Speech of National President :- Dr. Viranchi A. Shah

National President has appraised GSB Team work during difficult time. He appreciated Shri Milanbhai Patel and his GSB Team successfully dealing of Gujarat State Board with various Ministries, Central and State Government departments in the challenging times during his tenure.

He welcomed and congratulated Dr. Shrenik Shah for taking charge as a New Chairman of Gujarat State Board. He further congratulated newly elected team of IDMA-GSB office bearers.

He further invited all to participate in upcoming IDMA 60th Years Celebrations scheduled on 14th & 15th April, 2022 at Mumbai wherein Central and State Ministers, Prominent Speakers and Industry Stalwart will deliver their speech and participant will have chance to interact with many great personalities.

Speech of Outgoing Chairman:- Shri Milan R. Patel

Shri Milanbhai Patel, outgoing chairman listed several achievements and activities of IDMA-GSB under his tenure. He thanked the entire executive committee of IDMA-GSB in working as a team under him. He congratulated Dr. Shrenik Shah for taking responsibility as a chairman of IDMA-GSB.

Hon. Secretary Shri Sumit Agrawal with the permission of Shri Milanbhai Patel – Chairman proceeded as per agenda. He read out the resolution and members present gave consent. He thanked IDMA-GSB office team and congratulated Mr. Rajiv Shah, Executive Secretary, IDMA-GSB for enrolling 19 new members and collecting overdue fees resulted IDMA-GSB as No. 1 Board in terms of maximum members (340 members) and Double collection in past 4 years. He read out list of Newly Elected Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members for the two year term (2022 - 2023).

Speech of Incoming Chairman:- Dr. Shrenik K. Shah

Dr. Shrenik Shah, in his first address thanked the members for entrusting him the chairmanship of IDMA -GSB and assured active participation in activities, to face future challenges and taking industry further towards the path of success.

In his acceptance speech, he told “We have set the goal in an abbreviation “B I G” where

B for = Business development by Networking

I for = Integration with Govt. Authorities and academia

G for = GMP compliance and Quality upgradation

As a part of Business development by networking, he talked about an application named ‘IDMA-GSB Pharma Network (Official)’ to be launched soon by joining user will be benefited in many ways like boosting up business, constant upgradation knowledge, get regular updates related to the industry and many more.

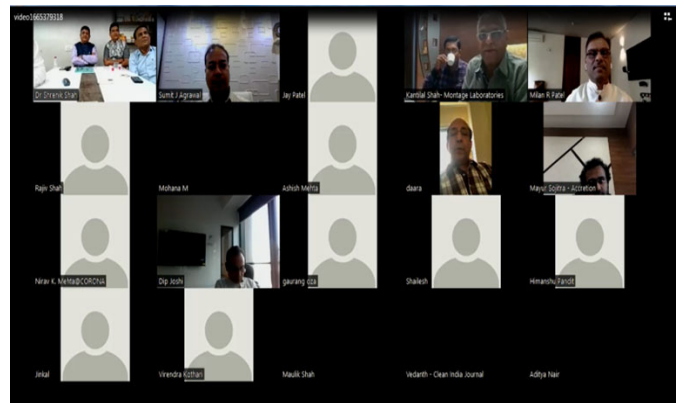
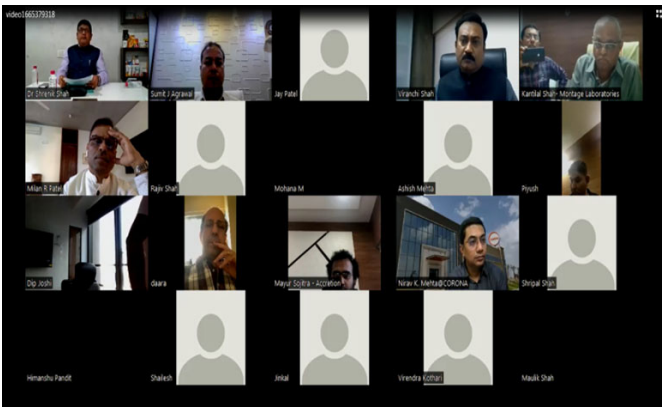
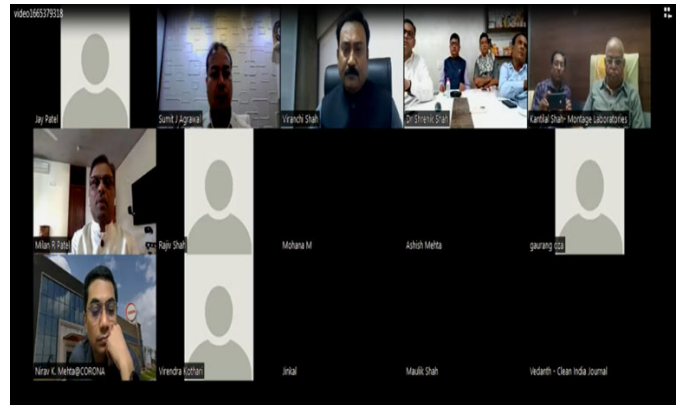
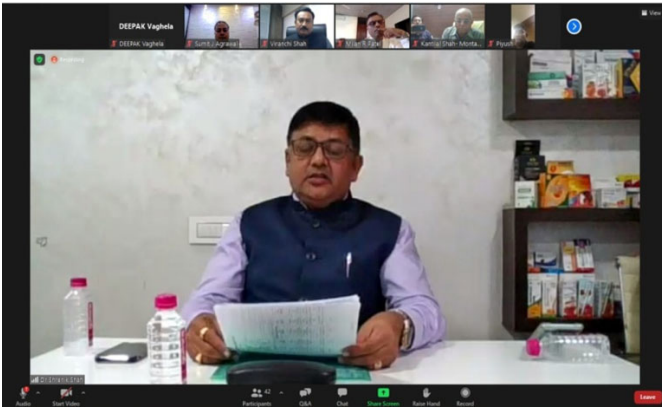
He appreciated hard work done by Shri Milanbhai Patel and his team and urged new team for their whole hearted support for achieving new milestone of IDMA-GSB.

Additionally, Mr. Daara Patel, Secretary General, IDMA National Congratulated Dr. Shrenik Shah & his team. He assured for fullest co-operation and continues support from IDMA HO.

Vote of Thanks delivered by Shri Sumit J. Agarwal – Hon. Secretary

“It gives me a great pleasure to propose vote of thanks on behalf of Indian Drug Manufacturers’ Association (Gujarat State Board). First of all I am really thankful to National President, Past National President, Past Chairman of IDMA-GSB and all members present here. I heartily extend my thankfulness to Office-bearers, Executive Committee Members, Ex officio members, Shri Rajiv Shah – Executive Secretary, Staff member of IDMA – Gujarat State Board and to all others who helped us directly or indirectly during the year”.

Glimpses of IDMA - GSB 43rd E-AGM



SAP CAPABILITIES

by Mr. Pavan Somayajula, Executive Vice President & CIO, Lorhan IT

(This is in continuation with the Report on IDMA - SAP webinar on Generating global opportunities for a future-ready India today held on 4th February 2022 published in IDMA Bulletin Vol No. 53, Issue No. 08, 22 - 28 February 2022)

SAP CAPABILITIES

AGENDA

- 1 Overview
- 2 SAP Service Overview
- 3 SAP Preconfigured Industry Solutions
- 4 SAP AMS Capability
- 5 Wrap Up

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SAP SERVICE PORTFOLIO

Plan	Solution Discovery and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business transformation consulting Industry benchmarks and Best Practices Business Process assessment
	Implementations and Rollouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP S/4HANA Global implementations & roll out SAP Cloud Solution Implementations - SuccessFactors / Ariba / C4HANA SAP BI / BO Analytics and EPM - BPC Implementations
	Build	
	Manage	
	Improve	
Build and Manage	Upgrade, Enhance and Improve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP SaaS Migrations and S/4HANA Brownfield Conversions SAP S/4HANA Greenfield Deployments SAP Analytics Implementations (On premise / SAC)
	Build and Manage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications Management Services SAP Shared Services Risk Reward Model Catalogue Based Model
Application Portfolio Rationalization		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application roadmap Application portfolio rationalization SAP ERP led continuous business process improvements Cloud Migrations

Global Delivery Model and SAP Lifecycle Management Tools

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- 20% Optimize to provide insight and enhance business performance
- 75% Standardize to drive efficiency and lower risk

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LIFE SCIENCES – SUB VERTICALS

- Pharmaceuticals
- Biotechnology
- Generics
- Medical Devices
- Wholesalers
- Distributors

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LIFE SCIENCES – FUNCTIONAL VIEW

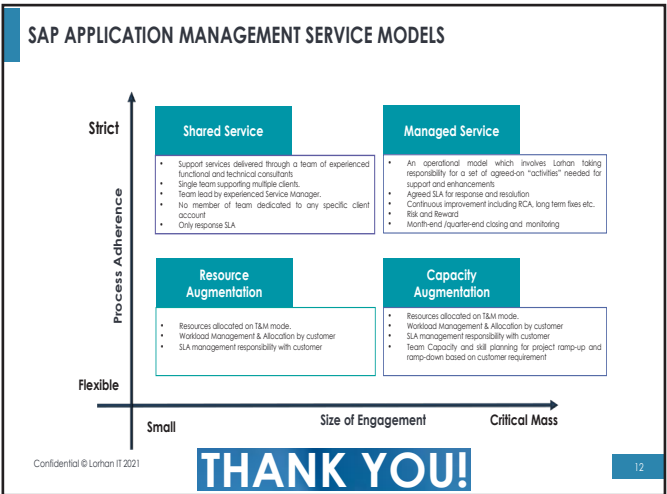
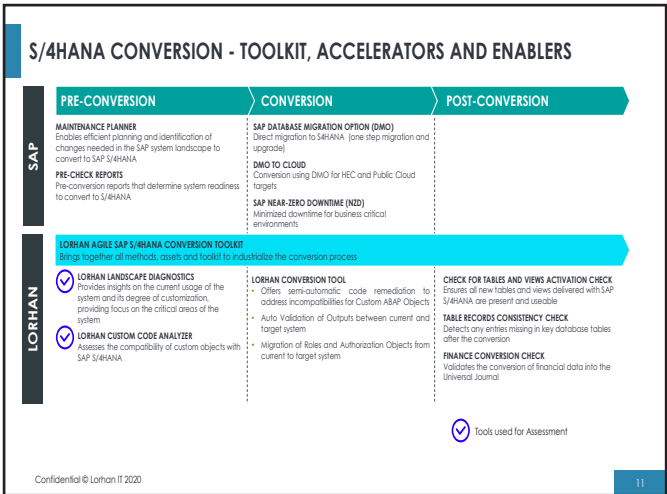
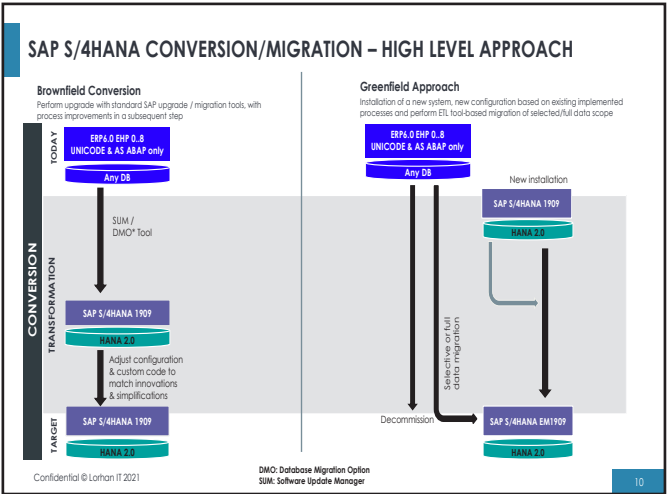
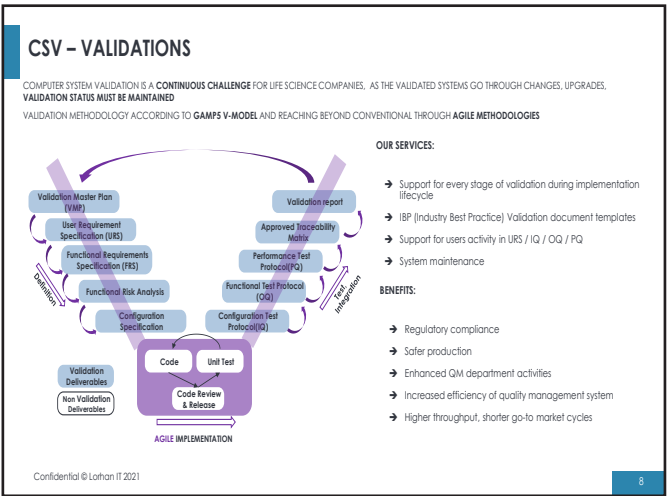
Sales & Customer Services	3PL Management	Batch Recalls	Bill and Selfie	Consignment Sales	Contact Management	Manage Complaints	Manage Returns
	Manage Sales	Price and Charge	SD - Master Data	Exports	Shipment	Special Business Sales Scenarios	Sales Analytics (S/4HANA)
Finance	Accounts Payable	Accounts Receivable	Asset Accounting	Budget Management	Product Costing	Material Ledger	Cash Management
	Closing	FI - Master Data	Fixed assets	General Ledger Accounting	Intercompany Core	Profitability Analysis	Management Accounting
	Project System	Treasury Core	Allocations (Assessments)	Bank Account Management	Material Valuation	Financial Analytics (S/4HANA)	

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LIFE SCIENCES – FUNCTIONAL VIEW

Sourcing & Procurement	Compassion Procurement	Direct Procurement	Indirect Procurement	Intercompany Procurement	Services Procurement	MM-Master Data	Procurement to Order
	Spill Valuation	Stock Transfers	Subcontracting	Supplier Evaluation	Supplier Returns	Supplier Approval	Manufacturing Part Number
	Batch Management	Inventory Sampling	Imports	Warehouse Management	Shelf Life Management	Invoice Verification	GST Localization
	Procurement Analytics (S/4HANA)						
Supply Chain & Operations	Batch Quality Control	Karcode Labels	Calibration Process	Destructive and Additive Sampling	Engineering Change Management	Goods Receipt	Stability Studies
	Make to Stock Production	Manage Free Goods Processing	FIFO / FEFO	Quality Control in Logistics	Quality Control in Manufacturing	Quality Control in Procurement	R&D Production
	Reprocess & Rework Production	Sample Management	Policy Calculation	Testing and Results Recording	Audit Management	Contract Manufacturing	CAPI & IMEA
	MMP	Document Management Systems	BMR / BPR	Batch Management Cockpit	COA	ER & ES	Manufacturing Planning & Scheduling
	Process Manufacturing	Solvent Recovery	Yield Calculations	Recurring Inspection	Quality Notifications	ODG / Deviation Management	Arbork Management
	Capacity Planning and Leveling	By-Products & Co-Product	Maintenance Management	Supply Chain Analytics (S/4HANA)			

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IDMA Congratulates Gujarat State Board for New Office Bearers of IDMA - GSB for the year 2022 – 2023

Sr. No.	Name	Company name	Email ID
1	Dr. Shrenik K. Shah (Chairman)	Montage Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	shrenik@montagelabs.com
2	Shri Sanchit Chaturvedi (Sr. Vice –Chairman)	Halewood Labs. Pvt. Ltd.	sanchit@halewoodlabs.com
3	Shri Jay Patel (Vice - Chairman)	Astral Steritech Pvt. Ltd.	jaypatel@astralsteritech.com
4	Shri Vijay Shah (Vice - Chairman)	Stallion Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	vijay@stallionlabs.com
5	Shri Sumit Jagdish Agrawal (Hon. Secretary)	Ishita Pharmaceuticals	sumit@ishitadrugs.com
6	Ms. Jinkal Patel (Hon. Jt. Secretary)	Elysium Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Jinkal.patel@elysiumpharma.com
7	Shri Maulik A. Shah (Hon. Jt. Secretary)	Aan Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	maulik@aanpharma.com
8	Shri Atul Shah (Hon. Treasurer)	Ellis Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	incyhealthcare@gmail.com atulshah@incyhealthcare.com



GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS

Vinyl Chloride Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2020 amended (1st Amendment of 2021)

Chemicals & Fertilizers Order S.O.862(E), dated 25th February 2022
(Published in the Gazette of India on 28th February, 2022)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 read with sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 (11 of 2016), the Central Government, after consulting the Bureau of Indian Standards is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the public interest, hereby makes the following Order to amend the Vinyl Chloride Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2020, namely:-

1. Short title and commencement:

- (1) This Order may be called the **Vinyl Chloride Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2021**.
- (2) It shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Vinyl Chloride Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2020, in paragraph 1, in sub- paragraph (1), for the figures “2020”, the figures “2021” shall be substituted.

F.No.PC-II 46016/ 6/2020-Tech.CPC

Kashi Nath Jha, Joint Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, New Delhi

Note: The Principal order was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S.O.3932 (E), dated the 13th September, 2021.



Medical Devices Rules, 2017 amended (2nd Amendment of 2022)

Drugs & Cosmetics Notification G.S.R.174(E), dated 04th March 2022

Whereas a draft of certain rules further to amend the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, was published as required under sub-section (1) of section 12 and sub-section (1) of section 33 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940) vide notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare) number G.S.R.850(E), dated the 10th December, 2021, in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, section 3, sub-section (i), inviting objections and suggestions from persons likely to be affected thereby before the expiry of a period of fortyfive days from the date on which the copies of the Official Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas copies of the said Official Gazette were made available to the public on 10th December, 2021;

And whereas objections and suggestions received from the public on the said draft rules have been considered by the Central Government;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 12 and 33 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

(23 of 1940), the Central Government, after consultation with Drugs Technical Advisory Board, hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, namely:-

- (1) These rules may be called the **Medical Devices (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2022.**
 - (2) These rules shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
- In the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, in rule 36, in sub-rule (3), for the words "or the United States of America" the words "United Kingdom or the United States of America" shall be substituted.

F.No.X.11014/7/2021-DR

Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.

Note : The Medical Devices Rules, 2017 was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, section 3, sub-section(i) vide notification number G.S.R.78 (E), dated the 31st January, 2017 and last amended vide notification number G.S.R.19(E), dated the 18th January 2022.



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Toolkit for Anti-evasion/Preventive teams - reg.

Customs Circular No.05/2022, dated 04th March 2022

To,

All Principal Chief Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Customs/Customs (Preventive);

All Principal Chief Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Customs & GST;

All Principal Chief Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners of GST;

1. With a view to enhance the efficiency and professionalism of officers/teams deployed for carrying out anti-evasion/anti-smuggling work, particularly when they are required to search premises, vehicles; verify a stock of goods; draw up a panchnama or to arrest a person away from their office premises, Board has received a suggestion that a standard toolkit may be provided.

2. In this regard, the undersigned is directed to say that officers/teams deployed for such work in Customs or CGST formations may be equipped with a suitable toolkit. A tentative list of items which could be considered for inclusion in the toolkit is given as Annexure-A. The list is suggestive in nature and may be modified so as to suit local needs.

3. Difficulties faced/suggestions, if any, may kindly be brought to the attention of the undersigned.

F.No.CBIC-21/17/2022-INV-CUSTOMS-CBEC

Dr Raji N S, Deputy Commissioner (Inv. - Cus), Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Investigation – Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, New Delhi.

Annexure-A

Suggested list of items in toolkit for Anti evasion:

- i. Battery Power Banks;
- ii. Binoculars;
- iii. Car Inverter to operate Printer etc. independently;
- iv. Comprehensive First Aid box;
- v. Drug Detection/ Narcotics test kit;
- vi. Fabric thickness gauge;
- vii. Faraday Bag (cuts off Mobile etc. from any sort of radio-waves and prevents remote tampering/Deletion of Data of mobile etc.);
- viii. File kit containing Copies of Summons, Panchnama, Test Memo etc.;
- ix. GPS Tracker;
- x. Hand held metal detector;
- xi. High Power LED Torch;
- xii. High precision digital weighing machine, closed door;
- xiii. Modern Search Lights;
- xiv. Multipurpose Screwdriver set;
- xv. Night vision devices;
- xvi. Stationery (Scissor, Stapler, Pen, Marker, Cello tape etc.);
- xvii. Swiss Knife;
- xviii. Videoscope



Notification No.12/97-Customs (NT) dated the 2nd April, 1997 amended

Notification No.14/2022-Customs, G.S.R.170(E) (N.T.) dated 03rd March 2022

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (aa) of sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and

Customs hereby makes the following further amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No.12/97-

Customs (NT) dated the 2nd April, 1997, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) vide number G.S.R.193(E), dated the 2nd April, 1997, namely:-

In the said notification, in the Table, against serial number 4, relating to the State of Gujarat, in column (3) the item (ix), and the corresponding entry thereto in column (4) shall be omitted.

Sharad Chandra Srivastava, Director, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, New Delhi.

Note : The principal notification No.12/97-Customs(N.T.), dated the 2nd April, 1997 was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) vide number G.S.R.193(E), dated the 2nd April, 1997 and last amended by notification number 67/2020-Customs (N.T.) dated the 04th August, 2020, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub section (i) vide number G.S.R.487 (E), dated the 04th August, 2020.



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The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Kerala constituted - reg.

Environment Notification S.O.984(E), dated 03rd March 2022

1. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) and in pursuance of the notification of the Government of India, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub section (ii) in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests, *vide* number S.O.1533(E), dated the 14th September, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the said notification), the Central Government hereby constitutes the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Kerala (hereinafter referred to as the Authority, Kerala) comprising of the following persons, namely:-

1.	Dr. H. Nagesh Prabhu, IFS (Retd.), Post Chitur, Kundapura, Udipi (Dist.), Karnataka -576233	Chairman;
2.	Shri. K. Krishna Panicker, Athira, KRWA 113, Kavalloor lane, Vattiyookavu, Thiruvananthapuram-695013.	Member;
3.	Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department, Kerala.	Member Secretary.

2. The Chairman and Members of the Authority, Kerala shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette.
3. The Authority, Kerala shall exercise such powers and follow such procedures as specified in the said notification.
4. The Authority, Kerala shall take its decision on the recommendations of the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee constituted under paragraph 5.
5. For the purpose of assisting the Authority, Kerala, the Central Government, in consultation with the State Government of Kerala, hereby constitutes the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (hereinafter referred to as SEAC), Kerala comprising of the following Members, namely:-

1.	Dr. Ajayakumar Varma, TC-7/3124, MRA-A-195, Kallampally, Medical College (PO), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala -695011.	Chairman;
2.	Dr. Biju Kumar A, Professor and Head, Department of Aquatic Biology, and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala -695581.	Member;
3.	Dr. A. N. Manoharan, Flat No.305 Block III, KSHB, Muttathody, P.O. Vidyanagar, Kasaragod, Kerala-671123.	Member;
4.	Shri M. Dilipkumar, Sreerangom, TC-31/455(2), CRA 20, Madhu Mukku, Anayara, P.O, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695029.	Member;
5.	Smt. Beena Govindan, Anandabhavan, Edappariyaram P.O- Elanthur, Pathanamthitta, Kerala-689643.	Member;
6.	Dr. C.C. Harilal, Professor, Division of Environmental Science, Department of Botany, University of Calicut, Kerala.	Member;
7.	Dr. K . Vasudevan Pillai, Rajdhani, Ullas Nagar, Vadakkancherry, P.O, Palakkad, Kerala -678683.	Member;

8.	Dr. K.N. Krishnakumar, Anjaligokulam, Muttambalam, P.O, Kanjikuzhy, Kottayam, Kerala -686004.	Member;
9.	Shri V. Gopinathan, CC32 Sreeragam, Chinmaya Colony, Vidyanagar, P.O Kasaragod, Kerala -671123.	Member;
10.	Dr. N. Ajithkumar, Director, Centre for Socio-economic & Environmental studies, Khadi Federation Building, NH by pass, Kochi, Kerala -682024.	Member;
11.	Dr. Mahesh Mohan, Assistant Professor, (Joint Director, International Centre for Polar Studies), School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Priyadarsini Hills, P.O-Kottayam, Kerala-686560.	Member;
12.	Shri S. Sheik Hyder Hussain, IFS (Retd), Vellore Colony, Patturaikal, Thrissur, Kerala -680022.	Member;
13.	Dr. A.V. Raghu, Senior Scientist, KSCSTE-Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Thrissur, Kerala-680653.	Member;
14.	Shri. Suneel Pamidi, IFS, Director, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (ex-officio).	Member Secretary.

6. The Chairman and Members of SEAC, Kerala shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette.
7. The SEAC, Kerala shall exercise such powers and follow such procedures as specified in the said notification.
8. The SEAC, Kerala shall function on the principle of collective responsibility and the Chairman shall endeavour to reach a consensus in each case, and if consensus cannot be reached, the view of the majority shall prevail.
9. In order to avoid any conflict of interest –
 - (a) the Chairman and Members of the Authority, Kerala and SEAC, Kerala shall declare as to which consulting organisation they have been associated with and also the project proponents;
 - (b) the Chairman and Members of the Authority, Kerala and SEAC, Kerala shall not undertake any consultation or associate with preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Environment Management Plan for a project, which is to be appraised by the Authority, Kerala and SEAC, Kerala during their tenure; and
 - (c) if in the preceding five years, the Chairman or any of the Members of the Authority, Kerala and SEAC, Kerala have provided consultancy services or conducted EIA studies for any project proponent, in that event they shall recuse themselves from the meeting of the Authority, Kerala and SEAC, Kerala in the process of appraisal of any project being proposed by such proponents.
10. The Government of Kerala shall notify an agency to act as Secretariat for the Authority, Kerala and SEAC, Kerala and the Secretariat shall provide all financial and logistic support including accommodation, transportation and such other facilities in respect of all their statutory functions.
11. The sitting fee, travelling allowances and dearness allowances to the Chairman and Members of the Authority, Kerala and SEAC, Kerala shall be paid as per the rules of the State Government of Kerala.

F.No.IA 3-1/1/2021-IA.III

Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi



There's political will to make India-UK FTA a reality: Kevin McCole, MD at UK India Business Council

Kevin McCole says textiles, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, alcoholic drinks like Scotch, ICT and digital services will likely feature prominently in the talks



Kevin McCole, managing director at the UK India Business Council (UKIBC).

As India and the UK get down to a second round of negotiations in London on Monday for a free trade agreement (FTA), Kevin McCole, managing director at the UK India Business Council (UKIBC), says textiles, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, alcoholic drinks like Scotch, ICT and digital services will likely feature prominently in the talks. In an email interview to FE's

Banikinkar Pattanayak, McCole exudes confidence that these FTA talks won't suffer from the strong differences that India and the EU have witnessed in their trade negotiations over the years. There is a strong relationship across the governments, from the Prime Ministers down, to conclude the agreement, he says.

Both India and the UK will resume FTA negotiations on March 7. Which are those goods and services segments where we can expect progress in this second round of talks?

I think this second round of talks is where the negotiators will start to get into the detail, so it is great news that they will meet face-to-face, with the Indian team in London across two weeks.

As in the first round, the negotiators will consider a wide range of issues, for instance sustainability, standards, tariffs, SMEs, procurement, data flows and intellectual property that span a very wide range of sectors, across both goods and services. Particular sectors that seem front of mind are textiles, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, food and drink — including alcoholic drinks like Scotch.

Plus, of course, ICT (information and communications technology) and digital services — the innovative, tech-rich future-focused industries that will increasingly drive expansion of UK-India trade.

An interim trade deal will reportedly cover about 60-65% of imported goods and 50-60 lines of services (out of about 160 lines)? How soon can it be concluded?

I don't want to tempt fate, so won't make a prediction on the timing of the reported interim deal. What I will say is that negotiations have started at great pace, and with great positivity. The ministerial announcement on January 13 was quickly followed by two weeks of intense and upbeat talks. The negotiators have barely had time to catch a breath and they're starting their second round this week starting March 7.

As well as pace and positivity, the negotiations are also benefitting from great political will, with Indian commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and the UK's secretary of state Anne-Marie Trevelyan demonstrating their commitment to making a deal happen in a much faster timescale than many anticipated. We at the UKIBC believe that an interim deal would be a positive, bringing economic benefits quickly. Importantly, though, an interim deal is only a good thing if it is a staging post to the comprehensive agreement that will be needed to realise the potential of the bilateral relationship to maximise trade and investment flows, to create many thousands more jobs, and increase prosperity across both countries.

The India-EU FTA talks haven't yet progressed much, as both the sides have had stark differences in areas, including liquor, automobiles and intellectual property rights (IPRs). The UK was a part of the EU for a long time.

Why do you think the India-UK FTA negotiations won't suffer from such differences?

There are three reasons I am optimistic about the India-UK negotiations. First, there is a real political will on both the sides and strong relationship across the governments, from the Prime Ministers down. These personal relationships should not be undervalued.

Second, the UK government has laid-out the "Indo-Pacific tilt" in its foreign policy, and has made it very clear that India is a key partner.

And third, ministers, officials and businesses can see that that an India-UK FTA can be a win-win, bringing tremendous benefits to both countries. So, I get the sense that ministers will be pragmatic and won't let tricky areas stop them concluding a deal. They'll focus on what can be done, not on what can't.

What do the UK businesses want India to do and what can they offer to make the FTA a win-win deal for both the countries?

UK businesses have big ambitions for and confidence in India. They want to invest more in India, export to India, import from India, and build partnerships with Indian companies, including partnerships to share and co-create new technology and IP. The FTA, and India's ongoing improvements to the ease of doing business, can facilitate this broad range of objectives and help realise the huge potential of the UK-India relationship.

There are a few areas where an FTA can help deliver this ambition. If tariffs were reduced on UK goods, including, for example, auto components, then more manufacturing investment would flow to India. If there was standards and regulatory alignment and simplification, then more UK food and drink companies would invest in India. An alignment of UK-India IP regimes would give greater confidence to innovators

and tech-rich companies, encouraging them to establish their presence in India. And, to drive growth in the digital and data services that will be increasingly important for global trade, businesses would like to see a UK-India data adequacy agreement.

At the same time, access to the UK market will be a big prize for Indian companies. It is the world's fifth-biggest economy with a high GDP per capita. It's an economy driven by services and consumers. In short, it is a huge market opportunity for Indian exporters across a wide range of sectors, not least pharma and healthcare, textiles and clothing, food and drink, and, of course, ICT.

Indian manufacturers looking for advanced technologies can also benefit from the UK. In particular, the UK is a world-leader in manufacturing R&D, including in technologies to accelerate the decarbonisation of industry. It is striking that in recent times TVS Motors, Mahindra, Reliance and Ola have all made investment in EV R&D in the UK.

What are the "IP-rich, digitally-driven services" that you want the interim deal to cover?

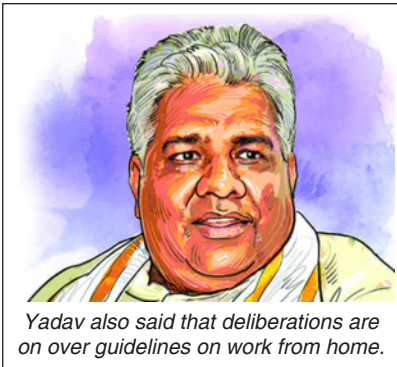
The deal, whether interim or more-comprehensive can spur two-way trade and investment in technology. In a digital world, where goods supply chains are increasingly regional rather than global, it is clear that IP-rich innovations, technology transfer, and digital services are going to drive the future trading partnership between the UK and India.

So, it is important that businesses will be able to protect and fully commercialise their IP. That is true across all sectors but the sectors where IP is particularly important are digital and data services, healthcare and life sciences, energy, and defence and aerospace.

Source: Banikinkar Pattanayak, Financial Express, 07.03.2022



We are in talks with HR heads of companies on wage code: Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav



According to labour and employment minister Bhupender Yadav, India's labour codes are futuristic. "India is one of the few countries in the world that has recognised gig and platform workers in our Codes and they have been registered on the e-Shram portal."

The labour ministry is holding discussions with HR heads across sectors to address concerns over the Wage Code. Issues will be addressed through Rules without altering the current structure of Codes, labour and employment minister Bhupender Yadav told ET's Yogima Seth Sharma and Deepshikha Sikarwar in an interview. Edited excerpts:

There is a lot of speculation on the timing of implementation of the Labour Codes. When are these likely to be rolled out?

The Labour Codes will be implemented as soon as possible. Around 26 states have notified Rules on Codes on Wages and all states are working on notifying Rules on all the four Codes. We have partly implemented the Social Security Code but we want to see all four together in a comprehensive manner. The government will do everything through consensus but we want to see all four together in a comprehensive manner. The government will do everything through consensus and in a transparent manner.

There are differences between employers and employees on Wage Code. What is the way out?

There are no differences as such. Certain things can be sorted out through the Rules. These are things of discussion and we are building up a consensus. On a monthly basis, we hold discussions with trade union

leaders and heads of the human resource department of companies.

Will we go ahead with the present structure of the Codes or is there a possibility of tweaks?

Codes have already been passed in the Parliament. Various states are drafting Rules on these Codes and we are building up consensus as we go forward.

What is the government's assessment of the recovery in the labour market?

The government has relied on the Periodic Labour Force Survey, which shows there has been an increase in employment in rural areas. In the organised sector, we have the payroll data of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation and the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), which shows there has been an increase in formal sector employment. We also have the Labour Bureau's Quarterly Employment Survey and its second report shows there are an additional 0.2 million jobs created and the number of registered units have gone up. We believe in data sanctity and have produced transparent data, which has no rebuttal. Altogether, these data sets show a positive picture of employment generation in the country.

What is your assessment of the unorganised sector workers?

There is a need to match the job opportunities with skill sets available in the country. We are working on this through the National Career Service portal and the e-Shram portal going forward. In the unorganised sector, which is 90-94% of the country's total workforce or an estimated 380 million, we have collected data for nearly 260 million unorganised workers through the e-Shram portal and have recognised 400 occupations. Our Labour Codes are futuristic. India is one of the few countries in the world that has recognised gig and platform workers in our Codes and they have been registered on the e-Shram portal. Most importantly, we are also addressing

their concern for social security and medical benefits and once the Social Security Code comes in, we will expand the scope of benefits of the Employees State Insurance Corporation.

What is holding back the labour ministry from implementing the social security scheme for gig workers?

All this is being discussed. We want to do it in a holistic manner and by taking every stakeholder on board. We want to implement all the Codes though consensus and discussions are on with all stakeholders.

What is the status of the migrant workers survey and the survey on domestic workers being done by the Labour Bureau?

We have met all unions members and representatives of domestic workers. Domestic workers are across multiple occupations but those primarily involved in household chores are a big chunk. It has immense scope and we need to be concerned about their social security. We are waiting for the findings of the survey on the work conditions and social security of the domestic workers.

The parliamentary standing committee, had in the past, raised questions on functioning of ESIC hospitals run by state governments. What is the ministry's stand?

This is an area of ESIC. Currently, payment to doctors in ESIC hospitals is done by state governments and there is a difference in wages too. There is a need to revise wages of our doctors in some of the super speciality hospitals of ESIC. We have taken a conscious decision at the ESIC board meeting that the wages will be paid directly to the doctors by ESIC while they will continue to work under the state governments.

Has the labour ministry done any assessment on the impact of the pandemic on the services sector?

We have seen some dip in employment generation in hotels and hospitality but in the IT sector and hospitals, there has been a boom. The key point is we need to

digitally equip the workers. We have tied up with Microsoft under Digi Saksham project, under which we will skill, reskill and upskill our workers.

Will professionals get covered under the EPFO?

Currently, it is not under consideration. EPFO has a ceiling and the responsibility of a welfare government is to help the worker at the last mile though its schemes. Besides, those who are capable and can afford, have other options of social security as well.

What are the measures being considered to increase female labour force participation?

Female participation, female economic independence and female social security is the focus area of this government. The new Wage Code stresses on gender equality and the government is concerned about the issue. We will decide when there is a need for it.

Is the ministry deliberating on guidelines for work from home, considering that it has become a new form of work during and is here to stay?

While we have come out with guidelines for the IT sector, deliberations are on for other sectors on work from home. We will take a view once the various survey reports are out.

What is the ground report of state elections? You are responsible for Manipur...

BJP will form a majority government in Manipur. We will win more than 40 out of 60 seats. People are with BJP and all sections of the society are supporting us. There is a difference between what you think and the ground reality.

What does it look like in other states, including UP?

BJP will form a government in all states. In politics, anything can happen. We are contesting elections to form the government. We will form the government in Uttar Pradesh.

Source: ET, 03.03.2022



Your blood group determines if you can catch severe COVID: Check if you are prone to disease



Six proteins could contribute to severe COVID-19 infections and eight could contribute to protection from severe COVID-19

As per the study, one of the proteins (ABO) that was identified as having a causal connection to the risk of developing severe COVID-19 determines blood groups

Recent studies have revealed that Blood groups may play an instrumental role in whether people develop severe forms of COVID-19. For example, if your blood group is A, then you have higher chances of catching coronavirus infections.

The study, published in the journal PLOS Genetics, analysed over 3000 proteins to identify which are causally linked to the development of severe COVID-19. And, they identified six proteins that could contribute to severe COVID-19 infections and eight that could contribute to protection from severe COVID-19.

As per the study, one of the proteins (ABO) that was identified as having a causal connection to the risk of developing severe COVID-19 determines blood groups, suggesting that blood groups play an instrumental role in whether people develop severe forms of the disease.

“We have used a purely genetic approach to investigate a large number of blood proteins and established that a handful have causal links to the development of severe COVID-19,” said study co-first author Alish Palmos from

King’s College London. “Honing in on this group of proteins is a vital first step in discovering potentially valuable targets for development of new treatments.”

What did the study reveal?

The analysis identified that an enzyme (ABO) that determines blood group was causally associated with both an increased risk of hospitalisation and a requirement for respiratory support.

This supports previous findings around the association of blood group with higher likelihood of death, the researchers said.

Taken together with previous research showing that the proportion of group A is higher in COVID-19 positive individuals, this suggests blood group A is candidate for follow-up studies, they said.

“The enzyme helps determine the blood group of an individual and our study has linked it with both risk of hospitalisation and the need of respiratory support or death,” said study coauthor Christopher Hubel from King’s College London.

Source: Mint, 04.03.2022



Pharma exports may be hit if war extends

The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India, the industry body under the Ministry of Commerce, is worried that if the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war doesn’t end soon, pharma exports from India may be hit. Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, which includes Ukraine, are key markets for some India pharmaceutical majors like Dr Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd, Cipla Ltd and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, as exports to this region stand at over \$1bn a year.

“Till February, all commitments (exports) were fulfilled, but for March and beyond, everything is uncertain, “ R. Uday Bhaskar, director general of the industry body told Informist. He said if the war goes on beyond a period,

it would hurt exports to this region substantially, and exporters may shy away from risks. For 2020-21 (Apr-Mar), total pharmaceutical exports to Russia and the CIS region stood at \$1.2bln, contributing around 5% to the total exports.

Russia's share in the total exports stood at around \$597 mln, while that of Ukraine was \$181 mln. Bhaskar said pharmaceutical exports in 2020-21 saw overall on-year growth of 18% due to panic buying because of the pandemic. The growth in Russia and the CIS region was at 30%. Trade settlements such as rouble-to-rupee was also a key issue.

Source: Free Press, 05.03.2022



India's pharma sector to grow at 6-8% YoY in FY23: Ind-Ra

India's pharmaceuticals market (IPM) is expected to grow between 6 and 8 percent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in FY23.

Accordingly, the growth has been capped due to high base effect and inventory stocking in FY21 on account of COVID-19-led disruption in supplies of key starting materials.

Besides, API (Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredient) businesses are expected to report high single-digit growth in FY23 due to a demand uptick, the overall revenue growth is expected at 9-to-10 percent YoY.

In a research note, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said it has maintained a neutral outlook for the Indian pharmaceutical sector for FY23.

The agency said that higher Capex in lieu of the 'Production-linked Incentives' (PLI) scheme will restrict the quantum of free cash flow generation during the year.

"Large players are adequately capitalised to make bigger investments to adjust for the ongoing fundamental shift in market opportunities," the note said.

"Cost-cutting measures remain a priority for Indian companies. However, interim disruptions such as high raw material costs and logistic expenses will put pressure on the level of free cash flow generated."

Besides, the agency said that with the significant improvement in the free cash flow generated in the near term, M&A activities will continue to provide inorganic push in FY23.

"Ind-Ra does not expect the sector's liquidity to face a major risk, despite similar maturities levels in FY23 and FY24. Large pharma companies generally have large cash balances, which typically account for 14-16 percent of their revenue."

Furthermore, most companies have sufficient headroom under debt covenants and diversified funding sources.

"The interest coverage of large pharma players is likely to increase with scale and margin expansion."

"Ind-Ra expects large pharma companies to continue with their healthy debt-funded capex and research and development programme, given higher visibility in terms of sales growth and profitability."

Source: The Free Press Journal, 05.03.2022



India, Canada set for FTA talks on Fri



Commerce minister Piyush Goyal and his Canadian counterpart Mary Ng will meet in New Delhi this week

Commerce minister Piyush Goyal and his Canadian counterpart Mary Ng will meet in New Delhi on Friday to begin talks for a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries, two people aware of the development said. The negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership may also cover investment and services. However, India is looking for an early harvest or an interim trade deal before progressing with a full pact.

“India and Canada are set to launch FTA talks on Friday. We will go ahead with the same strategy as that with other developed countries of doing an early harvest deal first,” said a government official.

While Canada is looking at an investment protection agreement as part of the comprehensive deal, India is keen to discuss market access for agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and easing of technical and sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade.

“The India-Canada talks will officially be launched by the trade ministers in New Delhi,” one of the two officials cited above said on condition of anonymity.

The launch of trade talks comes in the backdrop of worsening geopolitical tensions following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has impacted global trade. Earlier in 2019, India had decided to opt out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) citing “significant outstanding issues, which remain unresolved”. The domestic sector had argued that it could get hit due to cheaper alternatives from other countries.

The two sides had begun talks for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement in 2010, but it did not see much progress, although the negotiations went on till 2017. This time, the two sides may look at signing a mini trade deal or an early harvest deal, which keep the difficult and sensitive issues to be dealt with later as part of the full pact.

Canada is India’s 31st largest market, accounting for just \$3 billion or 0.88% of India’s total outbound shipments in April-January 2021-22. Imports from the North American nation stood at \$2.5 billion during this period, making up for 0.52% of India’s total inbound shipments. With imports worth \$2.68 billion, and exports worth \$2.9 billion in 2020-21, India had a small trade surplus of nearly \$200 million with Canada.

Organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and apparel and textiles have been India’s top exports to Canada, with shipments worth \$198 million and \$261 million and \$210 million in the April-January period of 2021-22. Iron and steel exports to Ottawa stood at \$300 million.

Imports from Canada included vegetables and petro products of \$343 million and \$542 million respectively.

Mint had earlier reported that India is keen to have a strong services agreement under the proposed CEPA as Canada is not a large market for Indian goods. Besides, India is looking at generating more jobs for its teeming IT professionals, by facilitating easier work visas for Canada under the trade agreement.

Source: Dilasha Seth & Ravi Dutta Mishra, Mint, 07.03.2022



India set to carry out phase 3 clinical trials for vaccine against dengue



India reported 1,23,106 dengue cases and 90 deaths in 2021

NEW DELHI : The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited domestic companies to collaborate on the development of the first Indian vaccine for dengue, a top official said.

Pharmaceutical companies and vaccine makers who have developed potential vaccine candidates against dengue and have successfully completed phase 1 and 2 clinical trials can submit their expressions of interest (EoI) to ICMR by 11 March. The phase-3 clinical trials will be conducted in India. Currently, there is no specific treatment for the mosquito-transmitted disease and patients are treated for their symptoms. India reported 1,23,106 dengue cases and 90 deaths in 2021, shows data from the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control, a body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), dengue was as one of the top ten global health threats in 2019.

“We all know that dengue is a major public health disease and till date, India does not have safe and effective vaccine against dengue virus disease. The ICMR has been mandated to address the growing demands of scientific advances in biomedical research and find practical solutions to the health problems of the country.

Therefore, we have invited pharmaceutical companies/ vaccine manufactures to collaborate with us for phase 3 clinical trial to develop a safe and effective dengue vaccine,” said Dr. Samiran Panda, additional director general, ICMR said. ICMR will provide technical expertise in terms of study planning, development and implementation of phase-3 clinical trial protocol. While France and Mexico have developed dengue vaccines, they are not approved in India. Other nations are also making attempts to develop a dengue vaccine.

“Under this EoI, ICMR offers institutional infrastructure for undertaking further research & development (R&D) and vaccine clinical trial for evaluation of efficacy along with safety and immunogenicity as per regulatory requirement,” said an ICMR document seen by Mint.

The collaboration will be on a 5% royalty basis for a fixed-term contract for the phase-3 trials. ICMR will provide technical support to the companies through its team of experienced scientists in study planning, development of clinical trial protocol, implementation of phase-3 clinical trial of tetravalent dengue vaccine, generating results, data analysis, outcome assessment, safety, immunogenicity and efficacy assessment and product improvement.

“Presently, we provide symptomatic treatment to dengue patients in India as we do not have any vaccine against dengue virus. Some of the western countries like Mexico and France have developed dengue vaccine but they are still not approved in our country.

ICMR has taken a great step in developing dengue vaccine,” said Dr. Atul Gogia, senior consultant, internal medicine at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi.

Source: Mint, 07.03.2022



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