Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Joins PDG

Source: PIB

Why in News?

The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** has joined the **Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG)**, a pivotal move to **enhance global pharmaceutical standards**, regulatory compliance, and international recognition of Indian pharmaceutical products.

- IPC was the only Pharmacopoeia body in the world to be selected for the pilot phase initiated in September 2022. After a year-long pilot phase, **IPC's inclusion as a permanent PDG member was confirmed in September 2023.**

What is the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG)?

- The PDG is an **international forum** that aims to **harmonize global pharmacopoeial standards** to reduce the burden on manufacturers and ensure consistent quality.
- The PDG was established in 1989 by the **European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.), the Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP), and the US Pharmacopeia (USP).**
    - In 2001, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** joined as an observer.

How Will IPC's Membership in the PDG Benefit India?

- IPC's standards will **gain international recognition,** potentially boosting the **acceptance of Indian pharmaceutical products globally.** It will position IPC as a forward-looking body that sets drug quality standards in line with global benchmarks.
- IPC can **collaborate and harmonize standards** with other major regulatory bodies, ensuring global pharmaceutical quality and safety.
- IPC can align its processes with global standards, making it **easier for Indian pharmaceutical companies to comply with international regulations.**
- Membership in **PDG will facilitate increased exports of Indian pharmaceutical products** to member countries, reducing trade barriers.

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)

- IPC is an Autonomous Institution of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- IPC was created to **set standards for drugs in India.** Its basic function is to regularly update the standards of drugs commonly required for the treatment of diseases prevailing in this region.
- It publishes official documents for improving the **Quality of Medicines** by way of adding new and updating existing monographs in the form of **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).**
    - It further promotes the rational use of generic medicines by publishing the National Formulary of India.
- IP prescribes **standards for the identity, purity and strength of drugs** essentially required from the health care perspective of human beings and animals.

- IPC also **provides IP Reference Substances (IPRS)** which act as a **fingerprint** for identification of an article under test and its purity as prescribed in IP.