



# Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Joins PDG

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## 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 Pharmacopoeia (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.

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