

UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.
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इस हार्शिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।
Only write question number in this margin

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
Candidates must not write on this margin

1. Government of India must ensure stringent quality controls on drug exports and contain the reputational damage. Discuss.

69 children in gambia died after consuming cough syrup made by haryana based maiden pharma. CDSCO state authorities are investigation after WHO's alert.

usage of toxic chemicals.

Laboratory analysis shows "Excess usage of ethylene and diethylene glycol". These are toxic to human and results in abdominal pain, acute kidney pain fatal to children.

Problem of regulation

1. Preliminary analysis shows - Cough syrups are manufactured to export only to gambia

2. Under Drugs & cosmetics Act, 1940, primary remit of monitoring manufacturing is with state authorities and CDSCO will lay standards & expert advice

Past instances - 2020 Jsk tragedy - shows lack of information sharing between center & state authorities

3. Drug failed quality test in one state are allowed in other states, due to lack of nationwide mechanism to recall such drugs

CDSCO survey 2014-16 shows 5% of Indian drugs by large pharma failed quality test

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Need for stringent norms & prevail reputation:

India - leader in generic pharma drugs & vaccines.
world wide distribution of COVID-19 brought immense fame.

1. Strict control measures to prevent the goods are not undone.

2. Check out quality issues, and corrupt officials at highest levels.

3. Strict measures against officials overlooking lapses in pharma.

4. Export regulations → Export-import code for

trade with Least developed countries.

5. Separate export certification norms for Least developed countries.

6. pre shipment checking mechanism eg: Nigeria.

7. coordination between Centre and state authorities
Drug regulatory authorities. under staffed need to be addressed

way forward.

Need to prevent casting of such bad instances on whole pharma in India. Any measures below which can tarnish our image. Immediately weeding out unsafe products, until it is late, to preserve our reputation.