23 November 2026

CPHI India
PMEC India

Daily News

Published by : PHARMA CLICK

DAY 1



News AT A GLANCE



Dual-venue CPHI India 2026 to reflect...

Page No. 16



Biologics, quality, innovation &...

Page No. 20



Innovation-led partnerships...

Page No. 38



Time-bound regulatory data...

Page No. 44

From volume to value: CPHI India and PMEC India 2026 powering India's pharma leap towards innovation

OUR BUREAU, MUMBAI

CPHI India and PMEC India 2026, organised by Informa Markets in India, will bring together stakeholders from across the pharmaceutical value chain from November 23–26, 2026, across two specialised venues in Delhi-NCR. CPHI India will take place from November 23–25 at IICC, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, while PMEC India will run from November 24–26 at IEML, Greater Noida. The expanded format is designed to connect the pharmaceutical ingredients, contract manufacturing, machinery and technology sectors, facilitating business engagement, knowledge exchange and industry partnerships.

The 2026 edition is expected to feature 2,000+ exhibitors, welcome 50,000+ pharmaceutical professionals and visitors, and attract participation from

CONTINUED ON p2▶



Positioning India as a global API powerhouse: Advancing self-reliance and reducing import dependencies



DR. SANJAY AGRAWAL

India has established itself as a major force in the global pharmaceutical industry, supplying affordable generic medicines to markets worldwide. However, its continued dependence on imported active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), key starting materials (KSMs) and intermediates remains a strategic challenge. As global supply chains become increasingly vulnerable to geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions and price fluctuations, strengthening domestic API manufacturing has emerged as a critical priority.

APIs are the substances responsible for the therapeutic effect of medicines. They form the foundation of pharmaceutical formulations and directly influence product quality, efficacy and safety. While India has developed strong capabilities in finished dosage manufacturing, its reliance on imported ingredients for several critical drug categories highlights the need for greater upstream integration.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed these vulnerabilities, demonstrating how disruptions in international manufacturing and logistics can affect medicine availability. For India, the challenge is therefore not simply to manufacture more medicines, but to strengthen the entire pharmaceutical value chain.

Positioning India as a global API powerhouse requires a coordinated approach encompassing domestic manufacturing, technological innovation, infrastructure development, regulatory excellence and sustainable production. The objective is to reduce strategic import dependencies while building a globally competitive industry capable of supporting both national healthcare requirements and international pharmaceutical supply chains.

Understanding India?s API Import Dependency

India's pharmaceutical industry benefits from a strong manufacturing base, skilled workforce and extensive export network. Nevertheless, imports continue to play an important role in supplying selected APIs, KSMs and chemical intermediates. China has historically been a major supplier of these materials because of its integrated chemical manufacturing clusters, production scale and cost advantages.

This dependence varies across products and should not be viewed as a uniform weakness across the Indian pharmaceutical sector. India possesses established manufacturing capabilities in numerous pharmaceutical ingredients. However, vulnerabilities remain in categories where domestic production is limited, expensive or concentrated among a small number of suppliers.

Several factors contribute to this situation. Large-scale overseas manufacturers often benefit from integrated facilities, es-

CONTINUED ON p52▶



Positioning India as a global API powerhouse..

CONTINUED FROM p51▶

tablished supply networks and economies of scale, allowing them to offer competitive prices. Domestic manufacturers may face higher infrastructure, energy, financing and environmental compliance costs.

API production also involves substantial capital investment, technical expertise and lengthy development cycles. Establishing a new facility requires process validation, quality systems, regulatory preparation and customer qualification. Meanwhile, established international suppliers often have proven product quality and dependable procurement arrangements, making it difficult for new domestic manufacturers to secure market share.

Another significant concern is upstream dependence. Manufacturing an API domestically does not necessarily eliminate import exposure if its essential intermediates or starting materials are sourced overseas.

Consequently, genuine self-reliance must extend beyond finished APIs to strategically important upstream inputs, supported by economically viable production and diversified sourcing arrangements.

Why Does Domestic API Manufacturing Matters?

Strengthening domestic API manufacturing offers benefits extending beyond the pharmaceutical industry.

Improving medicine security: Domestic production capabilities can reduce the risk of shortages caused by international supply disruptions. Reliable access to pharmaceutical ingredients is especially important for essential medicines and critical therapeutic categories.

Reducing supply-chain vulnerabilities: Greater domestic capacity, combined with diversified international sourcing, can help manufacturers respond more effectively to geopolitical tensions, transportation bottlenecks and sudden price fluctuations.

Enhancing cost competitiveness: Local production can reduce exposure to freight costs and exchange-rate movements. When supported by efficient processes and adequate scale, it can also improve long-term cost stability.

Creating industrial opportunities: API manufacturing supports chemical intermediates, pharmaceutical machinery, analytical instruments, packaging, environmental services and specialised engineering. Growth in these sectors can generate skilled employment and stimulate investment.

Strengthening export potential: A stronger domestic ingredient ecosystem can help India offer international customers a more integrated pharmaceutical supply proposition, combining API production with finished dosage manufacturing, quality assurance and reliable delivery.

Self-reliance, however, should not mean eliminating every import regardless of economic feasibility. The priority must be to strengthen domestic capacity in strategically important categories while maintaining diversified sourcing for products where international procurement remains more efficient.

Government Initiatives: Accelerating Domestic Manufacturing

The Indian government has introduced several measures to strengthen pharmaceutical manufacturing and reduce import dependence.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for pharmaceuticals and the dedicated PLI scheme for the promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical KSMs, drug intermediates and APIs aim to encourage investment in priority products and improve the commercial viability of domestic production.

The development of bulk drug parks is another important initiative. These

CONTINUED ON p53▶

VIRGIN LINSEED OIL B.P.

Flaxseed Oil | Oleum Lini

Virgin Almond Oil
Virgin Walnut Oil
Virgin Coconut Oil
Virgin Sesame Oil
Virgin Moringa Oil
Virgin Grapeseed Oil
Virgin Safflower Oil
Virgin Jojoba Oil
Virgin Blackseed Oil
Virgin Karanja Oil
Virgin Neemseed Oil
Virgin Mustard Oil

Oilin™



Under Development:
Sesame Oil (BP, USP)
Arachis Oil (BP)
Almond Oil (BP)
Soyabean Oil (BP)

Scan to know more about Oilin

Scan for API

Zefelabs
Dakachya, Indore
oil@oilin.in | www.oilin.in

Shagun Pharmaceuticals
28 years of excellence
206, Sapphire Heights, A.B. Road, Indore (M.P.)
+91 0731 2572525 | +91 9229163608
info@shagunpharma.com
www.shagunpharma.com

For our retail range visit: shop.oilin.in

Positioning India as a global API powerhouse..

CONTINUED FROM p52▶

parks are designed to provide shared infrastructure, including common effluent treatment facilities, solvent recovery systems, utilities and testing facilities. Such infrastructure can reduce investment barriers and improve operational efficiency.

However, the success of these initiatives depends on more than incentives and infrastructure announcements. Manufacturers need reliable utilities, timely project implementation, predictable regulations and sufficient demand to operate facilities sustainably.

Policy support must therefore encourage commercially viable manufacturing, capacity utilisation and long-term competitiveness rather than merely increasing installed capacity.

Technology and Innovation: Driving the Next Phase of Growth

Technology adoption will be essential for India to transition from import substitution to global API leadership.

Automation, advanced process control and digital monitoring can improve manufacturing consistency, reduce errors and increase productivity. Artificial intelligence and data analytics can help manufacturers optimise reaction conditions, improve yields, anticipate equipment failures and identify process deviations.

Continuous manufacturing, where technically suitable, can improve process control, reduce production times and support more efficient resource utilisation. Similarly, advanced analytical technologies and Quality by Design principles can help manufacturers better understand the relationship between raw materials, manufacturing parameters and product quality.

Investment in process chemistry, crystallisation, impurity management and alternative synthesis routes can further improve efficiency and support the production of complex ingredients.

Biocatalysis and biotechnology-based processes also offer opportunities for selected pharmaceutical ingredients. Enzymatic reactions may improve selectivity and reduce the need for certain hazardous chemicals, depending on the specific manufacturing process.

Successful adoption requires investment in skilled personnel, validated systems, reliable data and cybersecurity. Technology must deliver measurable improvements in quality, productivity, safety and cost efficiency.

Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Responsibility

Expanding domestic API manufacturing must go hand in hand with environmental sustainability. Pharmaceutical ingredient production can involve substantial consumption of water, energy and organic solvents, alongside the generation of complex chemical waste.

Solvent recovery, improved reaction yields, heat recovery and efficient process design can reduce waste and operating costs. Modern effluent treatment facilities can help manufacturers manage wastewater responsibly, while energy-efficient equipment and appropriate renewable energy integration can reduce environmental impact.

Bulk drug parks can support these efforts through shared environmental infrastructure. However, effective treatment capacity, continuous monitoring and compliance with applicable standards remain essential.

Sustainability should be integrated into manufacturing decisions from the beginning. A competitive API industry must demonstrate that domestic production can be economically viable, environmentally responsible and compliant with international requirements.

CONTINUED ON p54▶



Positioning India as a global API powerhouse..

CONTINUED FROM p53▶

Strengthening Regulatory Excellence and Quality Standards

Global market access depends on consistent quality, robust documentation and regulatory compliance. API manufacturers must establish effective quality management systems, validated processes, reliable analytical methods and strong data integrity practices.

Regulatory readiness should be embedded throughout the manufacturing lifecycle rather than treated as a final step before export. Supplier qualification, batch traceability, deviation investigation and corrective and preventive actions are essential for maintaining product quality.

Indian manufacturers seeking to expand internationally must understand the requirements of their target markets and maintain readiness for applicable inspections.

Strong regulatory capabilities can differentiate Indian suppliers by building customer confidence and supporting long-term procurement relationships. Domestic sourcing delivers meaningful value only when ingredients meet required specifications and can be supplied consistently.

The Role of Pharmaceutical Machinery and Packaging

India's API ambitions also depend on the availability of reliable pharmaceutical machinery, process equipment and packaging solutions.

Reactors, centrifuges, dryers, filtration systems, crystallisers and solvent recovery units directly influence manufacturing efficiency, product consistency and operational safety. Modern equipment can improve process control, reduce material losses and support reproducible production.

Domestic machinery manufacturers can contribute by developing technically advanced equipment suited to pharmaceutical manufacturing requirements. Collaboration between pharmaceutical companies, engineering firms and research institutions can accelerate innovation and reduce dependence on selected imported technologies.

Packaging is equally important for preserving API integrity during storage, handling and transportation. Suitable packaging materials, effective sealing, clear labelling and traceability systems help protect ingredients from moisture, contamination and other environmental factors.

Strengthening domestic capabilities in machinery, automation, analytical equipment and packaging can therefore create value across the broader pharmaceutical supply chain.

Research, Skills and Industry Collaboration

Long-term API competitiveness requires sustained investment in research and development. Indian manufacturers must strengthen capabilities in process optimisation, green chemistry, analytical development and the commercial scale-up of complex manufacturing processes.

Collaboration between pharmaceutical companies, universities and research institutions can help translate laboratory research into commercially viable production methods. Pilot-scale facilities can identify challenges involving reaction kinetics, heat transfer, impurity formation and waste management before large investments are made.

Developing specialised talent is equally important. The industry needs skilled professionals in chemical engineering, process chemistry, analytical testing, quality assurance, regulatory affairs and automation.

A stronger research and talent ecosystem will help Indian manufacturers adopt advanced technologies, improve productivity and develop differentiated manufacturing capabilities.

The Road Ahead: Building a Globally Competitive API Ecosystem

India strategy should focus on six priorities: identifying strategically critical ingredients, developing integrated manufacturing clusters, accelerating process innovation, strengthening domestic supplier networks, improving regulatory capabilities and expanding exports.

Progress must be measured not only through investment announcements or new facilities, but also through reduced import concentration in priority categories, improved capacity utilisation, competitive production costs, stronger export performance and better environmental outcomes.

Long-term procurement agreements between API manufacturers and formulation companies can provide demand visibility and encourage domestic investment. Support for smaller manufacturers can strengthen the wider ecosystem, while international partnerships can provide access to advanced technologies, research expertise and global markets.

India must also recognise that self-reliance and global collaboration are complementary. Domestic manufacturing can strengthen supply-chain resilience, while diversified international partnerships can help secure technologies and inputs that are not economically viable to produce locally.

Conclusion: From Manufacturing Strength to Global Leadership

Positioning India as a global API powerhouse represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen pharmaceutical self-reliance, reduce critical import dependencies and improve the resilience of global medicine supply chains.

Government incentives and infrastructure development provide an important foundation, but lasting progress will depend on commercially viable production, technological advancement, environmental responsibility and consistent quality.

The way forward lies in building an integrated ecosystem that connects chemical intermediates, APIs, pharmaceutical machinery, research institutions and finished dosage manufacturers. By combining manufacturing scale with scientific innovation and regulatory excellence, India can strengthen its domestic capabilities while expanding its international influence.

Ultimately, the ambition must extend beyond replacing imported ingredients with locally manufactured alternatives. India must become a trusted global supplier of high-quality, competitively priced and sustainably produced pharmaceutical ingredients.

A stronger domestic API industry will not only support India's pharmaceutical ambitions but also contribute to more secure, affordable and reliable healthcare worldwide.

(The author is Leading Pharmaceutical Consultant and Editor- in Chief of IJMToday. Website - www.drsanjayagrawal.in)

FOR ALL YOUR REQUIREMENTS OF:

Agar Agar
Food grade, bacteriological grade, pharmaceutical grade, plant tissue culture grade and technical grade.

Spreadable Agar Agar – Wondergel
Cake/cold glaze, piping gel, marmalades, panna cotta, mousse, fondant, cheesecake, syrups, set, stirred and drinkable yoghurt, spreadable cheese, jam, bakery fillings.

Carrageenan (Refined, Semi refined & Blended)
Food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, personal care & home care.

Sodium alginate & Alginic acid
Antacid suspension, softgel capsules, food, pharmaceutical, impression grade, cosmetics.

Gellan gum (Plant gel)
Food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, plant tissue culture, personal care, home care and bio fertiliser.

Xanthan gum
Food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, personal care, home care, agricultural chemicals and paint industry.

Curdlan gum
Bake stable fillings, jellies, tofu, meat and plant-based meat applications.

Locust bean gum
Ice cream, frozen dessert, meat and plant-based meat applications, fruit juices, sauce, salad dressings.

Tara gum
Food, cosmetics, personal care and home care.

Guar gum
Food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, oral care, pet food, personal care, home care.

Carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC)
Food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, oral care, pet food, personal care, home care.

Gum arabic
Food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, paint industry, paper industry

Refined Konjac
Food, Pharmaceutical, Cosmetic, Pet food

Pectin
Candies, marshmallows, jellies, fruit crush, jam, marmalades, fillings, fruit toppings and sauces, yoghurt, fruit juice, glaze.

Agarose
DNA-RNA recovery, biochemistry, molecular biology, electrophoresis, DNA analysis etc.

Chitin & Chitosan
Chitosan powder - High bulk density
Agriculture, cattle feed, health care, hair care, skin care, oral care, food supplements, pharmaceuticals, water treatment, chromatography and binder for tobacco sheet.

Marine Hydrocolloids
Deepa Building, Santo Gopalan Road, Chullickal, Kochi-682 005 Kerala, India

CPHI India
23-25 November 2026
IICC, YASHOBHOOMI, Dwarka, New Delhi
Hall No: 2 | Stall No: 2J57
10.00 AM - 06.00 PM

Meron
+91 484 222 7241/ 222 3703/ 222 0802
Customer Care: +91 80869 83000
www.meron.com, Email: sales@meron.com