

Link: <https://theprint.in/health/india-pharmacy-to-world-but-sector-is-fragmented-unorganised-foreign-firms-lobby-says/603475/>

Home > Health > India 'pharmacy to world' but sector is fragmented, unorganised — foreign firms'

Health

## India 'pharmacy to world' but sector is fragmented, unorganised — foreign firms' lobby says

Report highlights loopholes in distribution chain of pharma products, but also stresses on India's important role in 'promoting local and global health goals'.

HIMANI CHANDNA 12 February, 2021 10:04 am IST



Medicinal drugs | Representational image | Pixabay

Text Size: A- A+

**New Delhi:** Lack of adherence to “proper guidelines” is responsible for counterfeiting of drugs, loss of revenue and market share for Indian pharmaceutical industry, according to a whitepaper released by a lobby of foreign drug makers, the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI).

The whitepaper was the result of a joint research conducted by the OPPI and Nexdigm (SKP), a multidisciplinary group that helps global organisations meet the needs of a dynamic business environment.

The paper, titled '*Good Distribution Practices for Pharmaceutical Products*', highlighted loopholes in the distribution chain of pharma products in India and also suggested remedial measures

As many as 26 top foreign drugmakers have given their suggestions for the Indian pharmaceutical industry and also highlighted its strengths and loopholes in the 30-page report, which was shared with ThePrint.

It includes suggestions from Astra-Zeneca, Eli-Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Merck, Novartis India, Novo Nordisk India, Pfizer Ltd, Roche and Sanofi.

The drugmakers have highlighted that there have been “numerous instances”, which have caused both “health and reputational damage” to Indian pharma industry. The reason were “flaws or lacunae” in the distribution system of medicines, they added.

They further said that the drugs banned for sale or withdrawn by the Drugs Controller General of India “should not be available in the market, but lapses are often noticed”.

“While no system is foolproof and risk-free, it is essential that robust processes and rules are in place and constantly improved whenever market failures occur,” the report said.

The paper also pointed out that in the last two decades, quality standards for manufacturing medicines across the globe have been evolving and becoming more stringent.

“It is crucial to bring the local Indian standards to a minimum base for all manufacturers so that we eliminate quality differences between India and global markets,” it suggested.