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DAY THREE

India's ascent as Vishwaguru in pharmaceuticals

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In the dynamic realm of pharmaceuticals, India is swiftly emerging as the Vishwaguru, the global leader guiding the world in innovative healthcare solutions. This remarkable journey is not just a narrative of numbers and statistics but a saga of resilience, innovation, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Genesis of India's pharma evolution: India's pharmaceutical story began modestly, evolving from a predominantly generic drug producer to a comprehensive healthcare solutions provider. The foundation was laid with a strong emphasis on research, development, and affordability. The result? A robust pharmaceutical ecosystem that not only caters to the immense domestic market but also competes fiercely on the global stage.

The pharmaceutical industry has undergone a re-

markable evolution on the global stage over the past two decades. In 2001, the worldwide revenue of the pharmaceutical sector was approximately US\$ 390.2 billion. Fast forward to 2014, and this figure had surged to an impressive US\$ 1 trillion. As of 2023, the industry has continued its upward trajectory, with revenues reaching a staggering US\$ 1.5 trillion. Projections for 2027 are equally promising, foreseeing a robust growth to US\$2.2 trillion at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6.4 per cent.

Indian pharmaceutical industry, a significant player in this landscape, mirrors this growth. Valued at US\$ 55 billion in 2020 with a CAGR of 15.92 per cent, it is expected to ascend to US\$65 billion by 2024 and an impressive US\$130 billion by 2030. India stands proudly among the top three pharmaceutical markets in terms of

incremental growth and holds the sixth position globally in absolute market size. These numbers underscore the industry's resilience and potential, driven by technological advancements, innovation, and an increasing focus on healthcare globally.

Innovation at the core: At the heart of India's pharmaceutical prowess lies a commitment to innovation. Indian pharmaceutical companies are investing heavily in research and development, fostering an environment that nurtures groundbreaking discoveries. From novel drug formulations to cutting-edge biotechnological advancements, India is at the forefront of shaping the future of medicine.

Affordable excellence: One of India's most significant contributions to global healthcare is the ability to produce high-quality medicines at a fraction of the cost compared to the West.

This commitment to affordability has not only made healthcare accessible to millions within the country but has also positioned India as the pharmacy of the world. Generic drugs produced in India have played a pivotal role in addressing global health challenges, ensuring that life-saving medications reach even the remotest corners of the globe.

Global pharmaceutical export powerhouse: India, a global pharmaceutical powerhouse, serves as a vital exporter to over 200 countries. Notably, it plays a key role in supplying over 50 per cent of Africa's generics, 40 per cent of the generic demand in the US, and 25 per cent of medicines in the UK. In 2022, India's pharmaceutical exports reached an impressive US\$25 billion.

The country's diverse pharmaceutical output includes 60,000 generic brands across 60 therapeutic catego-

ries, contributing 20 per cent to global generics supply. India boasts the highest number of US-FDA compliant manufacturing plants outside the USA, with over 3,000 pharmaceutical companies and 10,500 facilities.

This robust infrastructure, coupled with cost advantages, establishes India as a key player in global pharmaceutical production. Its dominance in vaccine production, constituting 60 per cent of the global share, reinforces its critical role in meeting the World Health Organization's vaccine demands. Every third global vaccine dose originates from an Indian manufacturing facility, highlighting India's indispensable contribution to global healthcare.

India's prowess in Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API): India's prowess is a crucial aspect of the global pharmaceutical supply chain, with

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an annual turnover surpassing US\$ 2 trillion. This sector, hosting over 58,000 manufacturers, significantly contributes to employment, benefiting nearly 2 million individuals. In the fiscal year 2022, the Indian API industry demonstrated resilience and adaptability, achieving notable growth of 7 to 9 per cent.

This growth is fueled by market access to developing nations and emerging economies, solidifying India's position as a major player in the pharmaceutical landscape and a key contributor to global healthcare solutions. Notably, among India's 237 billionaires, 40 have derived significant wealth from pharmaceutical companies, underlining the economic significance of this sector.

Regulatory reforms: India's pharmaceutical sector has undergone a substantial metamorphosis in terms

of regulatory frameworks. With a focus on aligning with international standards, Indian regulatory bodies have fostered an environment of trust and reliability. Stringent quality control measures and compliance with global standards have bolstered confidence in Indian pharmaceutical products worldwide.

Global collaborations and partnerships: The Vishwaguru does not stand alone. India has actively sought and embraced collaborations with international pharmaceutical companies, research institutions, and regulatory bodies. These collaborations have not only enhanced India's technological capabilities but have also facilitated knowledge exchange, propelling the nation into a leadership role in global pharmaceutical research and development.

Digital revolution in healthcare: In the age of Industry 4.0,

India is spearheading a digital revolution in healthcare, utilizing technology for telemedicine, bridging geographical gaps, and employing sophisticated data analytics for drug discovery.

This integration of technology not only enhances efficiency but also positions India at the forefront of smart healthcare. Globally, the healthcare landscape is rapidly evolving due to the transformative power of Information Technology (IT).

Projections for the global healthcare IT market foresee a surge to US\$ 390.7 billion by 2024 from US\$ 187.6 billion in 2019, with an impressive Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15.8 per cent. Simultaneously, India anticipates significant growth in healthcare technology adoption, with the healthcare market expected to reach Rs 485.43 billion by 2024, propelled by a CAGR

of approximately 27.41 per cent from 2019 to 2024.

The global market for artificial intelligence in healthcare is projected to rise from one billion to over US\$ 28 billion by 2025. The synergy of healthcare and big data is evident, with the global healthcare big data market expected to surge from US \$11.5 billion to nearly US \$70 billion between 2016 and 2025. This data-driven revolution is reshaping healthcare paradigms globally, promising innovative solutions and improved patient outcomes.

Navigating challenges with resilience: No ascent is without challenges, and India's pharmaceutical journey is no exception. The industry has faced issues ranging from patent regulations to global economic fluctuations. However, the adaptability and resilience of India's pharmaceutical leaders have turned challenges into stepping stones

for further growth.

The vision Forward: As India takes on the mantle of the Vishwaguru in pharmaceuticals, the vision is clear — to continue leading with innovation, affordability, and a commitment to global health. The narrative is shifting from being the world's pharmacy to becoming the world's healthcare solution provider.

In conclusion, "PharmaRising: India's Ascent to Global Leadership as the Vishwaguru in Pharmaceuticals" is not just a story; it's a testament to the transformative power of vision, dedication, and the unwavering spirit of a nation committed to shaping a healthier world. India is not merely rising; it is soaring to unprecedented heights, beckoning the world to join in this transformative journey. ♦

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