Strengthening Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Market Access: Need for Standards and Compliance

29th May 2026 | 0930 – 1330 hrs | Hotel Park, Hyderabad

Agenda

0930 – 1000 hrs	**Registration**

1000 – 1030 hrs	**Inaugural Session**
Welcome Remarks	***Mr. Sumanta Chaudhuri*** *Principal Advisor, International Trade Policy Division, CII*
Context Setting	***Mr Ashit Kundra,*** *Regional Director: Healthcare Assurance Asia*

1030 – 1130 hrs **From Compliance to Competitiveness: The Role of Standards in Global Market Access**

As India advances its ambition of becoming the "Pharmacy of the World," standards and regulatory compliance are emerging as critical enablers of its global pharmaceutical leadership. Backed by a strong manufacturing base and deeper integration into global value chains, India is well-positioned to serve as a reliable supplier of affordable, high-quality medicines and medical devices.

At the same time, the global pharmaceutical landscape is becoming increasingly regulated, with greater emphasis on quality assurance, traceability, sustainability, and adherence to international standards. Compliance with evolving regulatory requirements and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) is no longer optional, but essential for market access, competitiveness, and building global trust. While India's FTAs with partners such as the EU and UK provide tariff advantages and improved market access, the pharmaceutical sector continues to face significant non-tariff barriers in the form of stringent standards and regulatory frameworks.

Recent trade agreements and negotiations with partners including Australia, the UAE, Oman, and New Zealand have incorporated dedicated annexes on pharmaceuticals and medical devices. These provisions aim to streamline market access through the recognition of GMP and GCP inspection reports and approvals by comparable regulators such as the US FDA, EMA, UK MHRA, and Health Canada. Such measures can help reduce duplicative inspections, lower compliance costs, and accelerate product approvals, thereby strengthening India's pharmaceutical and medical devices exports.

Against this backdrop, the session will examine the strategic role of standards in enhancing the global competitiveness of India's pharmaceutical sector, navigating complex regulatory regimes, and leveraging FTAs to deepen integration into global healthcare value chains.

- ***Moderator****: Mr. Sumanta Chaudhuri, Principal Advisor, International Trade Policy Division, CII*
- ***Panelists:***
  - *Mr. Vishishth Malhotra, Associate, Centre for Trade and Investment Law*
  - *Dr Aparna Dhawan, Global Director, Eurofins Assurance*
  - *Dr Saurabh Lall, Chief Operating Officer, KIMS Hospitals*

1130 - 1145 hrs	**Launch of CII International Trade Policy Outcome Report 2025-26 with support from CTIL and CWS.** • *Mr. Sumanta Chaudhuri, Principal Advisor, International Trade Policy Division, CII* • *Dr James Nedumpara, Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law (virtual)* • *Dr Pritam Banerjee, Head, Centre for WTO Studies (virtual)*
1145 – 1215 hrs	**Tea & Coffee Break**
1215 - 1305 hrs	**Navigating Global Standards: Practical Approaches to Compliance and Risk Management**

As global regulatory expectations continue to evolve, pharmaceutical companies are increasingly required to strengthen their internal systems, processes, and supplier networks to remain competitive in international markets. This session will focus on practical approaches to identifying and addressing compliance gaps, while building robust and future-ready quality systems.

The discussion will highlight how companies can undertake structured gap assessments by comparing key global regulatory frameworks, and translate these insights into clear, prioritized action plans. It will also explore ways to enhance internal systems, ranging from quality management and data integrity to validation and corrective action processes, to ensure consistent compliance and operational efficiency.

A key focus will be on strengthening supplier ecosystems through risk-based approaches, mock audits, and simulation exercises that help organizations prepare for real-world regulatory scenarios. By combining risk management with system improvements and supplier readiness, the session aims to provide participants with actionable insights to improve compliance, reduce regulatory risks, and enhance overall industry preparedness for global markets.

- *Mr Sapan Panda, Technical Manager Asia: Healthcare Assurance*

1305 –1320 hrs	**Q&A with audience**
1320 –1330 hrs	**Discussion and services of the Trade Remedies Advisory Cell at CTIL** • *Ms. Tanvi Praveen, Consultant, Centre for Trade and Investment Law*
1330 - 1335 hrs	**Vote of Thanks**
1335 hrs -	**Lunch**

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