

[POLITICS ▾](#)[GOVERNANCE ▾](#)[ECONOMY ▾](#)[DEFENCE](#)[INDIA](#)[FEATURES ▾](#)[OPINION ▾](#)[EVENTS ▾](#)[VIDEO](#)[MORE ▾](#)

[Home](#) › [India](#) › [Governance](#) › [CSIR working on making 56 bulk drugs in India as Modi govt...](#)

[India](#)[Governance](#)[Health](#)

CSIR working on making 56 bulk drugs in India as Modi govt wants to cut imports from China

China is the biggest supplier of ingredients for drug production in India. Govt has drawn up list of 56 APIs for essential drugs with plans to make them in India.



@rahulsai222



@rahulsai222_siq

UPSC/IAS | (Pre + Mains)

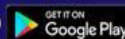
Smart Course



**No Cost EMI
Available**



Visit studyyiq.com or Download The APP



The Big Question

Are we
Atmanirbhar in
terms of API?



AATMA-NIRBHAR
BHARAT

The Observation

What is API?

API or active pharmaceutical ingredient is the main raw material chemical used in a medicine

India imports
around **80-85%**
of API from China



➤ API accounts for around **10%** of India's **₹79,000-crore** pharma market

➤ In 2007, they accounted for **15-20%** of the **₹35,000-cr** domestic pharma industry

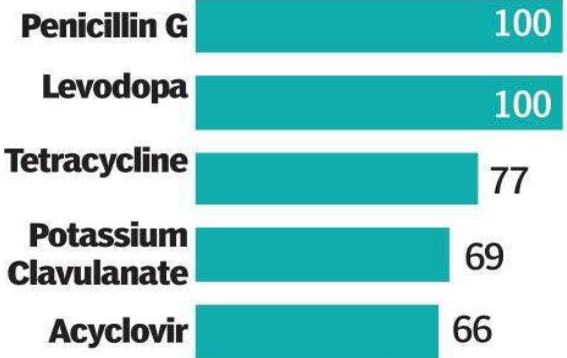
➤ Companies like Sun Pharma, Lupin and Dr Reddy's Labs manufacture APIs mostly for captive usage

➤ Most Indian companies are importing API from China at **15-20%** lower cost

HIGH DEPENDENCY

➤ India relies solely on Chinese imports for 8 out of 68 APIs

API imports from China (in %)



Source: IPA
member cos;
Data is for April
2019-January 2020

80%+
Of total API
imports

The Observation

- Even now, India imports as much as 66 per cent of its APIs from China.
- While China is the biggest supplier of APIs to India, the latter also imports the ingredients from several other nations like Germany, the US, Italy and Singapore.
- Over the years, there has been a gradual reduction in the value of imports from China.

The News

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals has drawn up a list of **56 APIs to prioritise them for the Make-in-India initiative.**
- These include APIs or bulk drugs that go into the **making of essential drugs, such as antibiotics, anti-HIV medicines, and paracetamol.**

The Development

In light of decision by Department of Pharmaceuticals, **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has started working with the coal and petroleum industries to generate chemicals that form the main therapeutic components in various medicines, in a bid to permanently address India's dependence on China for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).



Whaaat...Coal & Petroleum industries?

- Currently, the focus is on APIs that can be generated through fermentation processes rather than chemical processes in a laboratory. Hence, the spotlight is on the petroleum and coal industries.
- Both Coal & Petroleum industries deal with carbon compounds that form the basis of organic chemistry and drug-making. The current idea is to do end-to-end production of 56 APIs but, for now, the priority is on fermentation products.
- In the first phase, the focus is on about 30 ingredients.

What's the target?

- CSIR will be working with Coal & Petroleum industries that deal with five-six of seven carbon compounds that can be purified and used as APIs.
- The CSIR is hopeful that they will be able to gain self sufficiency in 10-12 APIs in the coming 2-3 years.