

## Leader in South Asia

**The Indian pharmaceutical industry, as payal shah discovers after attending a national conference, is going great guns**

THE Indian pharmaceutical industry grew from Rs 30, 200 crore in 2007 to Rs 33, 500 crore in 2008 and will likely grow to Rs 140, 000 crore by 2020. Companies are expanding bases and are lot more stable than other in industries reflected in their impressive performance. India is the pharmacy of the world, especially the Third World countries. It exports products to more than 200 nations including the USA, Russia, Germany, Britain and Brazil. India is also the leading supplier of Aids drugs. Pharmaceutical exports — valued in US dollars — registered an impressive growth rate of 30.7 per cent terms during April-October 2008, and the trend is likely to continue, as Indian companies account for 35 per cent of all Abbreviated New Drug Application approvals given by the USA Drug Regulatory Authority.

A national conference on "Innovations and Opportunities in Pharmaceutical Technology: Industry Institute Interaction", organised recently, saw the participation of eminent figures from the industry like Dr Chintamani Ghosh, director, Directorate of Drugs Control, and Professor PK Mahapatra, pro-vice-chancellor, West Bengal University of Technology. Also present on the occasion was Dr Madhav K Chattopadhyay, a scientist associated with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad who highlighted the importance of research in biotechnology.

"CCMB has recently started a summer training programme open to Indian university students, which is markedly different from conventional classroom lecture-based training programmes. We select around 45 trainees and each of them is expected to do a small project work under the guidance of a scientist. At the end of the programme, students need to submit a project report and would be required to make an oral presentation. The programme aims to give students experience of research in the hope that it inculcates in them the zeal for research," he said. Pointing out the benefits of a Jadavpur Alumni Association initiative he said, "The programme focuses on school children. Scientists are assigned to deliver lectures on selected topics with the objective of triggering interest in science." Dr Subhasis Maity, principal, NSHM College of Pharmaceutical Technology was of the view that both pharmaceutical research and the medicine market growth in and healthcare management. Sharing of knowledge, experience, innovations and inventions along with collaborative research and development activities between the industry and institutes is a very positive development.

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