



# THE PHARMA OBSERVER

**R. Tim Webster (1946-2003)** Founder and long-time executive director of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

**Philo Carpenter (1805 -1886)** first pharmacist in Chicago, Arriving during a cholera outbreak, he helped treat the victims



## NEWS DIGEST

### Govt. to spend Rs. 3k cr. to set up labs, double drug regulators

The government will spend about Rs 3,000 crore to double the number of drug regulators to 1,000 in three years and set up testing labs at ports to ensure that pharmaceutical export shipments meet global quality standards.

### USFDA lists out expectations from Indian pharma

These were listed as the four crucial propositions that went into the making of the pillars of good quality systems, according to Leslie Ball, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Director, Office of International Program at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She was speaking in Hyderabad as part of the first in a series of workshops for the Indian drug industry and the regulators from India's Central Drug Standards Organisation (CDSCO)

## India is heavily dependent on China for drug imports

India has become heavily import dependent on China when it comes to many essential and large-volume drugs making it vulnerable to sudden disruption of supplies. The study cites the gradual erosion of domestic manufacturing capacity for certain key Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and steady migration of Indian pharma players to value-added formulations with higher margins as the primary reasons behind the disturbing trend of heavy reliance on Chinese imports. Over a period of time, Indian players have steadily migrated up the value chain to focus on value-added formulations with higher margins. As a result, India is today severely dependent on imports for many essential and large-volume drugs. China could easily increase prices of some of these drugs where it enjoys virtual monopoly.



## European regulators find fault at Ranbaxy's Toansa plant

**RANBAXY**  
Trusted medicines. Healthier lives

European regulators have completed their assessment of manufacturing violations at Ranbaxy Laboratories' facility in Toansa and although deficiencies were found, they pose no risk to public health. The move stands in stark contrast to the response of US regulators to the deficiencies found at the plant. The Food and Drug Administration barred Ranbaxy in January from making and selling pharmaceutical ingredients from the Toansa facility in Punjab "to prevent substandard quality products from reaching US consumers."

**Reference** : From various official websites  
**Chief Editor** : PRATHAMESH KHOT.

## Three challenges Modi govt faces in pharma sector

Three issues that need to be addressed by the new government in the pharma sector:

1. There is need to speed up the process of approvals for launch of new products and for permissions to undertake bioequivalence studies
2. There is need to simplify procedures linked to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board with respect to the pharmaceutical industry.
3. The government should create or encourage the setting up of industrial parks and special economic zones for the pharmaceutical industry .