



# drishti

## No Orders of Hydroxychloroquine to BCPL

---

 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/no-orders-of-hydroxychloroquine-to-bcpl](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/no-orders-of-hydroxychloroquine-to-bcpl)

### Why in News

---

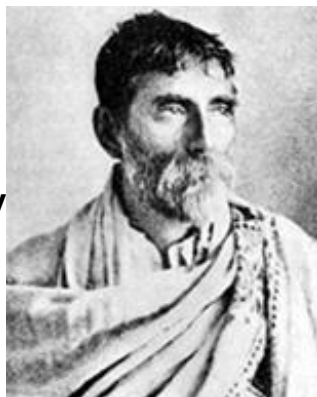
It has been alleged that the **central government is not giving orders to the Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) to produce anti-malarial drugs.**

### Key Points

---

- The Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) is the **only Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) that produces the anti-malarial drug** in the country, i.e. manufactures **chloroquine phosphate**.
  - The **government-owned corporations are termed as Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** in India. In a PSU majority (51% or more) of the share capital is held by the central government or by any state government or partly by the central governments and partly by one or more state governments.
  - The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audits government companies**.
- Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., precursor of the Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd, **was formed by Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray on April 12, 1901**.
  - The company became the **first Indian Company to manufacture quality Chemicals, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Home Products**, employing indigenous technology, skill and raw materials.
  - The Management of Bengal Chemical was taken over by the Government of India and the **Union Government nationalized the Organization on December 15, 1980**. A new Government Company, Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) was launched on March 27, 1981.

## Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray



- Known as **“Father of Indian Chemistry”**, Prafulla Chandra Ray (1861-1944) was a well-known Indian scientist and teacher and one of the first “modern” Indian chemical researchers.
- He **discovered the stable compound mercurous nitrite** in 1896.
- The **British Government** first honoured him with the imperial title of **CIE (Companion of the Indian Empire)**; and then with the **Knighthood** in 1919.
- In 1920, he was **elected General President of the Indian Science Congress**.
- As a nationalist he also wanted that the Bengalis should come up in the world of enterprise. He himself set an example by establishing a chemical firm called the **Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works (1901)**.
- He was a true rationalist and was **completely against the caste system** and other irrational social systems. He persistently carried on this work of social reformation till he passed away.

**Source: TH**