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## Afghanistan First Country to Recognise Indian Pharmacopoeia

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### Why in News

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The **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** has **formally recognised** the **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)**.

It is a reputable book of standards for drugs. Now it will be used in Afghanistan to ensure quality of health products.

### Indian Pharmacopoeia

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- It is an officially recognized book of standards as per the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** and **Rules 1945** thereunder.
- As per the **Second Schedule of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act**, IP is designated as the **official book of standards for drugs imported and/or manufactured for sale, stock or exhibition for sale or distribution in India**.
  - It specifies the **standards of drugs manufactured and marketed in India** in terms of their **identity, purity and strength**.
- Standards prescribed in the IP are authoritative in nature and are enforced by the regulatory authorities for quality control of medicines in India.
- It is being **published** as an official document for improving quality of medicines by way of adding new and updating existing monographs by the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission**.

### Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

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- It is an **autonomous institution** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** which is responsible to set standards of drugs in the country.

- It **promotes public and animal health in India** by bringing out authoritative and officially accepted standards for quality of drugs including active pharmaceutical ingredients, excipients and dosage forms, used by health professionals, patients and consumers.
- It also develops **IP Reference Substances (IPRS)** that act as fingerprints for identification of an article under test and its purity as prescribed in the IP monographs.

### **The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**

- It is an **act of Parliament** which regulates the import, manufacturing and distribution of drugs in India.
- Its **objective** is to ensure that the drugs and cosmetics sold in India are safe, effective and fulfils the safety standards and parameters.

**Source: PIB**