

## Gujarat witnesses exponential growth in pharma exports

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Pharma exports from Gujarat have grown six-fold in the last decade, crossing \$3 billion mark in 2016, according to state government officials.

Gujarat, is counted among the leading pharmaceutical manufacturing hubs in the country with an almost 35 per cent share in national production and around 28 per cent share in pharma exports. The state has registered a six-fold growth in pharma exports over the last decade.

According to H G Koshia, commissioner of Gujarat Food and Drug Control Administration (FDCA), exports have grown from \$562 million in 2006 to \$3 billion in 2016. He added that the state houses several World Health Organization (WHO) certified manufacturing units,

apart from US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) and European Union (EU) approved sites.

The state has over 3,300 pharma manufacturing units. Of these, around 255 are WHO certified. There are also 23 Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) certified by the Government of UK. The state also has another 15 EU certified units.

"This is a significant number given that only about 10-15 per cent of the manufacturing units in the country have WHO and good manufacturing practices (GMP) certifications," Koshia said. There are around 100 bulk drug manufacturing units in the state. Gujarat houses nearly 135 licensed medical devices manufacturers in the country, out of the total 240-250 such firms in the country.