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## India focus for pharma companies

Press Trust of India

London, March 29

India may be the next destination for large-scale clinical trials by pharmaceuticals companies, research by a British consultancy suggests.

The shifts in India's legal and patent policies, together with emerging Indian pharmaceutical companies could increase the proportion of global clinical trials done in India from 1 per cent to 10 per cent, Sunil Shah, spokesperson at Oxygen Healthcare said.

"The opportunities in India for the drug development industry in the next five years are comparable to the impact on the technology industry over the last five," he was quoted as saying by the 'Daily Telegraph'.

Already, a number of multinational drug companies have invested in India. AstraZeneca has opened a 10 million dollar research facility in Bangalore, while Pfizer has moved into Mumbai. Glaxo Smithkline has entered an innovative partnership with Indian drug company Ranbaxy to develop drugs.

Shah estimates that the cost of conducting a clinical trial on a drug in India is less than half of the total cost in the UK. Another factor for its popularity is the large number of medical graduates fluent in English that come from India's 162 medical colleges every year. PTI HSR HVN

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