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DCGI goes online with approval process

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E-governance will help the regulator and government maintain data related to drug approvals and clinical trials. Recently, the regulator and the health and family welfare ministry were rapped by the Supreme Court for lack of data management and monitoring in clinical trials and deaths that occurred during these.

The move is also in line with the key areas identified by health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan. After the new government formation at the Centre early last week, Vardhan had said he would move fast to put in place e-governance systems in all government-to-citizen and government-to-business interfaces under the ministry. "Accountability standards will be fixed at the highest level and corruption will be checked at source with transparent systems," the minister said.

The minister in his first briefing had given instructions to follow e-governance model. The regulator's office was studying the models of US Food and Drug Administration, UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and Canada drug regulator.