

## Anupriya Patel inaugurates 22nd AHWP conference

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Anupriya Patel, MoS (Health & Family Welfare) recently inaugurated the 22nd conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) at New Delhi.

The five day conference is being conducted by Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and National Drug Regulatory Authority (NDRA) of India in collaboration with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The key objective of the event is to develop and recommend approaches for the convergence and harmonization of medical device regulations in Asia and beyond and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise amongst regulators and the industry.

The inaugural function was also attended by Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW), Dr. R K Vats, Additional Secretary (Health) along with the other senior officers of the Ministry, CDSCO, NDRA, dignitaries from other countries and representatives of the development partners.

Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) was established in 1999 as a voluntary non-profit organization of the 30 national regulators of member countries and industry members with a goal to promote regulatory harmonization on medical device regulations in Asia and other regions in accordance with the guidance issued by International Medical Device Regulators Forums (IMDRF).

The AHWP works in collaboration with related international organizations such as IMDRF, WHO, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), etc.

The Health Ministry has recently come out with the regulation i.e. Medical Devices Rules, 2017, for better harmonization with global regulatory practices and to have transparent, predictable and robust regulatory system which will further ensure safety, quality and performance of medical devices and In vitro diagnostics being manufactured in the country.

Additionally, the Government has already allowed 100% FDI in the medical devices sector to promote Make in India.

The Government intends that with such efforts, affordable medical devices to the best of the quality standards, is made available to the citizens across the vast and diverse geographical locations.