



## PHARMACEUTICALS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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News / Story reproduced with thanks:- **Indian Express**

### Pharma firm, university join hands to manufacture drug

Direct link to the News/Story:-

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Pharma-firm--university-join-hands-to-manufacture-drug/629133>

**Chandigarh** : Research done in professional institutes is usually restricted to laboratories and thesis. But Jalandhar-based Lovely Professional University (LPU) and Synkrom Healthcare Limited, Chandigarh, intend to change the scenario. Joshanda Lozenges, a drug to cure cough, developed by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at LPU, will be manufactured by the Chandigarh-based firm. The company plans to file for an international patent in the near future.

Talking to The Indian Express, Dr Monica Gulati, Dean, Pharmaceutical Sciences, said, “Joshanda, a polyherbal mixture, has been used for centuries in the traditional system of medicine for the treatment of respiratory disorders. The dry mixture (known as karha) is available in the market. It has to be boiled for 15 minutes before use.”

Dr Gulati added, “A survey revealed that Joshanda did not enjoy worldwide popularity because the boiling process is found cumbersome. So, our department thought to work on it and convert the mixture into cough drops, which are called as Joshanda lozenges.”

She said the drug has a long lasting soothing effect which also shows remarkable inhibitory activity on the bacteria. “Other results proved Joshanda to be an effective drug as against other prescribed cough suppressants. When taken, there are no side effects,” Dr Gulati added. Satyakam Rahul, Managing Director, Synkrom Healthcare, confirmed that the company would manufacture Joshanda lozenges. “The department has done its job at the research level. We have signed an agreement and will evaluate the data, after which it will be filed for an international patent. Later, we will also take approval from the Food and Drug Authority,” he added.

Speaking about the agreement, Parikshit Bansal, in charge of the Intellectual Property Rights Cell at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali, said, “Research should not just be restricted to labs. Joshanda is a traditional medicine which has been found effective against cough and other respiratory disorders. If found commercially viable, such a research can be turned into a market drug.”