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# E-NEWSLETTER

## PHARMABUZZ @ SCOPians

Issue 4, June 2024



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## NEWS



### **Regulatory Reforms and Policy Initiatives**

*Revised Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP):* In January 2024, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare updated Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, aligning India's

GMP standards with those of the World Health Organization. This revision aimed to enhance the quality of pharmaceutical manufacturing, addressing global concerns about drug safety. *Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme:* In March 2024, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers approved the revamped scheme to support pharmaceutical MSMEs in meeting national and international regulatory standards. The scheme expanded eligibility and introduced a turnover-based incentive structure to encourage technological advancements.



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### **Industry Outlook and Budgetary Requests**

The pharmaceutical industry has requested fiscal incentives to boost research and development (R&D) as it anticipates reaching a market size of USD 400–450 billion by 2047. Sudarshan Jain, the Secretary General of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, emphasised the high-risk nature, long gestation period, and low success rate of research, underscoring the need for continuous investments. Jain called for the budget for 2024–25 to introduce policies that offer benefits in terms of both direct and indirect taxes, along with facilitating a business-friendly environment for pharmaceutical companies.



**Clinical Pharmacists in healthcare can ensure equal, affordable and accessible distribution of medicines across different healthcare levels: Dr Rao V S V**

### **Vadlamudi, Professional Secretary, FIP**

In a landmark gathering aimed at reshaping the landscape of pharmaceutical care and fortifying healthcare resilience, the tenth Hiranandani Pharmacy Conclave (HiPCon 2024) unfolded its significance in Mumbai on January 21. Under the auspices of Dr L H Hiranandani Hospital, the day-long event witnessed the convergence of pharmacists, clinical experts, and pharmacy students from Maharashtra and beyond. HiPCon 2024, with its exclusive theme "Optimising Patient Health: Empowering Pharmacists for Tomorrow," not only underscored the pivotal role of pharmacists but also set the stage for discussions on pressing healthcare challenges.



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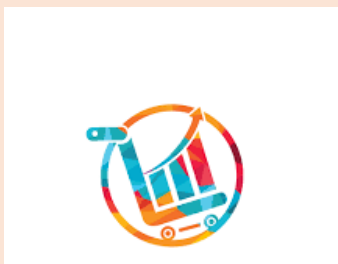
### Regulatory and Supply Chain Developments



*Pharmaceutical Localization Efforts:* In the first half of 2024, governments worldwide increasingly focused on localizing pharmaceutical manufacturing to enhance drug security and stimulate economic growth. For instance, France introduced a strategic roadmap aiming to reinforce its pharmaceutical

supply chain, including measures to incentivize drug makers to establish local production facilities. *Surge in Demand for GLP-1 Agonists:* The demand for GLP-1 agonists, used in diabetes and weight management, surged in early 2024. Leading manufacturers like Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly invested heavily in expanding production to meet this rising demand, reflecting the market's robust growth potential.

### Market Dynamics



*Sycamore Partners' Acquisition of Walgreens Boots Alliance,* Sycamore Partners, a U.S.-based private equity firm, agreed to acquire Walgreens Boots Alliance, the owner of the UK pharmacy chain Boots, for \$10 billion. This move aims to address the company's declining market value and operational challenges, including increased online competition and legal issues.

*Challenges Post-Walgreens' Acquisition of Boots:* Following Walgreens' acquisition of Boots a decade ago, the combined entity faced significant challenges, including declining stock value, increased competition, and costly expansions that did not yield expected returns. These issues led to strategic shifts and ongoing restructuring efforts.



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### Medicare kicks off first price review



The federal government is set to begin [price negotiations](#) on the ten costliest prescription drugs covered by Medicare this week. The negotiations, as mandated by the Inflation Reduction Act, are scheduled to run through Aug. 1 before final prices are announced on Sept. 1. It's uncharted territory for Medicare, which has never before been able to directly haggle with drug makers over prices. The ten drugs under negotiation are Eliquis, Jardiance, Xarelto, Januvia, Enbrel, Imbruvica, Farxiga, Entresto, Stelara, Fiasp and Novolog. Together, these ten drugs accounted for \$50.5 billion, or 20%, of Medicare Part D spending from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023 according to the CMS.

### City of Boston Sues Major PBMs Over Role in Opioid Crisis



The City of Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission and the Boston Housing Authority [filed a lawsuit](#) in Suffolk County Superior Court and names some of the largest PBMs in the US, including Express Scripts and OptumRx. Boston's lawsuit accuses the pharmacy benefit managers of colluding with drug makers to maximize profits by prioritizing the prescribing of addictive opioids despite the risks. The companies, the lawsuit alleges, profited from deals with drug makers that made it easier to prescribe opioids in exchange for financial incentives.



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### **COLLEGE ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE**

#### **Sports Day Celebration (16/02/2024)**



The Sports Day celebration at our college was a grand success, bringing together students and faculty for a day of athleticism and camaraderie. The event featured a variety of activities, including track and field events, team games, and fun activities like football and volleyball. The competition was fierce, but the spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship prevailed throughout the day. Participants demonstrated excellent skill and enthusiasm, while the audience cheered them on with unwavering support. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, celebrating the winners and ensuring everyone left with a sense of achievement and joy.

#### **Traditional Day Celebration (17/002/2024)**



The Traditional Day celebration at our college was a vibrant showcase of cultural diversity and heritage. Students, faculty, and staff participated enthusiastically, dressing in traditional attire representing various regions and cultures. The event featured a variety of performances, including traditional dances, music, and folk plays, which highlighted the rich cultural tapestry of the country. The celebration not only fostered a sense of unity among students but also provided an opportunity to appreciate and respect diverse traditions. It was an enjoyable and educational experience for all involved.



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### **Celebration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti (19/02/2025)**



The celebration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti at college was a grand and inspiring event, honoring the birth of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The day began with a procession, where students and faculty, dressed in traditional attire, paid tribute to the great king by offering flowers at his portrait.

Cultural performances, including patriotic songs, traditional dances, and skits depicting Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's life and valor, were held. Guest speakers shared inspiring stories of his leadership and bravery. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, reminding everyone of the importance of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj contributions to our history and culture. It was a truly memorable occasion.

### **National Level Pharm career workshop (02/03/2024)**



The National Level Pharm Career Workshop provided an insightful platform for students and professionals in the pharmaceutical industry. It featured expert speakers discussing various career opportunities in pharmaceuticals, including research, development, marketing, and regulatory affairs. Attendees gained

knowledge on the evolving trends in the field, the skills required for success, and the importance of continuous learning. Networking opportunities were provided, fostering connections between industry leaders and aspiring professionals. The workshop also included interactive sessions and career guidance, equipping participants with the tools and strategies to pursue successful careers in the pharmaceutical sector.



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### Alternatives to animal testing

The number of animals used in research has increased with the advancement of research and development in medical technology. Every year, millions of experimental animals are used all over the world. The pain, distress and death experienced by the animals during scientific experiments have been a debating issue for a long time. Besides the major concern of ethics, there are few more disadvantages of animal experimentation like requirement of skilled manpower, time consuming protocols and high cost. Various alternatives to animal\_testing were proposed to overcome the drawbacks associated with animal experiments and avoid the unethical procedures. A strategy of 3 Rs (i.e. reduction, refinement and replacement) is being applied for laboratory use of animals. Different methods and alternative organisms are applied to implement this strategy. These methods provide an alternative means for the drug and chemical testing, up to some levels. A brief account of these alternatives and advantages associated is mentioned in literature. An integrated application of these approaches would give an insight into minimum use of animals in scientific experiments.

**Ms. Kimaya. P. Joshi (Assistant Professor)**

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