



कामये दुःखतप्तानाम् प्राणिनामार्तिनाशनम्

Encapsulating the Future of Pharmacy

Achievements of PCI

Website - <https://pci.gov.in>

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(Statutory body under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
Government of India

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JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA



मंत्री
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण
व रसायन एवं उर्वरक
भारत सरकार

Minister
Health & Family Welfare
and Chemicals & Fertilizers
Government of India

MESSAGE

On this World Pharmacists Day, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your invaluable contributions to the healthcare sector. This year's theme, "Pharmacists: Meeting Global Health Needs," perfectly captures the vital role you play in addressing the health challenges of today's world.

Pharmacists are at the forefront of the healthcare system, ensuring the safe and effective use of medications. Your expertise not only enhances patient outcomes but also supports vital public health initiatives.

In our interconnected world, your responsibilities have expanded beyond merely dispensing medicines. Your ability to bridge the gap between patients and the healthcare system ensures that everyone has access to the care they need, regardless of their circumstances.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted your resilience and adaptability as you continued to provide essential services under challenging conditions. As we look to the future, your commitment and professionalism will remain key in addressing global health needs. You are an essential part of the global healthcare workforce, and your contributions are vital for achieving universal health coverage and improving health outcomes worldwide.

I thank you all for your unwavering dedication and for the critical role you play in improving the health and well-being of our communities.

(Jagat Prakash Nadra)



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भारतीय भेषजी परिषद
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MESSAGE

"Happy World Pharmacists Day-2024!"

Dear Fellow Pharmacists

Today, we celebrate the invaluable contributions of pharmacists in promoting health and wellness worldwide. Your dedication to ensuring safe and effective medication use, as well as providing pharmaceutical care to individuals and communities, is truly commendable. The theme for this year's World Pharmacists Day is **"Pharmacists: Meeting Global Health Needs"**. This theme highlights the crucial role pharmacists play in meeting global health challenges and promoting better health outcomes. We recognize the significant impact pharmacists have on healthcare systems, from dispensing medications to counselling patients on proper usage and ensuring drug safety. Your expertise and commitment to lifelong learning are essential in improving patient outcomes. Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has indeed been a stalwart institution in ensuring pharmacy education and practices in India meet global standards. Recently, PCI has made significant strides in transforming pharmacy education and practices. Some notable initiatives include: Specialized Training Programs, GPAT Funds and Scholarships to secure the future of pharmacy education, Exit Examination for D. Pharm Students-Ensuring graduates meet excellence standards, Aadhar Authentication, Bringing transparency to teaching and professional activities, Streamlining pharmacist registration across state councils, Pharmacy Training Centers, Collaborations opening doors for Indian pharmacists globally, Monitoring medication safety with Pharma Co-Vigilance Centres, Embracing innovation and technology, Revised B. Pharm Curriculum- Aligning with NEP 2020 for relevant pharmacy education. In collaboration with the Government of India (GOI) and Quality Council of India (QCI), launched transformative initiatives to upskill pharmacists, enhancing their expertise and contributing to India's healthcare excellence. PCI proudly declared state pharmacy councils as training centres for upskilling of registered pharmacist pan India. These efforts demonstrate PCI's commitment to excellence in pharmacy education and practice.

I wish to extend my deep sense of appreciation to all the pharmacists for their tireless efforts in safeguarding public health and promoting accessible and affordable healthcare. We appreciate their dedication to the pharmacy profession and unwavering commitment to enhancing patient well-being.

Warmest wishes to all pharmacists on this special day!

(Dr. Montukumar M. Patel)

Introduction



Dr. Montukumar. M. Patel, President
Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body that plays a crucial role in regulating the pharmacy profession in India. Established under the Pharmacy Act, 1948, the PCI ensures that pharmacists are well-trained, ethical, and equipped to provide high-quality patient care. As a guardian of the pharmacy profession, the PCI oversees the entire pharmacy ecosystem, setting high benchmarks for nationwide pharmacy programs. This includes prescribing minimum standards of education required for qualifying as a pharmacist, framing education regulations, and ensuring uniform implementation of educational standards throughout the country.

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has the following key responsibilities

- **Regulation of Pharmacy Education:** Setting standards and ensuring compliance.
- **Inspection and Accreditation:** Evaluating pharmacy colleges and institutes.
- **Registration and Regulation:** Registering pharmacists and overseeing their practice.
- **Promoting Research and Development:** Encouraging innovation in the pharmacy field.

- **Continuing Education:** Supporting ongoing education and professional development for pharmacists.

The PCI's efforts have a profound impact on pharmacy professionals and public health, ensuring:

- **Safe and Effective Medication:** Patients receive high-quality care through well-trained and ethical pharmacists.
- **Supportive Environment:** Pharmacists thrive in a conducive environment that fosters growth, development, and excellence.
- **Global Standards:** Indian pharmacy education meets international benchmarks, enhancing its recognition and reputation worldwide.



Pharmacy Council of India (PCI): The Facilitator and the Regulator

In the healthcare ecosystem, doctors often take center stage, but pharmacists are the unsung heroes who ensure patients receive the right medication and crucial guidance. This selfless work requires endless patience and dedication to serving and guiding patients in difficult times.

To promote the welfare of this community, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) was established in 1948 under the Pharmacy Act of 1948. However, there is a need to raise awareness about the intricate journey of a pill from the laboratory to the patient's hands. It is not a simple process, and pharmacists play a vital role as a bridge between doctors and patients, ensuring the right medication reaches the right hands.

The PCI shoulders the immense responsibility of ensuring the safety and efficacy of drugs and their distribution. As a result, the PCI's activities have a significant impact on pharmacy professionals

and public health at large. As a vigilant guardian, the PCI oversees the entire pharmacy ecosystem.

As the backbone of the pharmacy profession in India and the architect of quality pharmacy education, the PCI sets high benchmarks for nationwide pharmacy programs. This ensures that aspiring pharmacists receive a well-rounded education, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their field.

Additionally, the PCI acts as a discerning regulator, having established a robust system to inspect pharmacy institutions and ensure they meet established standards. Only institutions that demonstrate exceptional quality and compliance receive approval, a prestigious accreditation that signifies their alignment with the Council's lofty standards. This system also facilitates the alignment of Indian pharmacy institutions with global benchmarks, ensuring they remain competitive and reputable. Furthermore, the Council maintains unwavering





vigilance over pharmacists, ensuring their conduct and practice consistently uphold the highest standards of professionalism and patient care. Registration with the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is mandatory for pharmacists before they can dispense medications. This rigorous registration process serves as a critical filter, ensuring that only highly qualified individuals with the necessary training and expertise handle prescriptions.

The PCI's regulatory oversight extends beyond registration, as it establishes and enforces stringent ethical codes of conduct that prioritize patient safety and well-being. By upholding high standards of education and ethical practice, the PCI plays a vital role in minimizing medication errors and ensuring the safe and

effective use of pharmaceuticals. Furthermore, the PCI has the authority to take disciplinary action against pharmacists who violate regulations, thereby maintaining public trust in the pharmacy profession. Beyond monitoring professionals, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) propels the pharmacy profession forward, addressing the evolving needs of the field. To achieve this, the PCI fosters a culture of innovation, promoting research and development that contributes to the discovery of novel drugs and treatments.

The Council also prioritizes continuing education, providing pharmacists with opportunities to stay abreast of the latest advancements in medication, drug interactions, and best practices. This commitment to lifelong learning ensures

that pharmacists remain at the forefront of their field.

Furthermore, the PCI is a dynamic organization that adapts to the changing needs of the profession, seeking international recognition by aligning Indian pharmacy education with global standards. The Council also integrates practical training into curricula, providing students with valuable real-world experience that prepares them for successful careers.

To safeguard the integrity of pharmacy education, the PCI cracks down on unauthorized pharmacy colleges, ensuring that the quality of education remains uncompromised at all levels. Through these efforts, the PCI ensures that the public has access to safe, effective medication and quality care from qualified pharmacists.

An Era of Unique Initiatives and Achievements (Year 2022-2025)

The Pharmacy Council of India has indeed been fortunate to have had many visionary leaders at its helm, and Dr. Montukumar M Patel's tenure is a shining example of this. His remarkable period of leadership has been marked by transformative achievements and progressive reforms, all aimed at serving the purpose of the Pharmacy Act and regulating the profession and pharmacy practices. This booklet is a testament to the remarkable achievements of the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) under the visionary leadership of Dr. Montukumar M Patel. The PCI's initiatives have had a profound impact on pharmacy education and practices, shaping a cadre of highly skilled and ethical pharmacists.

As the PCI's primary objective has always been to provide aspiring pharmacists with the best education and guide them towards ethical practices, Dr. Patel's guidance has been instrumental in setting the highest benchmarks for pharmacy education. The council's strategic initiatives have not only enhanced the pharmacy profession but also fostered an environment conducive to the growth and development of pharmacy professionals. The PCI's role in ensuring that pharmacists are not just dispensers of medications but also caretakers of health and well-being is truly commendable. By promoting continuous learning, ethical standards, and professional development, the council has played a pivotal role in shaping the pharmacy profession in India.

Some of the key initiatives undertaken by the PCI include accreditation of pharmacy colleges, curriculum development, and registration of qualified pharmacists. The council has also been working towards promoting research and collaboration

with other organizations to address issues related to pharmaceutical education and practice. The journey to achieving these milestones was not easy, requiring months of brainstorming, discussions, and collaboration. However, as Aristotle aptly put it, "Patience is bitter, but its fruits are always sweet." The PCI's efforts have borne fruit, and this booklet provides a glimpse into the significant accomplishments of the past year.

Some of the notable initiatives include

1. **Specialized training programs** for pharmacists to bridge skill gaps and transform them into experts in their profession.
2. **Management of GPAT funds and scholarships** to secure the future of pharmacy education.
3. **Conducting the Exit examination** for D.Pharm qualified to ensure pharmacists meet the highest standards of excellence.
4. **Implementing an Aadhar authentication system** to bring transparency into teaching and professional activities.
5. **Creating a single-window system** across state councils to streamline the registration process for pharmacists.
6. **Establishing pharmacy training centres** and advocating for clinical pharmacist positions to put medication experts at the forefront of patient care.
7. **Collaborating with the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** to establish pharmacovigilance centers and monitor medication safety.



8. **Encouraging Good Distribution Practices** in wholesale licenses and safe medication distribution.
9. **Embracing innovation and technology**, including the use of QR code systems for pharmacy inspections.
10. **Revising the B. Pharm curriculum** in accordance with NEP 2020 to ensure the relevance of pharmacy education.

These initiatives demonstrate the PCI's commitment to shaping the pharmacy profession in India and ensuring that pharmacists are equipped to provide high-quality patient care. This booklet is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of the PCI members, pharmacy students, and professionals who are shaping the field for a brighter future.

Overall, the PCI's efforts under Dr. Patel's leadership have been truly remarkable, and the council continues to be a beacon of excellence in the field of pharmacy education.

Current Leadership of Executive Committee of PCI

1. Dr. Montukumar M.Patel, President, PCI
2. Prof. (Dr.) Pramod Yeole, Vice President, PCI
3. Prof. B. Jayakar, Member, PCI
4. Dr Atul Kumar Nasa, Member, PCI
5. Dr. M.Venkata Ramana, Member, PCI
6. Shri Dharmendra Singh, Member, PCI

Chairman, Education Regulations Committee

Dr. Deependra Singh,

Chairman, Law Committee

Shri Kumar Ajay

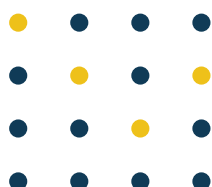
Chairman, Finance Committee

Dr. Vibhu Sahani,

Professional Pharmacy

& Public Relations Committee

Dr. Vijay Pandurang Patil,



PCI Implemented Aadhaar Authentication to Increase Transparency



The PCI has undertaken a significant initiative to implement Aadhaar authentication for teachers, pharmacists, and students within the pharmacy education sector. This move aligns with the Health Ministry's Gazette Notification dated November 23rd, 2023.

The Aadhaar authentication process aims to enhance transparency and streamline various procedures related to the pharmacy profession. By implementing this system, the PCI anticipates achieving several key objectives:

Verification and Authentication: By authenticating the identities of teachers, pharmacists, and students registered with the

PCI, this initiative will reaffirm the accuracy and validity of the information provided by the candidates & members, eliminating fake entries.

Streamlined Processes: It will simplify administrative processes such as registration, enrolment, and attendance tracking through secure and efficient Aadhaar-based verification.

Complete Transparency: Aadhaar authentication will promote greater transparency within the pharmacy sector by fostering a system based on verified and reliable data.

The official launch date for the Aadhaar authentication process is undisclosed. However, the PCI is actively developing the necessary

software infrastructure to support its implementation. This initiative is expected to benefit various stakeholders within the pharmacy ecosystem, including students, teachers, pharmacists and pharmacy institutions. It will ensure secure and efficient identity verification while enhancing data accuracy and administrative efficiency.

With this move, the PCI has yet again demonstrated its commitment to revolutionizing the pharmacy education sector through technological advancements. The successful implementation of Aadhaar authentication holds the potential to create a more robust and efficient system, ultimately benefiting all stakeholders involved.





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स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग)

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 23 नवम्बर, 2023

का.आ. 5041(अ).—सुशासन के लिए आधार अधिप्रमाणन (सामाजिक कल्याण, नवचार ज्ञान) नियमावली, 2020 के नियम-5 के साथ पठित आधार (वित्तीय और अन्य सहायकियों, प्रसुविधाओं और सेवाओं का लक्षित परिदान) अधिनियम), 2016 (यथासंशोधित) की धारा 4 की उपधारा (4) के खंड (बी) के उप-खंड (ii) के अनुसरण में, भारतीय भेषजी परिषद को प्राधिकृत किये जाने के लिये केंद्र सरकार द्वारा स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण को अधिसूचित किया जाता है कि भारतीय भेषजी परिषद को स्वैच्छिक आधार पर निम्नलिखित उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति हेतु आधार प्रमाणीकरण निष्पादन की आज्ञा प्रदान की जाती है:

- पोर्टल पर अधिकारियों, संकाय और छात्रों को प्रमाणित करना;
- हाँ/नहीं या/और ई-केवाईसी प्रमाणीकरण सुविधा का उपयोग करके बायोमेट्रिक्स के माध्यम से संकाय की उपस्थिति दर्ज करने के लिए;

फार्मसी काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (पीसीआई) समय-समय पर यूआईडीएआई/केंद्र सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित आधार प्रमाणीकरण के उपयोग के संबंध में अधिनियम, नियमों, विनियमों या दिशानिर्देशों के प्रावधानों और निर्देशों का पालन करेगी।

[फ़ा. सं. जेड-28020/86/2023-एएचएस]

डॉ. विपुल अग्रवाल, संयुक्त सचिव

Other Initiatives of Pharmacy Council of India

Celebration of Legacy of Prof. M.L. Schroff through Pharma Anveshan Program

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has instituted a remarkable tribute to the Father of Pharmacy Education in India, Prof. M.L. Schroff, by declaring his birth anniversary, March 6th, as the National Pharmacy Education Day. This momentous occasion is commemorated through a nationwide 'Pharma Anveshan' program, which aims to promote patent and research work in the pharmacy field, bridging the gap between academia and industry.



PCI pays tribute to Prof. M.L. Schroff in the most unique way

The inaugural event, held on March 6, 2023, at the prestigious Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, was a testament to Prof. Schroff's enduring legacy in pharmaceutical education. The program served as a catalyst, uniting pharmacists across India and raising awareness about the importance of pharmacy education. The PCI showcased cutting-edge research and patents to industry leaders, garnering commendation from stakeholders in the pharmacy profession.





The event also witnessed the signing of historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with key stakeholders, including the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA), Federation of Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE), Karnataka Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Manufacturers Association (KDPMA), and the Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council (LSSSDC). These collaborations are poised to revolutionize the pharmacy education curriculum, echoing Prof. Schroff's vision for the advancement of the pharmaceutical industry.

Through the 'Pharma Anveshan' program, the PCI aims to:

1. Promote research and innovation: Encourage students, teachers, and industry professionals to engage in research and development, driving innovation in the pharmacy field.

2. Foster industry-academia collaboration: Bridge the gap between academia and industry, facilitating the exchange of ideas, expertise, and resources.

3. Raise awareness about pharmacy education: Highlight the importance of pharmacy education and its impact on public health, ensuring that the profession receives the recognition it deserves.

4. Honour Prof. M.L. Schroff's legacy: Pay tribute to the Father of Pharmacy Education in India, acknowledging his contributions to the field and inspiring future generations of pharmacists.

The National Pharmacy Education Day celebration is a fitting tribute to Prof. M.L. Schroff's tireless efforts to develop pharmacy education in India. The PCI's initiative has set a precedent for the pharmacy profession, promoting a culture of innovation, collaboration, and excellence.

Pharma Anveshan 2023 was one of the most remarkable events for the pharma professionals in India. Commemorating the Father of Pharmacy Education in India, the event acknowledged his monumental contribution to the industry's growth. In addition, the event laid the foundation for a solid future marked with innovations and key collaborations..



Strategic MoUs Signed to Revolutionize Pharmacy Education and Pharmacy Practice in India

With a view to transforming pharmacy education in India, a momentous MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed with key stakeholders. The MoU forged a solid partnership with the Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council (LSSSDC), Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA), Forum of Pharmacy Executives (FOPE), and Karnataka Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Manufacturers Association (KDPMA).

The primary focus of these ground-breaking MoUs was to promote a translational approach in pharmacy education, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. The strategic partnerships aimed at multifaceted advancements in pharmacy education, with key objectives outlined as follows:

Developing Relevant Pharmacy Course Curriculum: The collaborative efforts aim to revolutionize the pharmacy course curriculum. It will amalgamate insights from academia and industry so that the curriculum caters to the evolving needs of the pharmaceutical landscape.

Training of Faculties and Students: Educators play a crucial role in shaping pharmacy's future. Therefore, the MoU also emphasized on comprehensive training programs. These training programs will be beneficial to both faculties and students by giving them exposure to the latest industry trends, advanced research, and hands-on experiences. It will further ensure that educators and learners are well-equipped to sail through the waves of disruption and transformation in the pharmaceutical sector.

Encouraging Entrepreneurship: The partnerships put a significant emphasis on promoting pharmaceutical entrepreneurship. The stakeholders will work towards fostering an environment where innovation and business acumen can flourish. It will ensure that the aspiring pharmacists are not only job-



seekers but also job creators, contributing to the growth of the pharmaceutical industry.

Infrastructure for Research Activities: The pharmaceutical sector's growth heavily relies on research activities. The MoU prioritizes developing state-of-the-art infrastructure for research in advanced pharmaceutical sciences, providing researchers with laboratories and adequate technological resources.

These strategic MoUs symbolize the industry's collective commitment to elevating the standards of pharmacy education so that it can remain relevant and responsive to its rapidly changing needs. The partnerships are poised to cultivate a new generation of pharmacists equipped with theoretical knowledge, practical skills and an entrepreneurial mindset.



Implementation of NEP 2020: PCI Aligns B. Pharm. Curriculum with NEP 2020

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has taken a significant step towards bridging the skill gap in pharmacy education by aligning the B. Pharm curriculum with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This move aims to provide students with a more flexible and specialized education, enabling them to adapt to the changing needs of the pharmaceutical industry.

Key Features of the Revised Curriculum:

1. Diploma after two years: Students who leave the course after completing two years will be awarded a diploma, recognizing their acquired skills and knowledge.

2. Specialization in the last two years: Students will have the opportunity to pursue specialization in an area of interest, such as pharmacology, pharmaceutical chemistry, or pharmacy practice, during the last two years of the course.

3. NEP 2020 Alignment: The revised curriculum is designed to align with the NEP 2020, which emphasizes the importance of flexibility, autonomy, and specialization in higher education.

4. Bridging the Skill Gap-Integration of skill development courses: The Pharmacy Council of India's (PCI) decision to integrate skill

development courses designed by the Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council (LSSSDC) into the B. Pharm program is a strategic move that will have a profound impact on the employability and career prospects of pharmacy graduates.

1. Industry-relevant skills: The integration of LSSSDC-designed courses will enable students to acquire industry-relevant skills, making them more attractive to potential employers.

2. Strong academic foundation: The B. Pharm program will continue to provide a strong academic foundation, ensuring that students have a solid understanding of pharmaceutical principles and practices.

3. Enhanced employability: The combination of academic knowledge and industry-relevant skills will significantly enhance the employability of pharmacy graduates, making them more competitive in the job market.

4. Preparation for successful careers: The integrated program will prepare students for successful careers in the dynamic pharmacy sector, where they will be able to apply their skills and knowledge to drive innovation and excellence.





1. The first workshop on design of new B. Pharm Syllabus in line with NEP was held from March 22 to 23, 2024 at D.Y. Patil University, Navi Mumbai.
2. The second workshop on design new B. Pharm Syllabus (Subject: Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Chemistry) in line with NEP was held from September 02 to 03, 2024 at SGT University, Haryana.
3. The third workshop on design of new B. Pharm Syllabus (Subject: Pharmaceutics) in line with NEP was held October 01 to 02, 2024 at VIPER, Hyderabad.



Benefits of the Revised Curriculum

1. Enhanced employability: The revised syllabus, aligned with the NEP framework, offers a holistic education that integrates essential skill sets, ethical and moral values, and comprehensive pharmacy knowledge. This empowering approach prepares students to excel in a technologically driven healthcare sector, providing them with the expertise and values necessary to succeed as professionals or entrepreneurs, and unlocking diverse career pathways.

2. Specialized knowledge: The specialization option in the last two years will enable students to acquire in-depth knowledge and skills in their chosen area, making them more competitive in the job market.

3. Flexibility: The revised curriculum offers

flexibility to students, allowing them to choose their area of specialization and pursue their interests.

4. Industry Relevance: By aligning with NEP 2020 and the pharmaceutical industry's requirements, the curriculum ensures its relevance and prepares students to tackle the complexities and challenges of the profession, fostering a seamless transition from academia to industry.

By aligning the B. Pharm curriculum with NEP 2020, the PCI has made a landmark stride in addressing the skill gap in pharmacy education. The revamped curriculum offers a more agile, specialized, and industry-relevant education, empowering students to navigate the evolving pharmaceutical landscape and enhance their employability prospects, ultimately rendering them more competitive and industry-ready.



Ranking and Rating of Pharmacy institution

Raising the Bar: PCI Joins Hands with QCI

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is revolutionizing the assessment and rating system for pharmacy education institutes in India by shifting from a compliance-driven model to one that fosters a culture of excellence. To achieve this, PCI has partnered with the Quality Council of India (QCI)- an autonomous body set up by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to develop a cutting-edge assessment and rating system that focuses on regulatory compliance and outcomes. The collaboration has formulated 11 criteria and associated parameters for evaluating pharmacy educational institutes, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the overall quality of pharmacy education in India.

The initiative is being led by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which has experience

in creating frameworks for assessing and rating medical institutions in India. The PCI will evaluate the assessment and rating ecosystem in a phased manner, starting with pilot-testing of draft criteria and parameters with select pharmacy institutes from different regions. The insights gained from these pilot assessments will inform the strategy for broader implementation of the new evaluation and rating system.

This strategic collaboration between PCI and QCI demonstrates a commitment to creating a culture of continuous improvement and excellence in pharmacy education. The goal is to establish a transformative system that ensures compliance and elevates the educational experience, setting new benchmarks for quality in pharmacy education



PCI Ponders Upon Equivalence Degree for Global Students

The PCI looks forward to forging a global pathway for Indian pharmacists studying abroad. The institute has taken a proactive stance by engaging in discussions with international universities for conducting equivalence degree. This will ensure that Indian pharmacists studying in international universities can practice in their homeland.

In the past, PCI was inundated with inquiries from Indian pharmacists studying abroad. They often sought clarification on the equivalence course undertaken at international institutions. To provide a platform to these professionals and to allow them to integrate into the Indian healthcare system, the PCI is considering equivalence degree.

The PCI is in discussion with international universities to implement the same. This will allow Indian pharmacists to showcase their skills and knowledge through an examination. The PCI draws inspiration from successful models like the National Medical Commission (NMC) to ensure successful implementation. The PCI may also collaborate with the National Boards of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) to conduct the exam.

The PCI is committed to carving a clear pathway for the global community of Indian pharmacists so that they can start practicing in their homeland whenever required. This equivalence exam will also bridge international education and professional practice, opening streamlines for Indian pharmacists from foreign lands to contribute to India's healthcare landscape.



The Council Launches Extra Mural Schemes for Faculty and Pharmacists

The Pharmacy Council of India has undertaken various initiatives and channelled funds into various mural schemes to foster to development of pharmacists, students and faculty. These schemes include:

A. Pradhan Mantri Scholarship for Pharmacy Post Graduate Studies (GPAT)-(PMSPPS):

It supports the pursuit of higher education. Students pursuing postgraduate studies can avail of scholarships under this scheme. It will boost academic excellence among pharmacists and students.

The budget amounting to Rs.300.00 crore is allocated (Rs 12,400/Month)(3 Lacs/candidate for 2 years)

B. Research Development Scheme (RDS):

This scheme is introduced to foster a culture of research. Under this scheme, the researchers will be provided funds and resources to undertake research projects that contribute to developing innovative pharmaceutical solutions.

The budget amounting to Rs. 30.00 crore is allocated (upto 15 Lakh)

C. Doctoral Fellowship (DF):

The Council is keen to promote advanced academic pursuits. Under the Doctoral Fellowship scheme, the Council will encourage pharmacists and scholars to undertake

doctoral research. This initiative will further contribute to knowledge expansion in the field of pharmacy.

The budget amounting to Rs. 10.00 crore is allocated (200 Students (35,000/Student)

D. Capacity Building Industrial Training (CBIT):

This scheme exclusively focuses on the practical aspects of the profession. It aims to enhance the skills and competencies of pharmacists through industrial training. This way, CBIT aligns education with industry demands.

The budget amounting to Rs. 1.00 crore is allocated (200 Teachers(50,000/Teacher)

E. Continuing Education Programme(CEP):

The Continuing Education Programme is designed to promote life-long learning as the pharmacy landscape is ever-evolving. CEP ensures that pharmacists stay updated with the latest advancements in the field. The institute has also provided the financial support of Rs. 5 lakh under this scheme.

The budget amounting to Rs. 3.00 crore is allocated (100 Institutions (3 Lacs/Institution)

F. Refresher Course for Pharmacists:

Pharmacy is a dynamic field, re-shaped with frequent changes. The PCI has initiated a Refresher Course for Pharmacists, acknowledging the need for periodic skill reinforcement. It will allow them to refresh their

knowledge and match steps with the rapidly evolving pharmacy landscape.

The budget amounting to Rs. 1.00 crore is allocated (4 refresher courses/year (50,000*4)2 Lacs/year/Council)

G. Skill Development Centre for Pharmacists (SDCP):

The Council has launched the Skill Development Centre for Pharmacists to address skill gaps and ensure a highly skilled workforce. The course focuses on honing the practical skills required in the pharmaceutical industry.

The budget amounting to Rs. 75.00 crore is allocated (2.5CR/Centre(one Centre in each state)

H. Professional Development Fund (PDF):

The Council wants to encourage professionals to invest in their professional growth without worrying about finances. The Council's Professional Development Fund provides financial support to pharmacists and educators so that they can undertake career-enhancing activities.

The budget amounting to Rs. 1.00 crore is allocated (20-30 members/year (upto 3 Lacs/year)

I. Strengthening of State Pharmacy Council

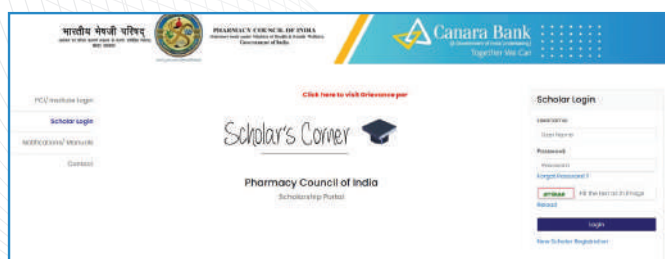
Provision has been made in the budget to strengthen the State Pharmacy Council and allocated fund of Rs.1 crore (minimum 2 SPCs / year).



PCI Continues GPAT Pradhan Mantri Scholarship for Pharmacy Post Graduate Studies (GPAT)-(PMSPPS) Allocated Budget is 300 CR

The Pharmacy Council of India's decision to continue the GPAT scholarship for the academic session of 2023-24 is a huge relief for aspiring pharmacists. By self-funding and tapping into government-allocated funds, the PCI has ensured that these students can focus on their studies without worrying about financial burdens. The GPAT exam, which was first conducted in 2010, has been a crucial step in the pharmacy education journey, and its continuation is a testament to the PCI's commitment to supporting pharmacy students. The exam's history is interesting - from 2010 to 2018, it was conducted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and from 2019 to 2023, it was conducted by the National Testing

Agency (NTA). Now, the PCI has signed an MOU with the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) to conduct the GPAT exam for 2024-2025, which was successfully conducted on June 8, 2024. The GPAT scholarship is a game-changer for pharmacy students, providing them with the resources and education they need to succeed in the pharmaceutical industry. With the PCI allocating around 300 crores for the scholarship, it's clear that they're dedicated to supporting the next generation of pharmacists. This move will undoubtedly fuel the dreams of hundreds of pharmacy students, giving them the opportunity to flourish in this dynamic field.



PCI Extends Its Global Footprint, Engages In Bilateral Agreements



The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is spearheading a groundbreaking initiative: Global Pharmacist Collaboration. In a significant stride towards international cooperation, the PCI has recently established bilateral agreements with numerous countries, paving the way for reciprocal recognition, knowledge sharing, and collaborative endeavors that will elevate the pharmacy profession globally. The Council is in the process of engagement in bilateral agreements with the Countries such as Australia, Italy, Qatar, Canada, Egypt, UK, USA, JAPAN and South Africa so that the Indian Pharmacists can practice the profession internationally.

These discussions will herald a new era in international pharmacy education and professional recognition. They also aim to foster mutual understanding and recognition between

countries to create opportunities for Indian pharmacists across the globe.

These bilateral agreements will allow Indian pharmacy students and professionals to thrive in and beyond the country. The bilateral agreements will further ensure that the qualifications and expertise of pharmacists from both countries are acknowledged and respected. This pursuit of harmonization is beyond paperwork. It will empower Indian professionals to explore new horizons. The community hopes the agreement's ripple effect will be felt cross borders. This will further mean that the pharmacy course will become a student's passport to global opportunities. It will also make room for the exchange of ideas, methodologies and innovations, bolstering the growth of the pharmaceutical sector at all levels.

PCI to Establish Centres of Excellence Across the Nation for Upskilling the Pharmacist



In the pharmaceutical sector, industries and institutions face multiple challenges due to infrastructure gaps. To fill this gap, the Pharmacy Council of India has decided to establish skill-based Centres of Excellence in different states. These centres will support institutions and industries struggling with infrastructure support.

It was observed that varying degrees of infrastructure across different regions restricted the growth of pharmacy education and practice. The PCI will strategically establish centres for skill development. It will provide support to concerned sectors.

The PCI is currently in the phase of formulating guidelines to facilitate the opening of these Centres of Excellence. The ultimate goal is to provide infrastructure and support to ensure that the institutions and pharma industries thrive. In the long run, this will contribute to the overall advancement of pharmacy education and practice.

PCI will also develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure that these centres' selection process remain impartial and unbiased. The key persons associated with the Centres of Excellence will be selected based on merit.

The selection criteria will be completely fair and transparent.

This nationwide initiative is likely to be a game-changer and will standardize excellence in pharmacy education and industry practices. It will set the stage for a solid future for pharmacy in India.



Chintan Shivir: Uplifting Pharmacy Profession by Empowering Pharm.D Graduates

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is actively engaged in the “Chintan Shivir” initiative, a comprehensive effort aimed at introspecting and implementing concrete measures to enhance the pharmacy profession in India. Through this platform, the Council has submitted several key proposals to the Ministry of Health, with a primary focus on expanding job opportunities for Pharm.D graduates.

Recognizing the immense potential of Pharm.D graduates, the PCI has proposed the creation of novel job avenues that align with their specialized skills and training. This initiative seeks to address the issue of underemployment and ensure the optimal utilization of their expertise within the healthcare system. Furthermore, the Council has advocated for the granting of prescription rights to Pharm.D graduates, empowering them to play a more defined role in patient care and potentially leading to improved medication management and patient outcomes.

Another significant proposal put forth by the PCI is the creation of Clinical Pharmacist posts. This would enable Clinical Pharmacists to leverage their skills in medication use optimization, making them invaluable contributors in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. In addition, the Council has addressed the critical issue of antimicrobial resistance by collaborating with a committee of experts to frame and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the rational use of drugs. This initiative aims to promote responsible prescribing practices, minimize medication misuse, and optimize patient health outcomes.

The proactive initiatives undertaken by the PCI through the Chintan Shivir platform are poised to empower pharmacy professionals and enhance the overall quality of healthcare delivery in India. By focusing on the betterment of the pharmacy profession, the Council is taking a significant step towards improving the nation’s healthcare landscape.

In a Major Move, Council Suggests Task Shifting for Clinical Pharmacists



This will create equal opportunities for PharmD students

The Council has taken a significant step in the direction of redefining the roles and responsibilities of Clinical Pharmacists by proposing their role in task shifting and sharing to the Health Ministry. It is also reconsidering responsibilities given to Patient Counselling Pharmacists and Drug Information Pharmacists across various platforms. The discussion with the Health Ministry regarding this is underway.

The Council is committed to giving equal rights and opportunities to PharmD students. Therefore, it has presented its case to the Health Ministry to redefine and elaborate the role of Clinical Pharmacists in the healthcare system. This will allow pharmacists to integrate and contribute better to the healthcare system.

In the task-shifting and sharing model, Clinical Pharmacists are also given additional responsibilities to contribute effectively to the comprehensive healthcare delivery system. The Health Ministry is currently reviewing the proposed changes. However, the Council has asserted that more recognition and opportunities are needed for PharmD students.

PCI and UGC Join Forces to Establish Anti-Ragging Cells in Colleges

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), along with the University Grants Commission (UGC), is working hard to promote a ragging-free environment for new students. This collaborative effort aims to create a safe and welcoming atmosphere in all PCI-affiliated institutes across the country.

As part of this initiative, the PCI has encouraged all affiliated colleges to establish Anti-Ragging Cells on their campuses. This cell will be crucial in preventing

ragging and ensuring a positive learning experience for all students. PCI's initiative aims to create a culture of respect, dignity and harmony within educational institutions so students can thrive without obstacles. These anti-ragging cells will provide a robust support system for new students and empower them to report incidents of ragging. The cells will also track the incidents and ensure the matter is resolved satisfactorily.

PCI Collabs with Primary Agriculture Credit Society (PACS) under Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India for opening of Jan Aushadhi Kendras

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has collaborated with the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, and the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) to expand access to affordable medications. This will be done by opening Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAK) under the Primary Agriculture Credit Society (PACS) category.

The PCI President received a proposal and presentation regarding the opening of JAKs under PACS in October 2023. Subsequently, all state and UT Pharmacy Councils were informed and invited to participate in an online meeting to discuss the initiative. Following the initial meeting, the PCI received a communication from PMBJP regarding the free registration of pharmacists on their website. This information was promptly disseminated to all relevant stakeholders through the PCI website. Additionally, a list of state-wise coordinators and members was forwarded to PMBI for further collaboration.

In January 2024, a high-level meeting was convened with representatives from PMBI (Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Bureau of India), PCI, and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The meeting was attended by Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Home Minister of India and Shri Mansukh L Mandaviya, Hon'ble Health Minister of India. This

meeting solidified the commitment to this collaborative effort.

Further discussions and a virtual meeting with PMBI ensured that pharmacists could register online, which made it easier for them to participate in the JAKs under PACS. This initiative will improve access to affordable and essential medicines for rural communities across India.



This collaborative approach between the PCI, PMBI, and other government bodies reflects a shared commitment to improving healthcare accessibility and ensuring the well-being of citizens throughout the country, even in the remotest rural areas and PCI provided more than 5000 pharmacists.

Govt. has ambitious plans to open 25000 JAK's in India and hence there will be a regular demand of registered pharmacist both in Urban as well as rural areas.

This step shall increase the numbers of registered pharmacist nationwide, specifically in rural areas and it may also increase the participation of young entrepreneurs for implementation of this flagship scheme PMBJP, where young pharmacists may have the option of choosing their carrier with PMBJP by opening of Jan Aushadhi Kendras with the these of **"Sewa Bhi Rojgar Bhi"**.

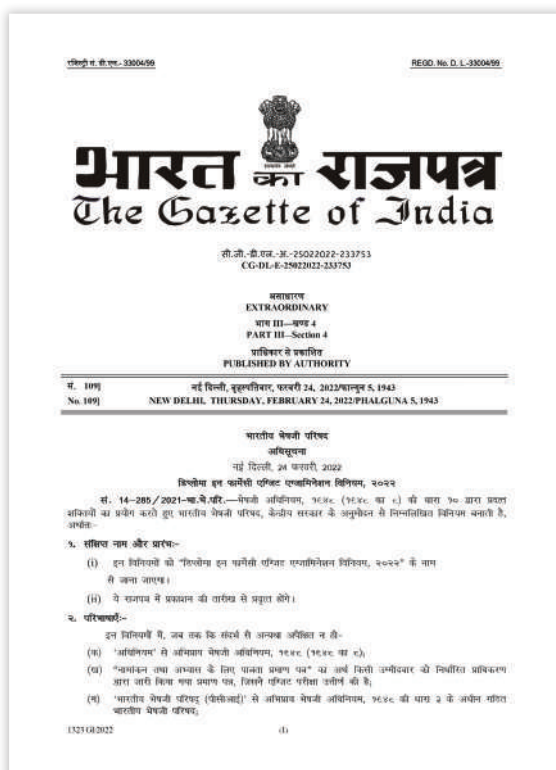


Scope of Pharmacists in Veterinary Services



The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is taking a significant step towards integrating pharmacist into veterinary services. Currently, pet owners and cattle breeders rely on non-professionals or veterinary doctors for pharmacy services. To address this, the PCI has initiated discussions with the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) to find solutions. This strategic move will create job opportunities for pharmacists, especially in rural government sectors and associated veterinary avenues. It will also establish a comprehensive healthcare ecosystem for animals, benefiting rural communities that rely on cattle for their livelihood. The PCI's initiative aims to create synergy between pharmaceutical and veterinary fields. As discussions with the VCI progress, stakeholders anticipate positive outcomes and collaboration between these fields.

Joining Hands with the NBEMS, the PCI Launches Exit Exam for Diploma Candidates



Improving the quality of pharmacy education has been one of the foremost agendas of the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI). With a view to elevating the quality of pharmacy education, the PCI introduced an Exit Examination for Diploma in Pharmacy (D. Pharm) candidates. This exam, scheduled to commence in 2024, aims to raise the bar for pharmacy education. It will produce highly efficient pharmacists who can match steps with the dynamic landscape of healthcare and pharmacy.

This transformative initiative will further ensure that the graduates are exceptionally competent. Therefore, the PCI has joined forces with the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) to administer the Exit Exam.

This collaboration is further cemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the PCI and NBEMS. This strategic alliance denotes that India's pharmaceutical education and exam process will be redefined.

The upcoming Exit Exam will also set high standards for knowledge evaluation and calibre of D.Pharm graduates. Aspiring pharmacists have openheartedly welcomed this change.

PCI Initiated Online Course on Rational Use of Drugs with WHO and THSTI

The fast-paced nature of healthcare often leaves doctors with limited time to provide patients with detailed instructions on medication use. This, coupled with the potential for patients to lack of knowledge or improper technique, can lead to unintended consequences and harm. Recognizing this challenge, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) underlined the crucial role of pharmacists play in ensuring the rational use of medication by patients.

With their specialized knowledge and skills, pharmacists are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap in medication understanding. They can provide patients with the necessary information about their prescribed medications, including dosage instructions, potential side effects, drug interactions and storage and disposal guidelines.

By taking the time to explain these crucial points clearly and concisely, pharmacists empower patients to become active participants in their healthcare journey, leading to safer and more effective medication use. Therefore, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has joined hands with the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to launch a groundbreaking online course on the Rational Use of Drugs (RUD) for registered pharmacists.

The RUD course will equip pharmacists with the necessary knowledge and skills to educate patients about the appropriate use, storage, and disposal of medications. By sharing this information, pharmacists can empower patients to make

The course will empower pharmacists to disseminate correct drug usage instructions to customers



informed decisions about their health.

The course also equips pharmacists to identify and address potential medication misuse or overuse, contributing to improved public health outcomes. Above all, it will empower pharmacists to play a crucial role in minimizing potential medication-related harms and ensuring patient safety.

This online course format offers flexibility and accessibility to registered pharmacists across India, allowing them to gain valuable knowledge and expertise in RUD conveniently. Upon completion, these pharmacists can serve as valuable resources within their communities.

THSTI Link: <https://lms.thsti.in>
PCI website: <https://pci.gov.in>



PHARMACY COUNCIL OF INDIA

A Statutory body under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Celebrating WORLD PHARMACISTS DAY

25th September 2024 Theme - Pharmacists: Meeting Global Health Needs




On World Pharmacists Day (September 25th), we recognize the vital role pharmacists play as drug information specialists and accessible healthcare providers, pharmacists have a unique opportunity to Educate patients and healthcare professionals on the benefits of generic over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription medications, Initiate conversations with patients, addressing concerns and promoting informed decision-making and Leverage social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to increase awareness about safe use of medicines. The theme of this year is underscored by the increasing recognition of pharmacists as integral members of the healthcare team, capable of contributing significantly to various aspects of patient management and health promotion.

PCI proudly declared State Pharmacy Councils as training centres for upskilling of registered Pharmacist pan India under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 4.0)

• Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council	• Kerala State Pharmacy Council	• Telangana State Pharmacy Council
• Karnataka State Pharmacy Council	• Pondicherry Pharmacy Council	• Tamil Nadu Pharmacy Council

Role of Pharmacists: • Awareness on Generic Medicines • Rise Above Addiction • Clinical Pharmacist and Patient Counselling • Current Good Manufacturing Practices



जगत प्रकाश नद्रा
JAGAT PRAKASH NADRA



MESSAGE

On this World Pharmacists Day, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your invaluable contributions to the healthcare sector. This year's theme, "Pharmacists: Meeting Global Health Needs," perfectly captures the vital role you play in addressing the health challenges of today's world.

Pharmacists are at the forefront of the healthcare system, ensuring the safe and effective use of medications. Your expertise not only enhances patient outcomes but also supports vital public health initiatives.

In our interconnected world, your responsibilities have expanded beyond merely dispensing medicines. Your ability to bridge the gap between patients and the healthcare system ensures that everyone has access to the care they need, regardless of their circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted your resilience and adaptability as you continued to provide essential services under challenging conditions. As we look to the future, your commitment and professionalism will remain key in addressing global health needs.

You are an essential part of the global healthcare workforce, and your contributions are vital for achieving universal health coverage and improving health outcomes worldwide.

I thank you all for your unwavering dedication and for the critical role you play in improving the health and well-being of our communities.

(Jagat Prakash Nadra)



PHARMACY COUNCIL OF INDIA
संस्थापक अध्यक्ष
NICE Centre, 3rd Floor, Max Anandmal Marg,
Gurgaon, Phase-I, New Delhi 120020



MESSAGE

"Happy World Pharmacists Day-2024!"

Dear Fellow Pharmacists

Today, we celebrate the invaluable contributions of pharmacists in promoting health and wellness worldwide. Your dedication to ensuring safe and effective medication use, as well as providing pharmaceutical care to individuals and communities, is truly commendable. The theme for this year's World Pharmacists Day is "Pharmacists: Meeting Global Health Needs". This theme highlights the crucial role pharmacists play in meeting global health challenges and promoting better health outcomes. We recognize the significant impact pharmacists have on healthcare systems, from dispensing medications to counselling patients on proper usage and ensuring drug safety. Your expertise and commitment to lifelong learning are essential in improving patient outcomes. Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has indeed been a stalwart institution in ensuring pharmacy education and practices in India meet global standards. Recently, PCI has made significant strides in transforming pharmacy education and practices. Some notable initiatives include: Specialized Training Programs, GPAT Funds and Scholarships to secure the future of pharmacy education, Exit Examination for D. Pharm Students-Ensuring graduates meet excellence standards, Aadhar Authentication, Bringing transparency to teaching and professional activities, Streamlining pharmacist registration across state councils, Pharmacy Training Centers, Collaborations opening doors for Indian pharmacists globally, Monitoring medication safety with Pharma Co-Vigilance Centres, Embracing innovation and technology, Revised B. Pharm Curriculum-Aligning with NEP 2020 for relevant pharmacy education, In collaboration with the Government of India (GOI) and Quality Council of India (QCI), launched transformative initiatives to upskill pharmacists, enhancing their expertise and contributing to India's healthcare excellence. PCI proudly declared state pharmacy councils as training centres for upskilling of registered pharmacist pan India. These efforts demonstrate PCI's commitment to excellence in pharmacy education and practice.

I wish to extend my deep sense of appreciation to all the pharmacists for their tireless efforts in safeguarding public health and promoting accessible and affordable healthcare. We appreciate their dedication to the pharmacy profession and unwavering commitment to enhancing patient well-being.

Warmest wishes to all pharmacists on this special day!

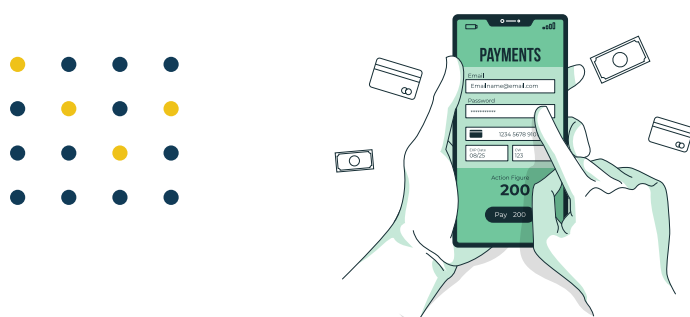
(Dr. Montukumar M. Patel)

The Pharmacy Council of India celebrates World Pharmacist Day on 25th September and National Pharmacy Week in the third week of November every year to recognize the important role of pharmacist plays in healthcare to improve the public awareness of their contributions.

Cashless and paperless policy for accounting PCI Embraces Efficiency and Security with Net Banking Implementation

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has taken a significant step towards streamlining financial transactions by implementing net banking for all payments. This shift to online payments offers several key advantages for the PCI and its stakeholders, such as improved security, increased efficiency, end-to-end transparency and ultimate convenience for all stakeholders. This will also eliminate the need for physical visits or cash handling.

PCI has always stayed ahead of the curve by embracing technological advancements that improve operational efficiency, enhance security and promote transparency.



PCI Office Initiates Operations in Rajbhasha Hindi

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has taken a significant step towards promoting using Hindi as its official language within the office environment. This promotes inclusivity within its operations, upholding the principles of "Rajbhasha" (National Language).

By utilizing Hindi as the primary language of communication, the PCI seeks to improve accessibility for individuals who are more comfortable conversing and working in Hindi.

Adopting Hindi alongside



English also reflects the council's commitment to embracing India's linguistic diversity and fostering multilingual communication within its organization.

This initiative has set an example for government bodies and institutions to embrace multilingualism and cater to the diverse linguistic needs of the nation.



PCI President Shares Views on Online Pharmacy Regulations

On August 24, 2023, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) participated in a meeting held at the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) headquarters in New Delhi. The conference, which was conducted in a hybrid format (both in-person and virtual), focused on crucial issues related to regulating the sale of drugs over the Internet (e-pharmacy).

Dr. Montukumar M. Patel, President of the PCI, attended the meeting and presented the council's views on the draft regulations for e-pharmacies. This "Background note of views" was well-received by the CDSCO.



Amendment in section 26A, 41, 42 and 43 of Pharmacy Act, 1948 (The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023)

A amendment in section 26A, 41, 42 and 43 of Pharmacy Act, 1948 (The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023) "The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023". published on August 11th, 2023, introduced amendments to existing provisions related to the "Jan Vishwas" Bill. To prevent the unethical practice by the pharmacists and the pharmacists store owners, Bill passed by the Parliament, imposing high fine upto 2 lakhs or three months imprisonment. By this amendment the revolution in the field of practice of the pharmacists in pharmacy store.

3301177/2023/AHS		Z-28020/19/2023-AHS		127/188
Sec. 1]		THE GAZETTE OF INDIA EXTRAORDINARY		13
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
months or with fine not exceeding two lakh rupees, or with both:				
Provided that it shall be a defence if the name of the person is entered in the register of another State and that at the time of claim, an application for registration in the State had been made."				
(D) In section 42, in sub-section (2), for the words "imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees or with both", the words "imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees, or with both" shall be substituted.				

3301177/2023/AHS Z-28020/19/2023-AHS 115/188

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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II — खण्ड 1
PART II — Section 1
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं० 21] नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, अगस्त 11, 2023/ श्रावण 20, 1945 (शक)
No. 21] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023/SRAVANA 20, 1945 (SAKA))

हस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 11th August, 2023/Sravana 20, 1945 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 11th August, 2023 and is hereby published for general information:—

THE JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) ACT, 2023
No. 18 of 2023

[11th August, 2023.]

An Act to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

- (1) This Act may be called the *Jan Vishwas* (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023.
- (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for amendments relating to different enactments mentioned in the Schedule.
2. The enactments mentioned in column (4) of the Schedule are hereby amended to the extent and in the manner mentioned in column (5) thereof.
3. The fines and penalties provided under various provisions in the enactments mentioned in the Schedule shall be increased by ten per cent. of the minimum amount of fine or penalty, as the case may be, prescribed therefor, after the expiry of every three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

Short title and commencement.

Amendment of certain enactments.

Revision of fines and penalties.

Landmark Initiatives for Digital Transformation

Under the visionary Leadership of Dr. Montukumar M Patel, President PCI

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has embarked on a transformative journey to integrate cutting-edge IT initiatives with its overarching vision. By leveraging technology, PCI aims to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accessibility across its various functions. The following key IT initiatives align seamlessly with PCI's mission to strengthen the pharmacy sector in India.

A Robust & Transparent System for Onboarding of Pharmacy Institutions, Pharmacists, and Students on a Single Platform

In the digital era, ensuring seamless access to services is paramount. PCI is developing a unified online platform for the streamlined onboarding of pharmacy institutions, pharmacists, and students. This initiative will eliminate redundancy, enhance data accuracy, and simplify administrative processes. A single platform will provide a centralized repository of verified credentials, fostering a more transparent and efficient system.

Upgrading IT Infrastructure for Better Output

To facilitate seamless digital operations, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is dedicated to modernizing its IT infrastructure. This comprehensive upgrade encompasses the procurement



of high-performance laptops, desktops, telephones, and advanced networking equipment. The revamped IT framework will significantly enhance workflow efficiency, reduce processing times, and foster more effective communication among stakeholders, ultimately elevating the overall operational excellence of the PCI.

Integration of PCI Data with Aadhaar

To enhance authentication and verification processes, PCI is integrating pharmacy institutions, pharmacists, and students' data with Aadhaar. This integration will streamline identity verification, reduce fraudulent activities, and ensure the authenticity of credentials. By



leveraging Aadhaar-based authentication, PCI aims to create a more reliable and accountable system.

Monitoring & Controlling Attendance Using Aadhaar-Enabled Biometric Systems

Maintaining discipline and active participation among pharmacists and students is vital for upholding the profession's credibility. To achieve this, the PCI is introducing Aadhaar-enabled biometric systems to track and regulate attendance in educational and professional settings, thereby curbing malpractices, promoting accountability, and ensuring adherence to PCI regulations.

Enhancing Classroom Learning with Digital Tools

Modern education demands innovative teaching methodologies. PCI is focusing on enhancing the classroom learning experience by integrating digital tools, including smart classrooms, e-learning platforms, and virtual simulations. These advancements will enable students to access interactive content, engage in practical demonstrations, and stay updated with industry trends.



Paperless and Cashless Working DIGI-PHARMed Ushers In Digital Age for India's Pharmacy Professionals

With the launch of "DIGI-PHARMed," PCI is embracing digitization and creating a seamless, user-friendly ecosystem that enhances efficiency and transparency and ushers in a new era of convenience for all stakeholders in pharmacy services.

In a ground-breaking leap into the digital age, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) launched the "DIGI-PHARMed" application on 1 December 2023. The revamped application redefined pharmacy education regulation in the country. This

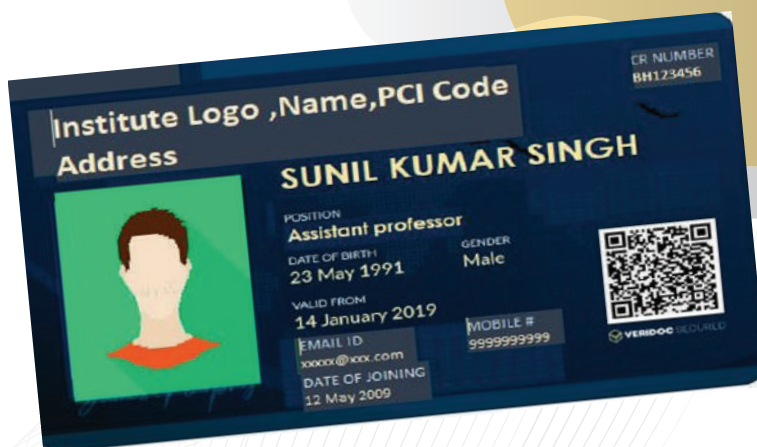
cloud-based marvel streamlined and revolutionized enrolment and registration for Pharmacy institutions, Pharmacists, Pharmacy students, and Jobseekers across India.

Dr. Montukumar M Patel, the esteemed President of PCI, ceremoniously inaugurated the all-new "DIGI-PHARMed" Portal. This digital transformation expanded the scope beyond the limitations of its predecessor. Now, Pharmacy institutions, faculties, and students can reap the full benefits of PCI's digital services.



More than just an application, “DIGI-PHARMed” is a comprehensive, end-to-end solution set to save thousands of work hours and tons of printing paper, marking a significant stride towards sustainability and a green future. The move towards total digitization of registration and enrolment services will significantly reduce the institution’s environmental footprint.

The revamped portal offers four integrated services customized for excellent user experience and streamlining administrative processes.



a) PCI Official Website (<https://pci.gov.in>):

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has a plethora of resources and initiatives to ensure quality education and services in the pharmacy sector. Their official website, <http://pci.gov.in>, is a one-stop destination for all PCI-related updates, including policies, circulars, announcements, rules, regulations, and details of approved pharmacy colleges.

b) Standard Inspection Form (SIF):

PCI has introduced several modules to maintain high standards in pharmacy education, such as the Standard Inspection Form (SIF), which enables institutions to launch new courses and ensures periodic monitoring and transparent assessment.

c) Pharmacist Registration and Tracking System (PRTS):

The Pharmacist Registration and Tracking System (PRTS) is another game-changer, facilitating seamless registration and offering services like faculty application, jobseeker services, and access to essential services.

d) Faculty portal:

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has introduced a Faculty Portal to ensure transparent registration of faculty members in pharmacy institutions. This portal provides several benefits, including:

1. Central Registration Number: Faculty members receive a unique central registration number, which helps to maintain a centralized database of qualified teachers.

2. Smart Card with QR Code:

Faculty members are issued a smart card with a QR code, which can be used to verify their credentials and identity.

3. Removal of Ghost Faculty:

The portal helps to identify and remove “ghost faculty” members who are not actually teaching or contributing to the institution.

4. New Recruitment:

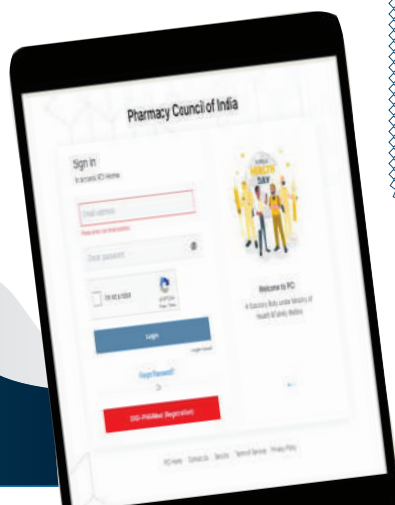
The portal facilitates the recruitment of new teachers, ensuring that only qualified and registered faculty members are hired.

5. Compliance of Salary Structure:

The portal ensures faculty members receive fair and enhanced salaries, adhering to PCI’s prescribed rules and regulations, promoting transparency and equity in compensation.

6. Promotions as per Rules:

The portal enables faculty members to be promoted as per the rules and regulations prescribed by PCI, ensuring that they receive due recognition and career advancement opportunities.



e) Student Portal:

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has developed a Student Portal to ensure transparent registration of students in pharmacy institutions. This portal is a milestone step towards promoting quality education and has several benefits, including:

1. Transparent Registration:

The portal ensures transparent registration of students, preventing institutions from admitting students beyond the approved intake.

2. Prevention of Backdated Admissions:

The portal prevents institutions from awarding degrees to students with backdated admissions, ensuring that students are admitted and awarded degrees only after completing the required coursework and training.

3. Compulsory Data Filling:

All institutions are required to fill in the data of admitted students every year, ensuring that the PCI has accurate and up-to-date information on student enrollment and graduation.

4. Smart Card with QR Code:

Students are issued a smart card with a QR code, which can be used to verify their identity and credentials.

5. Unique Number:

Each student is assigned a unique number, which helps to maintain a centralized database of students and prevent duplication of records.



f) Grievance Redressal Mechanism:

The Grievance Redressal Mechanism ensures ethical standards in pharmacy services, maintaining a comprehensive pharmacy register for India and providing an effective mechanism for addressing grievances. These initiatives demonstrate PCI's commitment to promoting quality education and services in the pharmacy sector.

g) PCI Job Portal

(digipharmed.pci.gov.in/#/jobs):

As promised, PCI launched an online National Job Portal for aspiring pharmacists. The platform empowers them to explore diverse job opportunities. It fulfilled Professor Schroff's vision of pharmacy education and careers in India, bridging the gap between job providers in the pharmacy industry and aspiring jobseekers. This portal is a dynamic platform where vacancies from Institutions, hospitals, Industry, Medical Device Companies and other recruiters can be posted, and applicants can apply directly.

**Saving tons
of paper, the
initiative
will help PCI
reduce its
environmental
footprint**

Council Facilitates Collaborative Dialogues with State Pharmacy Councils for

Single Window Registration System For Pharmacist

The Council is proactively working towards enhancing coordination and cohesion within the pharmacy field. The Council orchestrated joint meetings with various state pharmacy councils to facilitate the same. The meetings focused on streamlining communication channels and establishing unity amongst different councils.

These dialogues served as a powerful platform for the state leaders to express their diverse opinions and perspectives. It created a solid platform for joint efforts and collective strategies that would further elevate the standards of the pharmacy profession in India. These joint meetings have also helped enlarge the image and impact of state pharmacy councils at a national level. The meetings are a unified and cohesive approach to finding solutions to the existing problems and realizing the shared goals of the pharmacy community.

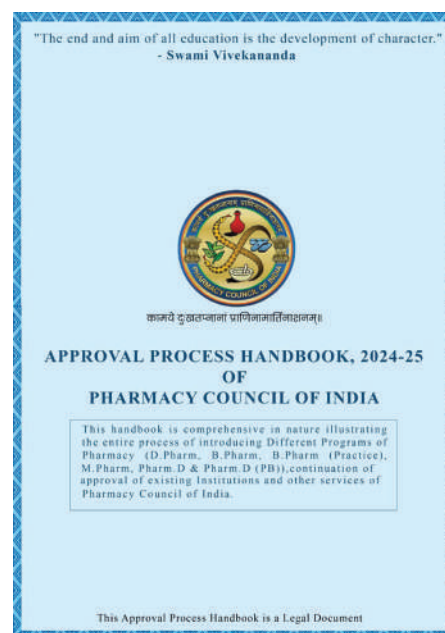


PCI Publishes Consolidated Approval Process Handbook For Introducing New Pharmacy Programs

With a view to introducing new pharmacy programs and renewing approval for existing institutions, The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has launched the Approval Process Handbook for the upcoming academic session 2024-2025. The handbook, available on the PCI website, will enable users to access PCI services.

The Council has taken up this initiative to streamline and simplify the approval process for pharmacy institutions in India. It will further bring clarity and end-to-end transparency to the procedures. The institutions wanting to establish or continue their pharmacy program will be able to use this handbook as a comprehensive guide. With a clear understanding of the process and requirements, institutions will be able to launch and run their programs in a hassle-free manner.

This is a welcome development for the pharmacy education sector in India, as it is expected to improve efficiency and facilitate the growth of qualified pharmacy professionals in the country.

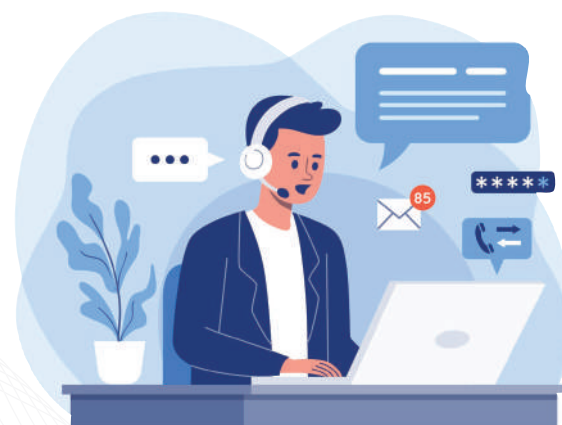


The Council Brings Transparency Into Grievance Redressal Process

The Council established a robust grievance redressal mechanism to bring transparency and efficiency. It ensures that institutions, students, faculty and inspectors are seamlessly connected and the entire process is handled transparently. To facilitate the same, the Council has adopted a direct and engaging approach through user-friendly Google Forms. They are available on the Council's official website and anyone can download it and submit it online. The details will be scrutinized in a transparent manner by committees of inspectors.

With a prompt and transparent grievance redressal mechanism, the Council will be able to address concerns and feedback from various stakeholders. They will also be able to streamline the resolution process and set up a responsive and accountable system for all parties involved.

This initiative is envisaged to open new communication



channels and enhance the existing ones. It will further strengthen trust and create a collaborative environment to improve experiences of pharmacy students.

Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR)

PCI Joins Hands With National Health Authority for HPR Integration

National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to integrate pharmacists into the Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR). This landmark collaboration marks a significant step towards digitizing the pharmacy profession in India.

The HPR is a comprehensive national database of registered and verified healthcare practitioners encompassing various fields of modern and traditional medicine. The PCI and NHA aim to achieve several key objectives by integrating pharmacists into this central registry.

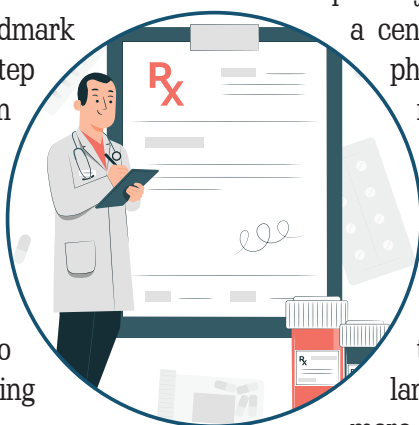
First of all, it will empower pharmacists to register digitally on the HPR platform, streamlining the registration process and ensuring data accuracy.

It will further provide pharmacists with a platform to showcase their credentials and qualifications

internationally, enhancing their professional visibility.

Like all digital platforms, it will foster greater transparency within the healthcare sector by creating a centralized record of qualified and verified pharmacists. This collaboration will present numerous benefits to both pharmacists and patients. This initiative will boost patients' confidence in the pharmacist's qualification, ultimately leading to improved healthcare outcomes.

The successful implementation of this initiative can transform the pharmacy landscape in India, paving the way for a more efficient, transparent, and technologically advanced healthcare ecosystem. It signifies the continued commitment of the PCI and NHA to empower healthcare professionals and improve overall healthcare delivery in the country.



Streamlining Information Access: PCI Website Updated With FAQs

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has taken a commendable step towards improving communication and addressing common concerns within the pharmacy community. The Council has recently introduced the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section on its website, offering readily accessible information on crucial topics faced by pharmacists, institutions, teachers, and students.

This comprehensive update addresses key inquiries, including:

- D.Pharm eligibility for B.Pharm admissions
- Minimum qualifications for pharmacy courses
- Validity of Open School education for pharmacy admissions
- Access to approved pharmacy institutions
- Clarification on institution fees
- Lateral entry process and guidelines
- Student migration and transfer regulations

By addressing such frequently asked questions, the PCI aims to enhance transparency, simplify information access, and empower individuals to navigate pharmacy education with ease.

It will also help them in making informed and timely decisions. This initiative is expected to benefit



numerous stakeholders, including prospective students seeking clarity on admission processes, institutions seeking guidance on regulations, and current professionals looking for updates on relevant policies.

This development underscores the PCI's commitment to providing clear and accessible information, ultimately fostering a more informed and empowered pharmacy community.



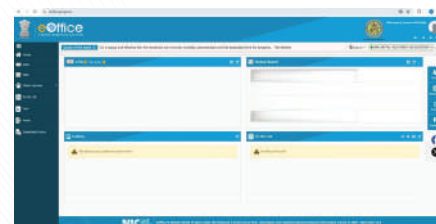
PCI Initiates Digitization of Legacy Documents

In 2023, PCI set out to digitize, scan, and securely store its legacy documents on cloud storage. To date, over one crore pages have been successfully scanned and digitized. Additionally, PCI has implemented the e-office module to promote a paperless working environment.



Implementation of e-Office for Strengthening of e-Governance at PCI

The implementation of eOffice in the Council marks a significant milestone in digitizing government processes, enhancing the efficiency and transparency of administrative operations. With the integration of this cutting-edge electronic platform, the Council moves towards a paperless and streamlined environment, enabling faster decision-making and seamless communication across departments. Therefore, eOffice represents a leap towards modernizing government operations, making them more responsive, transparent, and resource-efficient—benefiting all stakeholders.



PCI to Equip Pharmacy Institutions with Smart Classrooms

With a vision to advance digital pharmacy education, PCI aims to equip every pharmacy institution with Smart Classrooms that offer a seamless and integrated learning experience. These classrooms will feature an end-to-end content management system, enabling efficient organization and delivery of educational materials. Renowned professors will conduct online lectures, ensuring high-quality instruction accessible to all students. A centralized attendance monitoring system will be implemented to track participation in real time, while

online assessments and grading will streamline the evaluation process. Additionally, CCTV-based monitoring and evaluation will enhance transparency and discipline in the learning environment. By integrating all these elements into a single platform, PCI seeks to create a comprehensive digital education ecosystem. To achieve this, PCI is actively engaging with key industry players to explore and implement the most effective solutions for Smart Classrooms.



Dr Montukumar M Patel Laid Foundation Stone for the New PCI Building at the World Trade Centre



The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is all set to get a new edifice at the World Trade Centre in Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi. Its foundation stone was laid on the 1st of December 2023 by the esteemed President of the PCI, Dr Montukumar M Patel. The new building will provide a more modern and efficient workspace for the council's staff, enabling them to serve the pharmacy profession and the public better. It is expected to serve as a hub for innovation, collaboration, and progress within the pharmacy sector for years to come.

A Glimpse of the New PCI Office

President Room, Vice President Room, Secretary Room, Deputy secretary Room, Legal Department Meeting Room, Dairy & Dispatch Department, Record Room & Scanning Room, Annapoorna, Policy Department, Reception, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Cell, Account Department, Store room, M.L Schroff, Conference Room, International Co-operation & Harmonization, Administrative Department, Board Room, IT Department, Committee Room











Dr. Montukumar. M. Patel

WhatsApp channel



Pharmacy Council of India

WhatsApp channel



कामये दुःखतप्तानाम् प्राणिनामर्तिनाशनम्

कामये दुःखतप्तानां प्राणिनामर्तिनाशनम्
का मतलब है, 'हे प्रभु! मुझे राज्य की कामना नहीं, स्वर्ग-सुख की
चाह नहीं और मुक्ति की भी इच्छा नहीं। एकमात्र इच्छा यही है
कि दुख से संतप्त प्राणियों का कष्ट समाप्त हो जाये'.



The PCI has also undertaken the following initiatives for

1

Implementation of "PCI Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for appointment of Teachers in Pharmacy Institutions, Pay Scales and Other Service Conditions for the Maintenance of Standards of Pharmacy Education, 2024".

2

Implementation of Supernumerary Seats for International students in UG and PG courses of Pharmacy.

3

Reservation for admission of Children of Defence personnel in Pharmacy colleges.

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