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Pharma Anveshan: Celebrating the Legacy of Prof. M.L. Schroff

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President's Message

Dr. Montukumar Patel

President
Pharmacy Council of India

Dear Esteemed Members of the Pharmacy Community,

It gives me immense pleasure and a deep sense of pride to welcome you all to the very first edition of Pharmacy Today, our institution's official newsletter. I believe it marks a new chapter in how we connect, communicate, and grow together as a community.

The Pharmacy Council of India has always been committed to fostering excellence in pharmacy education, professional practice, and the overall advancement of the profession. Yet, in the rapidly evolving landscape of healthcare and pharmaceutical sciences, staying informed and engaged is more important than ever. It was this recognition that inspired the launch of Pharmacy Today. This newsletter is envisioned as a reliable bridge between the Council and our community, a platform that will keep you regularly informed about our institutional activities, policy developments, upcoming initiatives, and the milestones we achieve together.

Beyond institutional updates, Pharmacy Today aspires to be a meaningful knowledge resource. The pharmacy profession spans a wide and dynamic spectrum, from clinical practice and drug discovery to regulatory affairs and public health. There are always emerging topics worth exploring, trends worth discussing, and knowledge gaps worth addressing. Through thoughtful articles and curated information, this newsletter will strive to enrich your understanding and keep you at the forefront of your field.

I sincerely hope that this initiative resonates with each one of you, whether you are a student, educator, practitioner, or researcher. Most importantly, I encourage everyone to actively contribute to this platform. Your insights, experiences, and ideas are what will truly give Pharmacy Today its depth and purpose.

Together, let us make this newsletter a vibrant voice of our community.

Warm Regards,
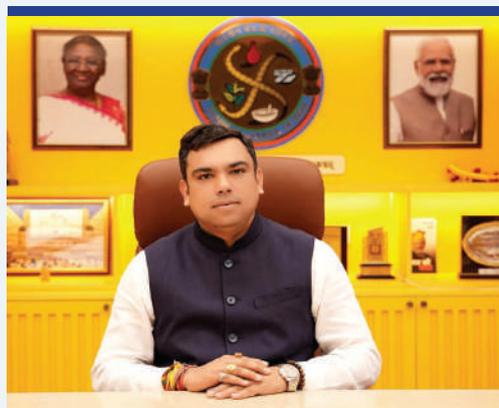
Dr. Montukumar Patel
President, Pharmacy Council of India

Vice President's Message

J.H. Chaudhari

Vice President
Pharmacy Council of India

Dear Colleagues and Friends from the Pharmacy Fraternity,

What a wonderful occasion it is to present to you the very first edition of Pharmacy Today! This newsletter represents an exciting step forward for our pharmacy fraternity, and I am truly thrilled to be part of this remarkable journey alongside each one of you.

The Council is constantly buzzing with activities. New programmes, progressive decisions, and meaningful initiatives are shaping the future of pharmacy education and practice across India every day. From NEP-aligned curriculum reforms and academic modernisation to digital governance systems and centralised pharmacist registration, PCI has been steadily building a stronger, more future-ready foundation for pharmacy in India. Pharmacy Council of India's official newsletter, Pharmacy Today, now gives us a wonderful avenue to bring all of this directly to you, ensuring that our community stays closely connected with everything that is happening.

Beyond updates, this newsletter opens up a rich space for learning and discovery. Pharmacy is a vibrant, ever-advancing discipline, and there is always something new and exciting on the horizon, whether it is a breakthrough in pharmaceutical sciences, an evolving area of clinical practice, or an emerging regulatory development. Through engaging, informative content, Pharmacy Today will ensure our community stays inspired, informed, and ahead of the curve.

What makes this initiative truly special is the opportunity it creates for all of us to come together as one strong, unified community. Every practitioner, educator, researcher, and student has something valuable to offer, and this platform warmly welcomes your contributions, ideas, and perspectives.

I hope that Pharmacy Today flourishes beautifully and becomes a cherished resource for our entire community. My heartiest congratulations to the editorial team, and my warmest wishes to all our readers.

Warm Regards,

J.H. Chaudhari
Vice President, Pharmacy Council of India

Editor's Message

Prof. Nilimanka Das
Editor-in-Chief, Pharmacy Today

Dear Readers,

Warm Greetings from Editorial Board!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year 2026.

This issue of PHARMACY TODAY, the official newsletter of Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), New Delhi has become vibrant and engaged as it aims to unveil various facets of PCI highlighting the shift from reactive oversight to proactive quality culture. PCI, the primary regulatory authority for pharmacy education and profession in the country is empowered to set minimum standards of education; approval of institutions conducting pharmacy programs & holding examinations; and maintenance of central register of pharmacists. This edition of PHARMACY TODAY presents PCI activities in recent times and contains message from President and Vice-President of PCI which has added value to it.

In this digitized healthcare arena, regulation is no longer a mechanism to prevent malpractice, penalize negligence, and to set minimum standards of quality but beyond that. As we navigate the midpoint of this decade, the landscape of clinical practice and patient expectations has shifted so fundamentally that our regulatory frameworks must evolve from being mere gatekeepers to becoming active architects of culture of excellence.

Strengthening of Pharmacy education is the need of the hour to provide skilled Pharmacy professionals to ensure quality, safety, efficacy and rational use of medicines to avoid toxicity. In rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, scientific innovation; emerging diseases; and growing health needs, has vested more responsibilities on PCI. For long, the 'command and control' mode of regulation provided set of standards followed by inspection and followed by sanction those who fail to comply. Today's healthcare scenario is complex and non-linear as it is imbibing technological integration and artificial intelligence. PCI is working proactively and overseeing academic standards, ensuring institutional accountability, and safeguarding public health. By issuing clear guidelines on curriculum, infrastructure, faculty qualifications, and training facilities, PCI is striving to ensure that pharmacy graduates are well-equipped with the scientific knowledge, professional skills, and ethical values required to serve competently. Through structured regulations, periodic inspections, accreditation processes, and continuous monitoring, PCI is trying to create an educational environment that nurtures competent, responsible, and ethically grounded pharmacy professionals.

Today, interdisciplinary collaboration is very much required for the Pharmacists to contribute in patient care, drug safety monitoring, clinical decision-making, and public health initiatives. PCI is proactively working to develop a well-designed curriculum incorporating advancements in pharmaceutical sciences, clinical practice, digital healthcare technologies, artificial intelligence and research methodologies.

Quality governance remains the cornerstone of any regulatory framework. Clear policies, fair inspection mechanisms, and constructive engagement with stakeholders help strengthen trust between regulatory authorities, academic institutions, and the stake holders. The PCI is striving to meet this objective and to shift from reactive oversight to proactive quality culture.

This newsletter therefore aims to serve as a platform for sharing important regulatory updates, institutional initiatives, and developments within. By fostering communication among stake holders, PCI seeks to strengthen collective commitment of excellence in pharmacy education. PCI is proactively working to foster synergy among Academia, Industry, Research, Regulatory and Practice for developing a rich pharma eco-system. By doing this, PCI ensures that pharmacy professionals continue to play a vital role in advancing healthcare and safeguarding the well-being of society.

With Warm Regards

Statutory Information Form (SIF) Session 2026–27: A Step Towards Enhanced Transparency

In a continued push towards digital governance and regulatory efficiency, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) mandated that all pharmacy institutions submit the Statutory Information Form (SIF) for the academic session 2026–27 through its dedicated DIGI-PHARMed Portal.

While the SIF serves as a comprehensive institutional snapshot, capturing critical details across key parameters, including infrastructure facilities, faculty profiles, laboratory setups, and equipment, one of the standout features of the new SIF is the integration of QR code technology for validation and authentication of institutional data.

This initiative reflects PCI's broader vision of building a digitally empowered regulatory ecosystem in which accountability is strengthened, processes are streamlined, and the quality of pharmacy education across India is continuously monitored and upheld.

With the successful rollout of digital SIF submissions, PCI reaffirms its commitment to modernizing pharmacy governance for a stronger, more transparent future.

Registration of Examining Authorities:
Upholding National Standards in Pharmacy Education

In accordance with Section 12(2) of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 the Pharmacy Council of India has directed all universities and boards conducting pharmacy examinations to register as examining authorities (EAs) with the PCI. This regulatory provision plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the integrity and credibility of pharmacy education and examination in the country. It ensures that every pharmacy student, regardless of the university or state, receives an education and assessment of equal quality. It ensures that their qualifications are equally valued and recognized across the country.

A particularly significant feature of this system is the seamless integration of each EA with a unique institution code. This linkage ensures that all communications pertaining to the approval and regulatory processes are routed accurately and updated in a timely manner through the Automated Examination-Based Approval System (AEBAS). By streamlining the registration of EAs through technology-enabled systems, PCI continues to strengthen the backbone of pharmacy education in India. This initiative is a clear reflection of the Council's unwavering commitment to uniform academic excellence, credible examinations, and a nationally consistent standard of pharmacy qualification.

Mandatory Registration of Examining Authorities on PCI Portal

In a significant step towards strengthening digital governance and regulatory transparency, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has directed all Examining Authorities (Universities and Boards) conducting pharmacy examinations to register and submit their applications through the PCI portal under Section 12(2) of the Pharmacy Act, 1948. This initiative forms part of PCI's broader effort to streamline regulatory procedures, improve institutional compliance, and enhance the efficiency of approval processes through a centralized digital platform.

According to the circular issued by PCI on 19.01.2026, all Universities and Boards functioning as Examining Authorities are requested to register on the official PCI portal and submit the necessary application for approval. Furthermore, examining authorities are required to apply for renewal of their approval every five years, ensuring periodic review and compliance with regulatory standards.

During the review process, it was observed that several examining authorities had not completed their registration and application submission on the portal. In order to facilitate compliance and provide additional time to the concerned authorities, the Council has extended the deadline for submission of applications up to 10th March, 2026. The Council has urged all examining authorities to complete the process within the stipulated timeline to ensure uninterrupted regulatory approval and continued recognition under the Pharmacy Act, 1948.

Aadhaar Authentication:
Building a Trustworthy Pharmacy Database

In a significant stride towards establishing reliable and accurate professional records, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has implemented Aadhaar-based authentication for pharmacists, faculty members, and students across the country.

By anchoring identity verification to India's robust biometric identification system, Aadhaar, the PCI has introduced a layer of authenticity and precision that traditional record-keeping methods cannot guarantee. Every individual registered within the PCI ecosystem is verified against their unique Aadhaar credentials, ensuring that the identities on record are genuine, current, and trustworthy. One of the most impactful outcomes of this initiative has been the effective elimination of duplicate records. In large-scale databases spanning thousands of institutions and lakhs of individuals, duplicate or erroneous entries can quietly compromise the integrity of the entire system. Aadhaar authentication directly addresses this challenge by ensuring that each pharmacist, faculty member, and student is represented as a single, verified entry in the database.

Quality Assurance & Standards
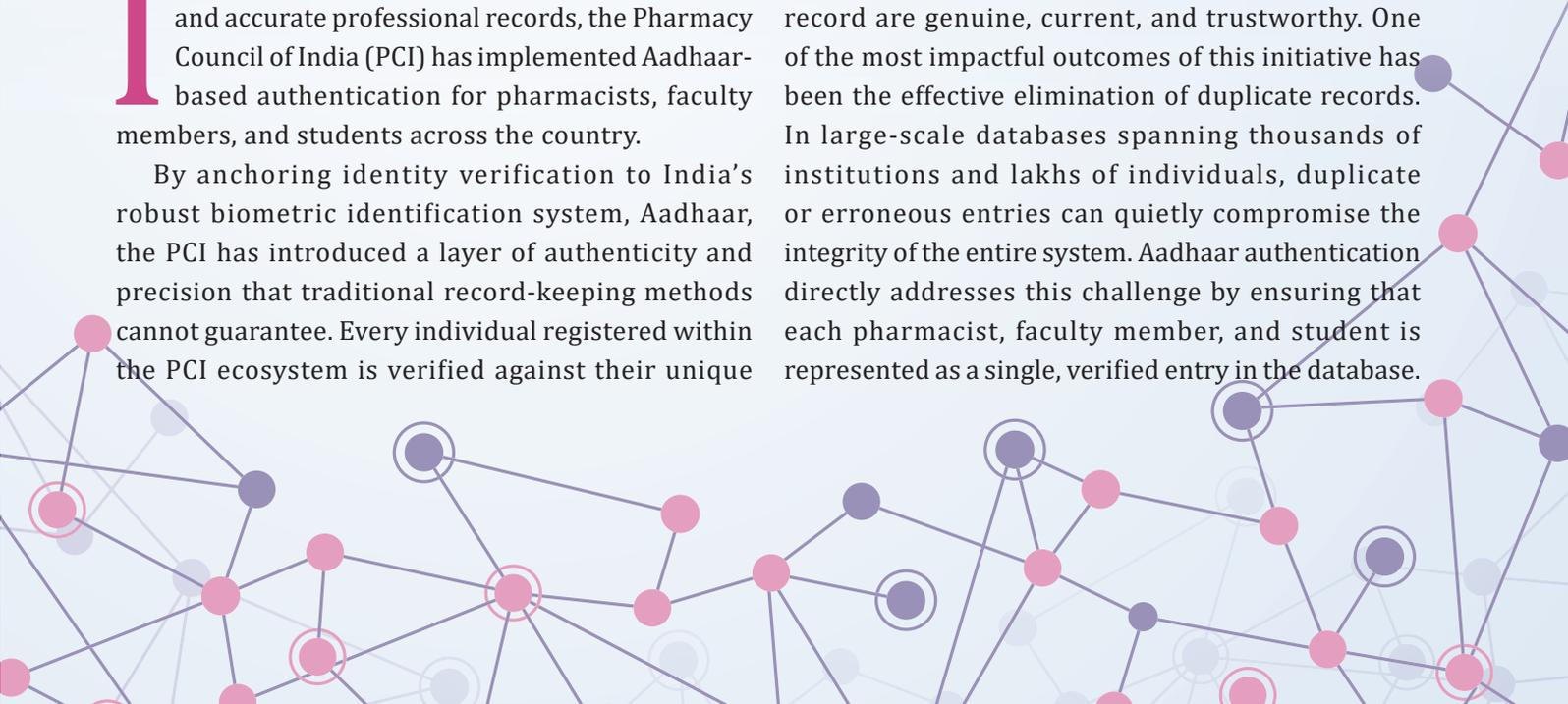

PCI–QCI Institutional Assessment Framework: Elevating the Standard of Pharmacy Education in India

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has joined hands with the Quality Council of India (QCI) to develop a comprehensive institutional assessment framework to elevate the overall standard of pharmacy education in India. This landmark collaboration brings together PCI's regulatory expertise and QCI's well-established quality assurance capabilities to create a robust mechanism for evaluating pharmacy institutions across the country.

The framework is designed to provide a holistic and well-rounded picture of an institution's overall health and performance. Rather than focusing on any single dimension, it examines institutions across four critical parameters, such as academic quality, infrastructure, governance, and research activities. This multi-dimensional approach ensures that assessments are thorough, fair, and reflective of what truly makes a pharmacy institution excellent.

This collaboration between the PCI and QCI signals a progressive shift in how pharmacy institutions will be assessed in India, moving from mere regulatory oversight to a culture of continuous quality improvement. This welcome and forward-thinking initiative promises to strengthen the credibility and global competitiveness of Indian pharmacy education.
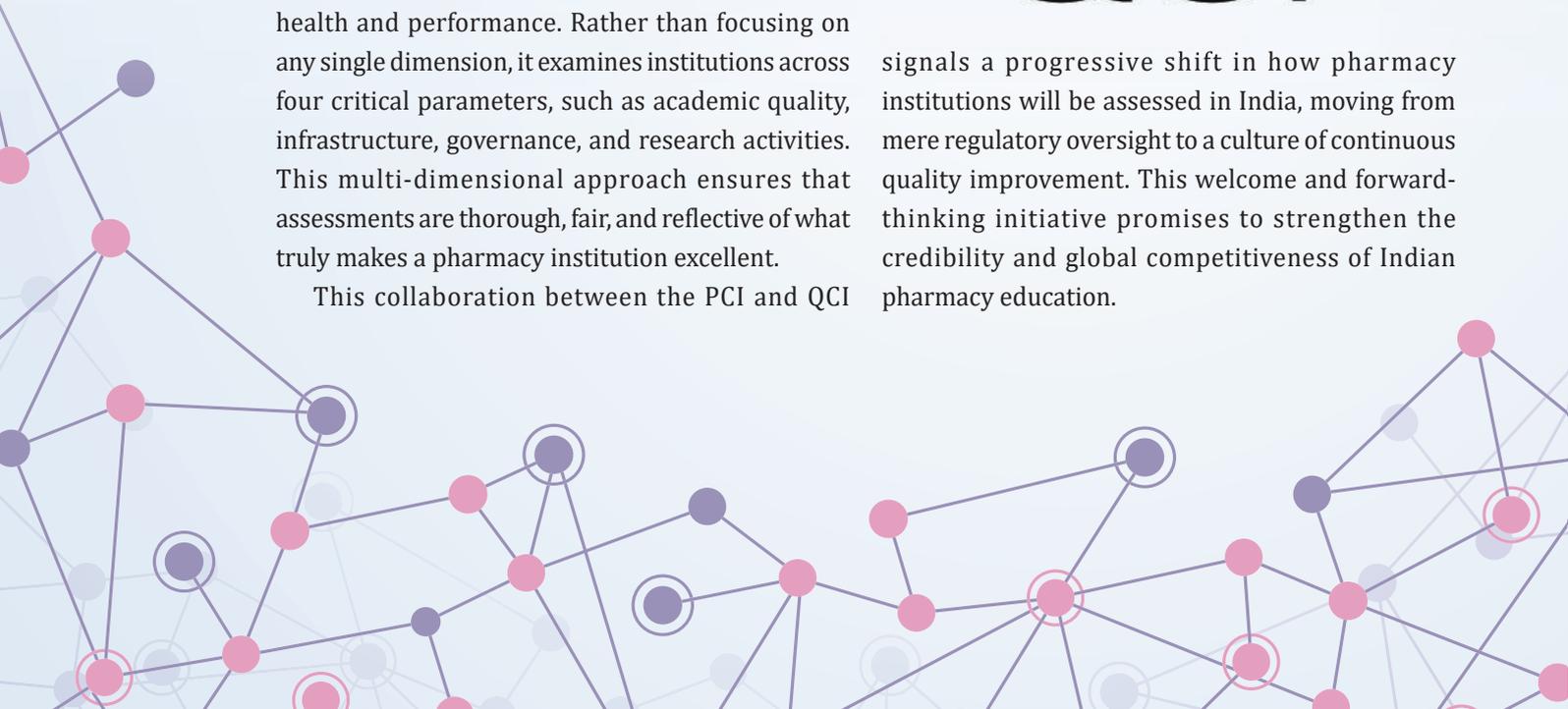
Enforcement of Minimum Standards: Ensuring Consistent Quality Across Pharmacy Education

Quality pharmacy education begins with the right foundations. The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is firmly committed to ensuring that every institution delivering pharmacy education in India meets these foundations without exception. Through the rigorous enforcement of minimum standards, the PCI ensures that students across the country receive an education that is consistent, credible, and fit for the demands of modern pharmacy practice.

The minimum standards framework covers four essential pillars of institutional readiness. Infrastructure standards ensure that institutions maintain physical facilities conducive to effective learning, from classrooms and administrative spaces to essential utilities and safety provisions. Laboratory standards guarantee functional and safe laboratory environments. Faculty standards ensure qualified, competent, and experienced professionals. Library standards ensure that students and faculty have access to adequate academic resources and reference materials to support learning and research.

Minimum standards enforcement is more than a regulatory exercise. It is PCI's assurance to the nation that pharmacy education, wherever it is delivered, will always meet the quality it deserves.
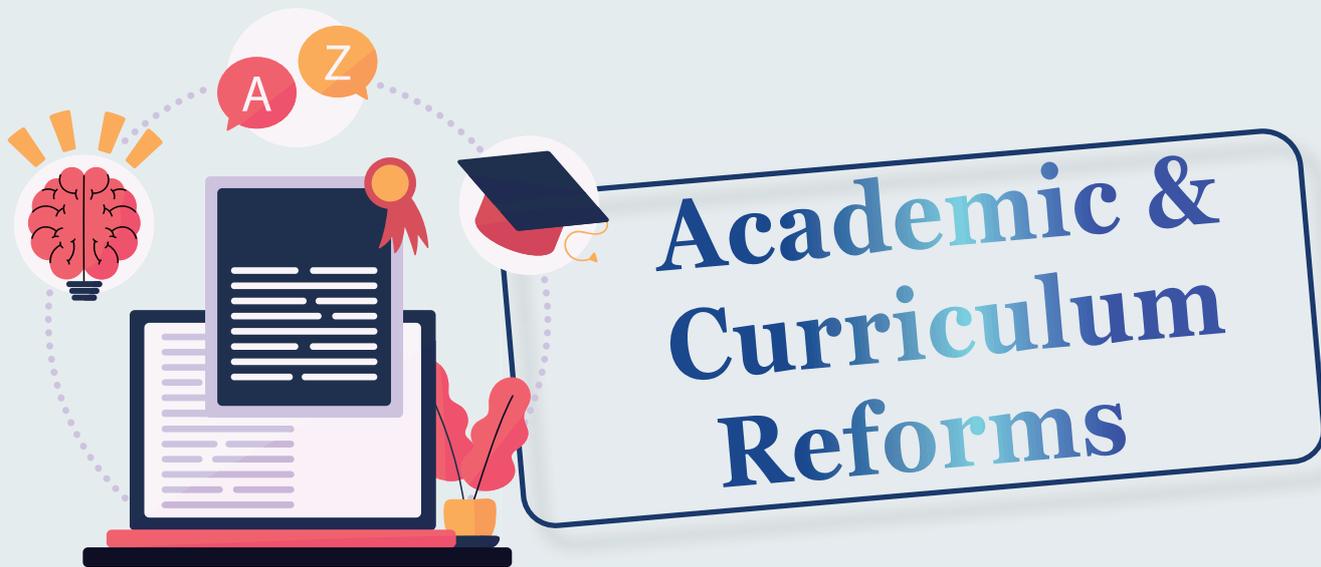
NEP-Aligned B.Pharm Curriculum:
Shaping the Pharmacy Professionals of Tomorrow

In a transformative step towards modernising pharmacy education, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has realigned the Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm) curriculum with the 'National Education Policy' (NEP)-2020. NEP-2020 is a policy of Government of India to revolutionize the country's education system by placing equal emphasis on skill development and theoretical knowledge.

At the heart of this initiative is a commitment to producing graduates who are not only academically proficient but also genuinely industry-ready. The redesigned curriculum introduces a range of forward-looking features that collectively redefine what pharmacy education can and should offer. A flexible curriculum structure allows students to chart a learning path that aligns with their individual interests and career aspirations. Skill-based education, developed in collaboration with the Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council (LSSSDC), ensures that students acquire practical, job-ready competencies alongside their academic foundation. Specialization options enable students to develop focused expertise in areas most relevant to their chosen career paths, while a diploma exit pathway provides a meaningful and recognized qualification for those who may choose to enter the workforce at an earlier stage of their studies.

Most significantly, the curriculum places strong emphasis on industry integration, fostering closer collaboration between academic institutions and the pharmacy sector to ensure that what students learn in the classroom remains firmly aligned with industry needs. This bridging of the gap between academia and practice addresses a long-standing challenge in pharmacy education and greatly enhances the employability of graduates entering an increasingly dynamic healthcare landscape.

Through this NEP-aligned transformation, PCI is laying the groundwork for a new generation of pharmacy professionals equipped with the knowledge, skills, and adaptability to thrive in the evolving world of pharmaceutical sciences and healthcare.

National Curriculum Development Workshops: Building a Future-Ready Pharmacy Education

Recognizing that a truly transformative curriculum can only be built through collective expertise and nationwide deliberation, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) conducted five national workshops bringing together academicians, subject experts, and industry professionals from across the country. These workshops formed the backbone of the revision of the B. Pharm curriculum aligned with the NEP.

Workshop 1: Navi Mumbai

The first workshop, held in Navi Mumbai, addressed the foundational architecture of the revised curriculum. Discussions centered on curriculum structure, the credit framework, multidisciplinary learning, and academic flexibility, as envisioned in NEP-2020.

Workshop 2: Haryana

The second workshop in Haryana focused on the modernization of core scientific disciplines. Experts deliberated on refreshing the pharmacology and pharmaceutical chemistry curricula to incorporate emerging scientific areas and advanced analytical methods, to ensure that the content remains cutting-edge and relevant to contemporary pharmaceutical research and practice

Workshop 3: Hyderabad

The third workshop, which was held in Hyderabad, focused on pharmaceutics, a discipline central to drug development and delivery. Participants worked to strengthen both the theoretical curriculum and the practical and industrial training components, recognizing that hands-on experience is indispensable to a well-rounded pharmacy education.

Workshop 4: Assam

The fourth workshop in Assam focused squarely on skill development and NEP-aligned pedagogical approaches. This session ensured that the revised curriculum was delivered through engaging, outcome-oriented, and responsive teaching methodologies to the needs of today's learners. This workshop was aimed to take this matter in the North East of India.

Workshop 5: Bhopal

The last workshop was conducted in Bhopal to revise the pharmacognosy curricula. The experts ensured the removal of obsolete techniques and introduced advanced techniques and industry-oriented methods to make the subject attractive and beneficial. Newer areas in Pharmacognosy were explored

These five workshops reflect PCI's commitment to a consultative, inclusive, and thoughtful approach to curriculum reform, that draws on the best minds across the country to shape the future of pharmacy education.

M.Pharm (Medical Devices)
Powering India's Medical Device Revolution

As India's medical device sector experiences unprecedented growth, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is taking a proactive and visionary step to ensure that the country's pharmacy education keeps pace with this rapidly evolving landscape. The PCI is currently developing a specialized M.Pharm program in medical devices that promises to open exciting new frontiers for pharmacy postgraduates in India.

The programme has been thoughtfully designed to sit at the intersection of multiple disciplines, equipping students with a truly multidimensional skill set. It brings together pharmaceutical sciences, medical device technology, regulatory science, manufacturing technologies, and applications of artificial intelligence in the medical device domain. This integration of emerging technologies into the curriculum ensures that graduates are not only prepared for today's industry but are also ready to lead industries of tomorrow.

The program is also closely aligned with the Government of India's Make in India Medical Device Mission, a national initiative aimed at positioning India as a global hub for medical device manufacturing and innovation. By producing highly trained professionals with expertise spanning science, technology, regulation, and manufacturing, PCI's M.Pharm (Medical Devices) program is set to become a significant contributor to this national vision.

GPAT 2026: Gateway to Postgraduate Pharmacy Education

The Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test (GPAT) 2026 is scheduled to be conducted on March 7, 2026, marking another significant milestone in PCI's commitment to promoting postgraduate pharmacy education and pharmaceutical research across India. As the national entrance examination for admissions to M.Pharm programmes, GPAT serves as the definitive benchmark for assessing the academic aptitude and subject proficiency of pharmacy graduates aspiring to advance their education.

To ensure a seamless, standardized, and fully transparent examination process, PCI has entrusted the conduct of GPAT to the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS). The examination was delivered through a computer-based platform, eliminating the scope for inconsistencies and ensuring that every candidate was assessed under uniform conditions. Importantly, while NBEMS manages the operational conduct of the examination, PCI retains sole authority over its oversight, ensuring that the integrity, standards, and regulatory framework of GPAT remain firmly under the council's purview.

In addition, candidates who successfully qualify for the GPAT become eligible for PCI's postgraduate scholarship schemes. Such schemes provide deserving students with the financial support needed to pursue their academic ambitions without any hindrance.

Through GPAT, PCI continues to nurture a culture of academic excellence and research orientation within the pharmaceutical profession, paving the way for a stronger and more skilled pharmaceutical workforce in India.

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Registration Reforms:
Building a Cleaner, Smarter Pharmacist Registry

In a sweeping overhaul of how pharmacists are registered and tracked across India, the Pharmacy Council of India is implementing a series of bold and far-reaching registration reforms powered by centralized digital systems. These reforms collectively represent a decisive shift away from fragmented, paper-based processes towards a unified, technology-driven ecosystem that is transparent, reliable, and resistant to misuse.

DIGI-PHARMed Portal

At the center of this transformation is the DIGI-PHARMed Portal, a single-window platform that brings together student registration and regulatory tracking across all states under one unified system. By eliminating the inconsistencies and delays associated with state-level processes, the portal ensures that registration is seamless, standardized, and accessible nationwide.

Aadhaar-Based e-KYC and Biometric Authentication

Complementing this is the integration of Aadhaar-based e-KYC and biometric authentication, which serves as a powerful tool against fraudulent identities. Every registered pharmacist is verified using their unique Aadhaar credentials. This ensures that only genuine, authenticated professionals are included in the national database. This directly addresses one of the most pressing concerns in pharmacy regulations. Through digital tracking mechanisms, PCI is now equipped to identify and prevent such malpractices with far greater efficiency.

HPR Alignment

The reforms also include HPR Alignment, the integration of PCI's Central Register with the national Health Professional Registry (HPR), enabling real-time verification of pharmacist credentials across healthcare systems and institutions.

Pharmacist Registration and Tracking System (PRTS)

The Pharmacist Registration and Tracking System (PRTS)is a dedicated national platform for pharmacist registration and professional record management. The system seamlessly integrates with DIGI-PHARMed for faculty verification and institutional monitoring. Thus, it creates a cohesive and interconnected regulatory infrastructure.

The impact of these reforms has already been substantial. Approximately 95,000 duplicate records have been successfully identified and removed from the database. This is a remarkable achievement that significantly enhances the accuracy, credibility, and utility of India's pharmacist registry.

PCI's Giant Leap Into the Digital Age

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has embarked on an ambitious and far-reaching digital transformation journey, fundamentally reimagining the way it governs, communicates, and delivers services to its stakeholders. By building an interconnected ecosystem of purpose-driven digital platforms, the PCI has moved decisively from conventional, paper-heavy processes to a streamlined, transparent, and technology-powered governance model. At the core of this ecosystem lies the DIGI-PHARMed Portal, which serves as the nerve center of the PCI's regulatory operations, seamlessly integrating data across institutions, faculty, and students on a single unified platform. Other systems, such as PRTS, AEBAS, and eOffice, contribute to a governance framework that is not only more efficient and accountable but also more accessible and responsive to the needs of every stakeholder it serves. Through these initiatives, the PCI is firmly establishing itself as a regulatory body that harnesses the power of digital technology to build a stronger, more transparent, and future-ready pharmacy ecosystem for India.

A Suite of Digital Systems

PCI's digital ecosystem encompasses a wide range of platforms, each serving a distinct and vital purpose:

- DIGI-PHARMed Portal – The flagship single-window platform for institutional and regulatory management
- PRTS (Pharmacist Registration and Tracking System) – National platform for pharmacist registration and professional records
- AEBAS (Automated Examination Based Approval System) – Streamlined examination authority management
- eOffice – Digital internal office management for efficient file and communication handling
- Digital Grievance Portal – A transparent and accessible channel for addressing stakeholder concerns
- Scholarship Portal – Simplified access to PCI scholarship schemes for eligible students
- Job Portal – Connecting pharmacy professionals with career opportunities across the sector

DIGI-PHARMed: The Heart of Digital Governance

The DIGI-PHARMed Portal stands as the cornerstone of PCI's digital infrastructure, seamlessly integrating four critical functions under one roof:

- Institutional approvals – Streamlining the approval process for pharmacy institutions
- Faculty verification – Ensuring authenticated and accurate faculty records
- Student registration – Centralised and verified

enrolment management

- SIF submission – Digital filing of Statutory Information Forms with QR code integration

These digital initiatives have delivered some impressive results. For example, auto data retrieval has significantly reduced manual data entry. This feature not only saves time but also minimises errors. In addition, it has reduced data entry burden on institutions and has made the system more user-friendly. Improved dashboards provide clearer, real-time visibility into regulatory and institutional data to enhance the institute's efficiency and decision-making.
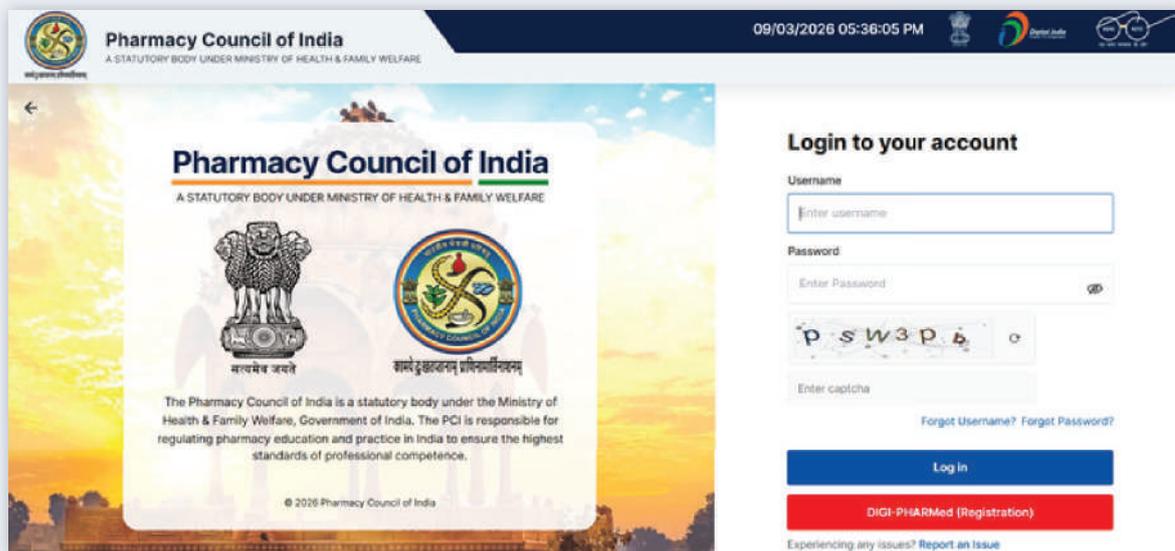
Empowering Students Through Digital Services

Students are direct beneficiaries of PCI's digital transformation. Through the student-facing modules of the portal, they can:

- Register their profiles on a nationally recognised digital platform

- Track their academic progress with ease and transparency

- Submit grievances through a structured and accountable online system

- Generate digital ID cards for official identification purposes

These digital initiatives reflect the PCI's vision of a governance model that is efficient, transparent, and truly responsive to the needs of every stakeholder, from institutions and faculty to students and practicing pharmacists. The journey of digital transformation is well underway, and the results are already speaking for themselves.

Digitalization of Records & eOffice: PCI Tilts Towards Smarter and Greener Governance

In a remarkable demonstration of its commitment to modern, efficient, and environmentally responsible governance, the Pharmacy Council of India has undertaken a sweeping digitalization of its records and internal operations by transforming decades of paperwork into a streamlined, secure, and fully digital ecosystem.

PCI has successfully digitized over 1.20 crore legacy documents. This monumental undertaking has fundamentally changed the way institutional and regulatory records are stored, accessed, and managed. The benefits of this transformation are immediately tangible. It has resulted in faster retrieval of documents

that previously required hours of manual searching. It provides secure storage that protects critical records from damage, loss, or unauthorized access. In addition, it promotes paperless governance that eliminates the inefficiencies and risks associated with physical documentation

eOffice: Redefining Internal Operations

e-Office: Redefining Internal Operations

The implementation of e-Office complements the digitalization of records. e-Office is a digital platform that has firmly brought the council's internal file management and administrative processes into the modern age. Through e-Office, PCI now benefits from the following:

- Digital file processing that replaces physical movement of files with instant electronic workflows

5 lakh pages of paper saved every year

60 trees preserved annually

2.8 metric tonnes of CO_2 emissions avoided each year

- Real-time tracking of files and approvals, ensuring complete visibility and accountability at every stage
- Faster approvals that significantly reduce processing time and improve responsiveness across all regulatory functions

Contribution to the Greener Future:

One of the most inspiring dimensions of this initiative is its environmental impact. By embracing paperless governance, PCI makes a meaningful and measurable contribution to sustainability. Annual savings speak for themselves.

- 5 lakh pages of paper saved every year
- 60 trees preserved annually
- 2.8 metric tonnes of CO_2 emissions avoided each year

These numbers reflect PCI's recognition that responsible governance extends beyond regulatory efficiency to include a genuine commitment to the environment and future generations. Through the digitalization of records and e-office implementation, PCI is setting a powerful example of what it means to govern with both intelligence and conscience.

New PCI Website: A Smarter, Safer, and More Accessible Digital Front Door
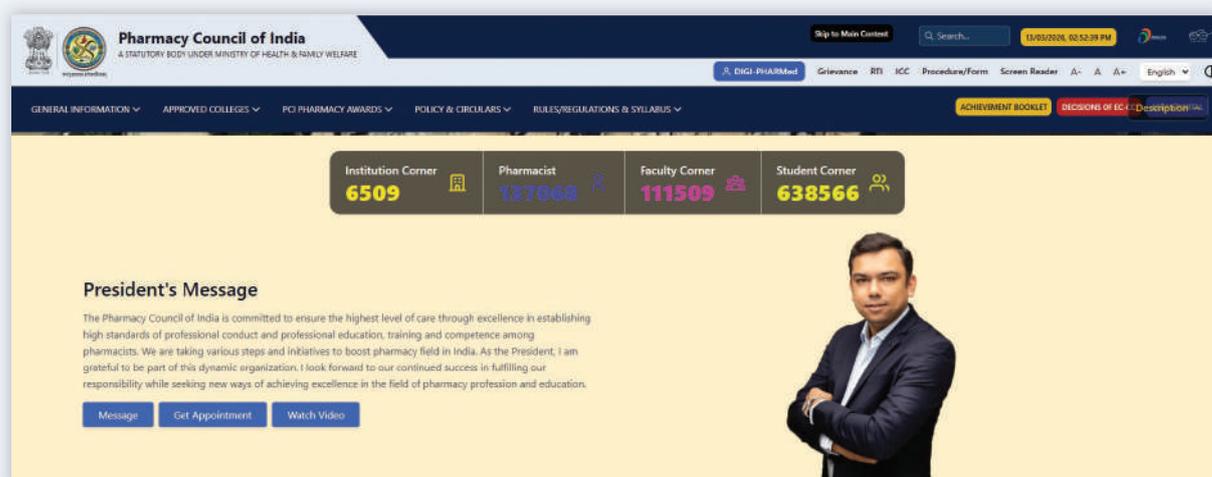
The Pharmacy Council of India has launched a comprehensively redesigned official website, marking a significant upgrade in how the Council presents itself digitally and serves its diverse stakeholders. The new website is not merely a cosmetic refresh; it represents a thoughtful and purposeful overhaul of the PCI's digital front door, built around three core priorities: security, accessibility, and integrated support.

Secure Infrastructure

PCI has transitioned its official web presence to pci.gov.in, reinforcing its standing as a trusted government regulatory body. The new platform incorporates one-time password (OTP)-based authentication, adding a robust layer of security that safeguards pharmacist profiles and sensitive regulatory data from unauthorized access. In an era where data security is paramount, this transition ensures that every interaction on the platform is protected and credible.

Integrated Support

Recognizing the importance of timely and transparent grievance resolution, PCI has launched a centralized grievance redressal module within the DIGI-PHARMed portal. This integrated system allows stakeholders, including institutions, faculty, and students, to raise concerns and track their resolution in real time. It eliminates the uncertainty and delays that often accompany traditional grievance processes. Every concern raised is now visible, trackable, and accountable.

Enhanced Accessibility

The official document library and search tools have been completely redesigned to ensure that critical information is always just a few clicks away. Whether searching for approved institution lists, regulatory circulars, or official notifications, users can now access the information they need instantly and effortlessly. This has made the website a genuinely useful resource, rather than a mere formal online presence.

From Digital Grievance System to Scholarship Portal & Job Portal: Serving the Pharmacy Community Online

As part of its comprehensive digital transformation, the Pharmacy Council of India has rolled out three dedicated online platforms to serve and empower students, pharmacists, and pharmacy professionals across the country.

Digital Grievance System

PCI's dedicated grievance portal offers stakeholders a structured, transparent, and fully online mechanism for raising and resolving concerns. Through the portal, users can:

- Submit complaints online without the need for physical visits or paper-based correspondence
- Track the status of their grievance in real time, ensuring complete visibility throughout the resolution process
- Provide feedback on the resolution received, enabling continuous improvement of the system

Stakeholders can access the grievance portal directly at https://digipharmed.pci.gov.in/#/login-issue

PMSPPS Scholarship Portal

The Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Programme for Pharmacy Students (PMSPPS) portal has brought much-needed efficiency and transparency to the scholarship disbursement process. The platform enables fully online applications, integrates directly with banking systems for seamless fund disbursement, and allows students to track their scholarship status at every stage. The impact of this portal has been substantial and deeply meaningful. To date, the scheme has supported 3978 students, and ₹38.25 crore has been disbursed directly to deserving beneficiaries.

PCI Job Portal

The PCI Job Portal continues to evolve into a valuable career resource for pharmacy professionals, with a range of new features that enhance both security and usability. The job portal's key additions include two-factor authentication for secure, verified access, candidate dashboards for a personalized, organized view of applications and opportunities, and job alerts to ensure candidates never miss a relevant opening in their field.

With these three platforms, PCI has built a digital ecosystem that supports the professional, academic, and career aspirations of all pharmacy community members.
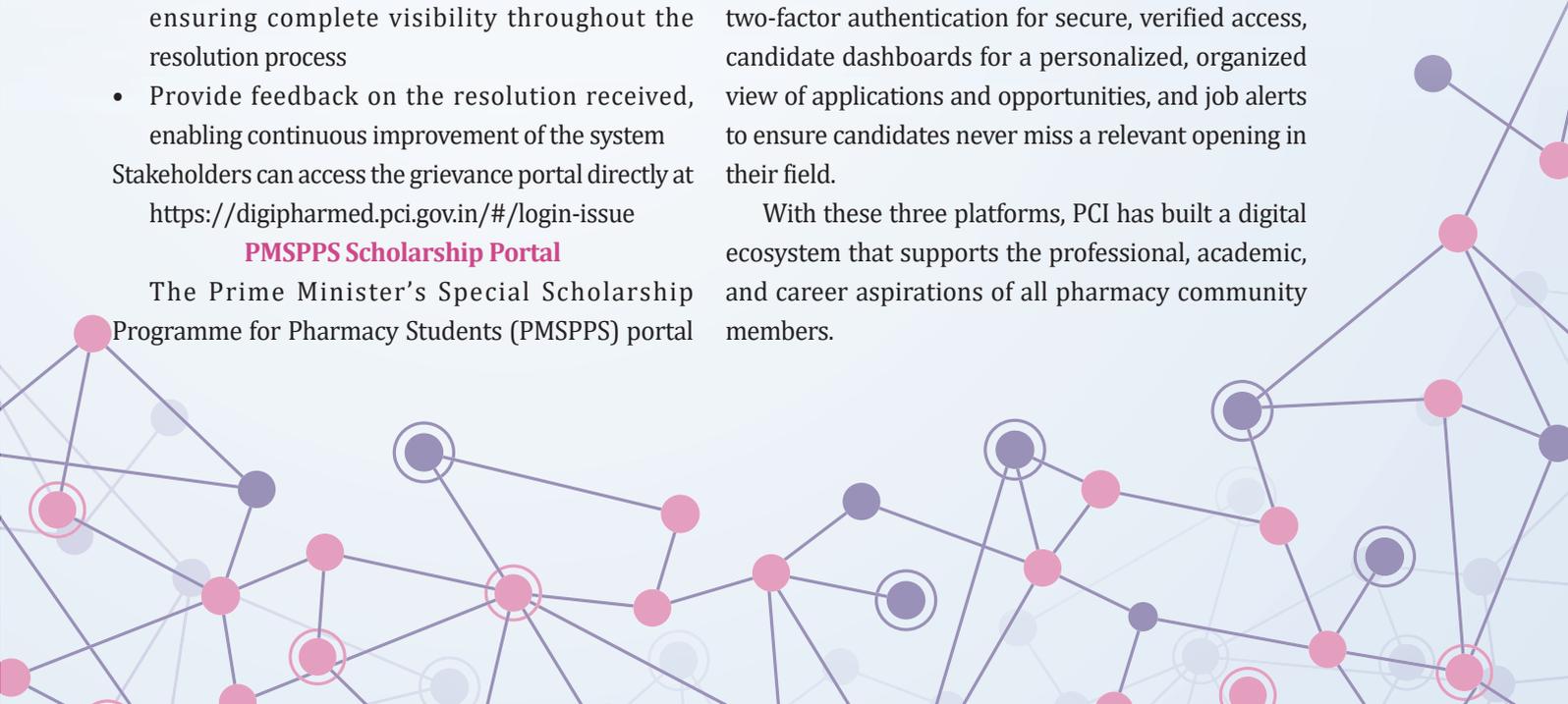
AEBAS:
Bringing Accountability and Authenticity to Faculty Attendance

To strengthen institutional accountability and ensure the integrity of faculty records across pharmacy institutions, the Pharmacy Council of India has mandated the implementation of the Aadhaar-Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS). This technology-driven initiative replaces outdated manual attendance processes with a secure, real-time, and tamper-proof system that eliminates misrepresentation and manipulation.

Elimination of Ghost Faculty

One of the most significant challenges in pharmacy education regulation has been the practice in which faculty members are simultaneously registered with multiple institutions. Aadhaar-based biometric authentication makes such a practice virtually impossible. This effectively eliminates the long-standing problem of "ghost faculty," a practice that has historically compromised the credibility of institutional records and undermined the quality of education delivered to students.

Tamper-Proof Attendance Records

Gone are the days of manually maintained attendance registers that were susceptible to errors, alterations, and misuse. AEBAS replaces these with encrypted, real-time data synchronization, ensuring that attendance logs are accurate, secure, and completely beyond the reach

of manipulation. Every biometric entry is recorded instantly and stored with full integrity.

Regulatory Compliance

PCI has made AEBAS compliance a direct prerequisite for institutional approval for the 2026–27 academic session. Institutions are required to successfully onboard all staff onto the AEBAS portal as a condition of their continued regulatory standing, thus making accountability not only encouraged but mandatory. Through the central AEBAS dashboard, PCI can remotely monitor daily teaching hours across institutions in real time. This unprecedented level of visibility enables the council to proactively identify compliance gaps and maintain consistent academic standards without requiring physical inspections for every instance of oversight.

Certified Hardware Integration

To ensure the highest standards of security and reliability, institutions are required to use STQC-certified biometric devices connected to the National Data Center. This certified hardware integration ensures that identity verification is conducted through

a nationally approved tamper-resistant technology. This adds a further layer of credibility to the entire system.

These features make the AEBAS a cornerstone of the PCI's broader digital governance framework. It has transformed faculty attendance from a routine administrative function to a powerful instrument of institutional accountability, transparency, and regulatory assurance.

Workshops were conducted across India to raise awareness about AEBAS and guide stakeholders in the successful implementation of AEBAS.

S. No	State	City	College	Date of AEBAS workshop	Status
1	Assam	Guwahati	Assam Don Bosco University Institute of Pharmacy	30.10.2025	Completed
2	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhaptnam	Vignan Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology	09.12.2025	Completed
3		Chowdavaram	ChebroluHanumaiah Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (CHIPS)	10.12.2025	Completed
4		Tirupati	Seven Hills College of Pharmacy	11.12.2025	Completed
5	Kerala	Kozhikode	National College of Pharmacy	12.12.2025	Completed
6	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Shree Dev Bhoomi Institute Of Education Science And Technology	17.12.2025	Completed
7	Gujarat	Vadodara	Pioneer Pharmacy College, Pioneer Medical & Paramedical Campus	05.01.2026	Completed
8	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Pharmacy Department Integral University	07.01.2026	Completed
9		Greater Noida	IIMT College of Pharmacy, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh	20.01.2026	Completed
10		Mathura	Institute of Pharmaceutical Research, GLA University	28.01.2026	Completed
11	Himachal Pradesh	Solan	Maharaja Agrasen School of Pharmacy	16.01.2026	Completed
12	West Bengal	Krishnagar	Global College of Pharmaceutical Technology	05.02.2026	Completed
13	Telangana	Hyderabad	SVKM's NMIMS, School of Pharmacy & Technology Management	09.02.2026	Completed
14	Tamil Nadu	Chennai & Puducherry	Sri Ramachandra Faculty of Pharmacy	10.02.2026	Completed
15		Madurai	Ultra College of Pharmacy	11.02.2026	Completed
16	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Faculty of Pharmacy, Medicaps University	16.02.2026	Completed
17		Gwalior	Divine international group of institutions	18.02.2026	Completed
18	Haryana	Hisar	Manav Institute of Pharmacy	20.02.2026	Completed
19	Karnataka	Bangalore	R R College of Pharmacy	23.02.2026	Completed
20	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Krishna's Vikash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research	25.02.2026	Completed
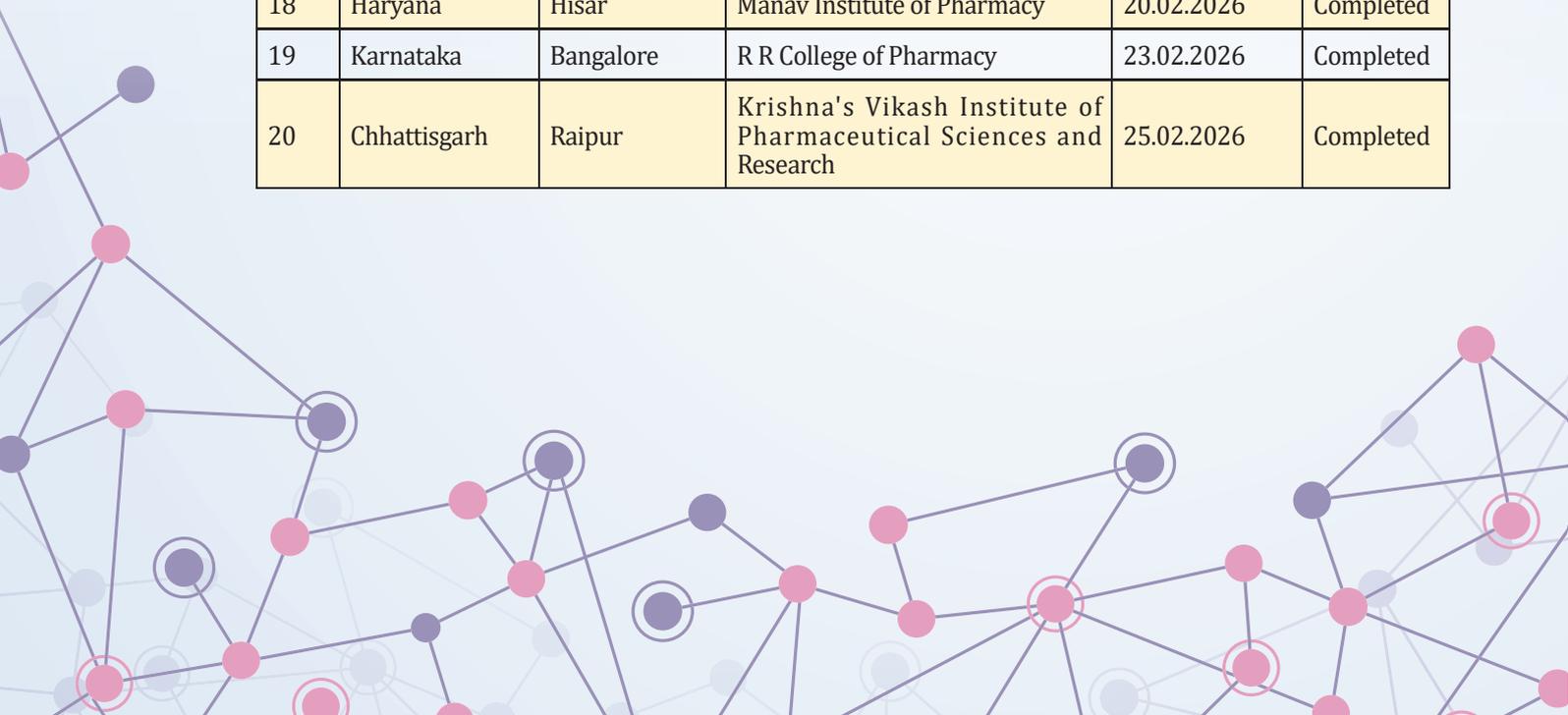
PCI organises AEBAS Orientation Workshops across the Country

As part of capacity building initiative, PCI is making effort to strengthen digital governance, transparency, and institutional accountability in pharmacy education. The PCI is organising a series of nationwide orientation and training workshops on the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) for PCI-approved pharmacy institutions. These workshops are being conducted in different regions of the country since December, 2025. The endeavour is to familiarise pharmacy institutions with the implementation of AEBAS which is mandatory in nature. This will ensure understanding of regulatory requirements, technical procedures, and compliance timelines. The initiative aims to support institutions in adopting technology-driven governance systems that enhance transparency, accountability, and regulatory oversight in pharmacy education.

The programmes were headed by the Vice President of PCI, Shri Jashubhai Hirabhai Chaudhari, and guided by Dr. P. Sathiamurthi, Chairman of the IT Committee of PCI, and technical experts from PCI IT team. The workshops are being coordinated in regional level by the Central Council (CC) members of PCI to ensure effective outreach and participation of pharmacy institutions across the
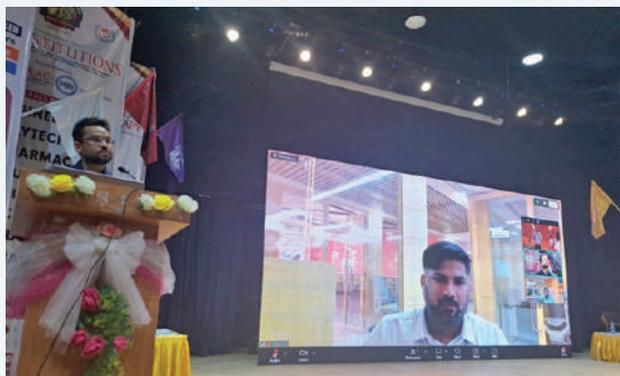
country. During the sessions, participants were made aware about the purpose, regulatory significance, and technical implementation of the AEBAS. Experts explained the installation and configuration of STQC-certified biometric devices, Aadhaar authentication processes, system integration, data synchronization, and troubleshooting procedures, enabling institutions to smoothly onboard the system.

The Vice President of PCI, Shri Jashubhai Hirabhai Chaudhari emphasized that the introduction of AEBAS represents a major step in PCI's vision of digital transformation and academic governance. He highlighted that the system will help eliminate proxy attendance practices and ensure that qualified faculty members remain actively engaged in teaching and institutional responsibilities. Technical presentations and demonstrations were delivered by members of the PCI IT team and the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU), who provided hands-on guidance regarding device installation, faculty registration on the portal, operational protocols, and compliance requirements. Interactive sessions allowed institutional representatives to raise queries and receive practical clarifications directly from PCI officials and technical experts.

The workshops witnessed active participation of principals, faculty members, and institutional administrators from various states, reflecting their commitment to adopt a transparent and accountable digital system. Through these nationwide capacity-building initiatives, the Pharmacy Council of India continues to promote technology-enabled regulatory frameworks, ensuring that pharmacy institutions maintain high standards of academic integrity, faculty accountability, and institutional compliance in line with the evolving requirements of pharmacy education in India.
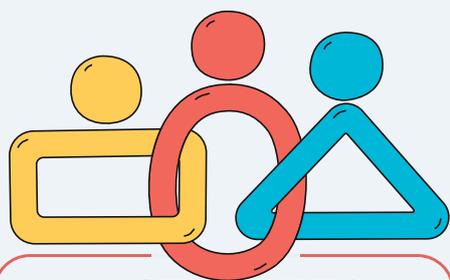
# Pharma Anveshan 2026: Uniting Academia and Industry on National Pharmacy Education Day

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The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) organized Pharma Anveshan 2026, a nationwide academic–industry conclave, on March 6, 2026. The day is also celebrated as the National Pharmacy Education Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. (Prof.) M. L. Schroff who is widely regarded as the Father of Pharmacy Education in India. His pioneering contributions to the establishment and growth of pharmacy education in the country led the PCI to officially designate March 6 in his memory.

A Platform Built on a Growing Legacy

Pharma Anveshan is steadily gaining ground. Over the past two years, these events have emerged as effective platforms for industry–academia interaction, providing institutions with the space to present granted and published patents, applied research outcomes, and translational innovations to industry professionals, regulatory authorities, and policymakers. The conclaves have opened up genuine dialogues on curriculum relevance, skill development, employability, and collaborative research, which directly strengthens pharmacy education at a systemic level. Pharma Anveshan 2026 builds on this foundation with a broader reach and sharper focus.
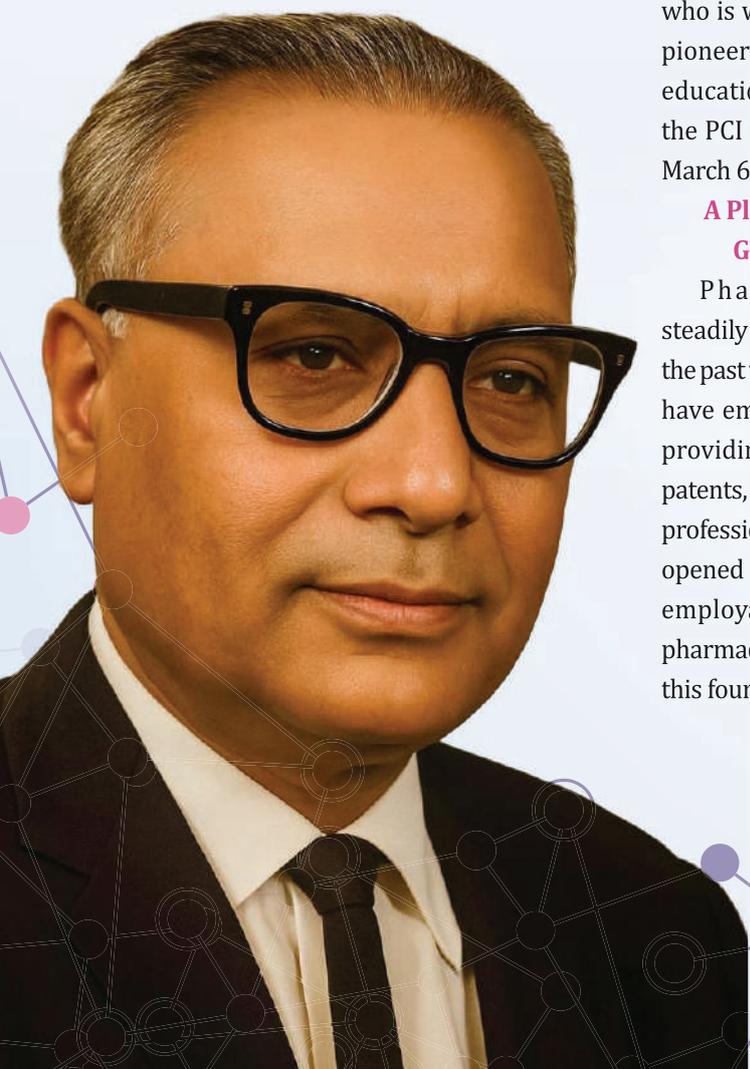
Nationwide in Scale, Structured in Approach

This year's edition was organized nationwide, with 25 pharmacy institutions across India selected to host the event, ensuring regional representation and consistent, structured implementation. The core conclave was held between March 6 and March 30, 2026, giving each participating institution the flexibility to engage fully while anchoring the programme to its commemorative purpose.

Pharma Anveshan 2026 brought together diverse cross-sections of the pharmacy ecosystem, including academicians, researchers, industry experts, regulatory authorities, institutional leaders, placement officers, and students, on a single platform.

At its core, Pharma Anveshan 2026 is about alignment, ensuring that what is taught, researched, and innovated within pharmacy institutions connects meaningfully with what the industry needs and profession demands. By anchoring this effort to the legacy of Prof. M. L. Schroff and the spirit of National Pharmacy Education Day, PCI has conclaved both purpose and permanence.
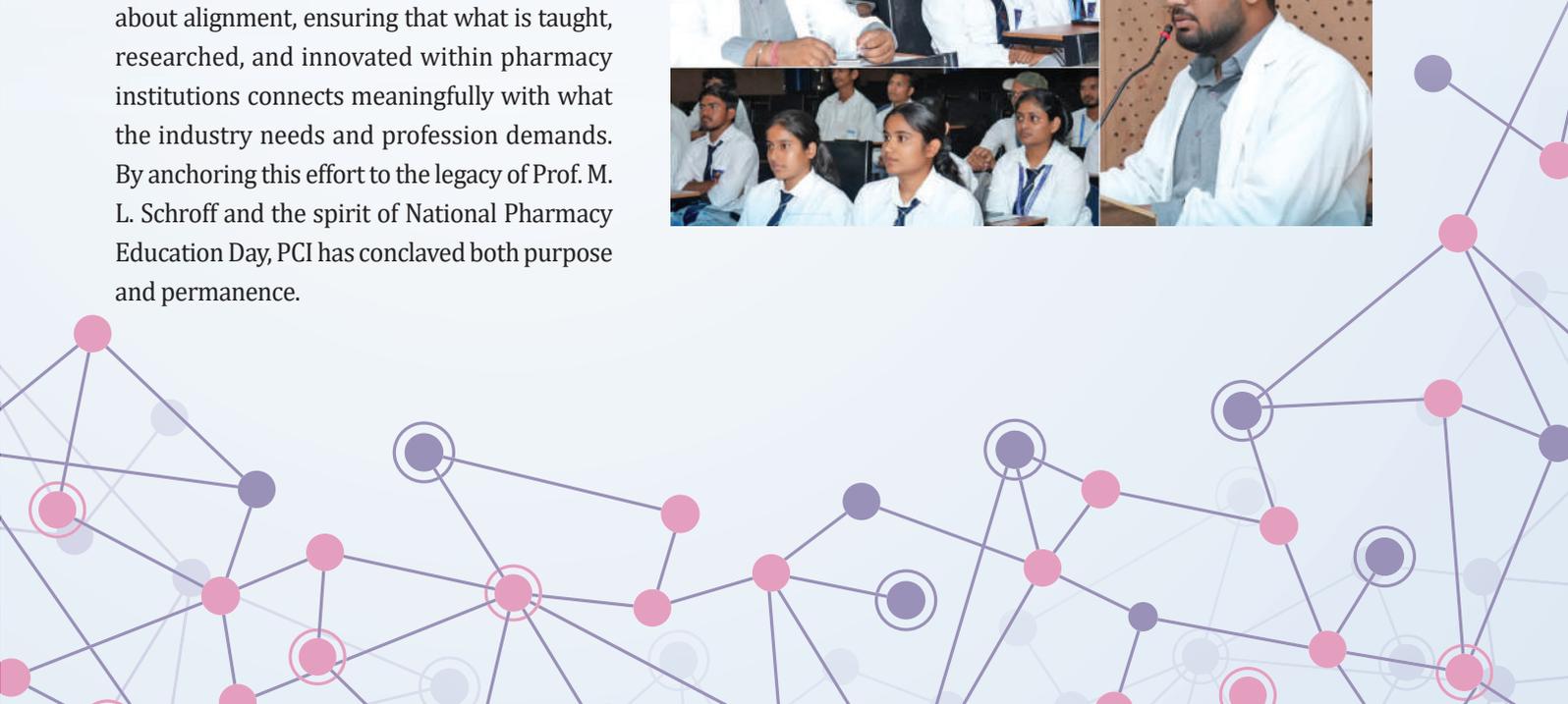
As the program continues to grow in scale and ambition, Pharma Anveshan is steadily becoming one of the most significant annual touchpoints in India's pharmaceutical education calendar.

Pharma Anveshan Focuses on Four Interconnected Goals:

- Showcasing academic research with direct industrial relevance
- Promoting innovation and intellectual property awareness
- Encouraging collaborative research and consultancy partnerships
- Bridging the gap between academic research output and industry expectations

Participation

Each of the 25 host institutions is expected to draw between 300 and 400 participants per venue, translating to an estimated 7,500 to 10,000 participants nationwide. The program is designed for broad, cross-sectional engagement, bringing together faculty members, researchers, industry professionals, and students under one roof.

Activities

- The conclave extends beyond lectures and panel discussion. Participants engaged through a range of competitive and collaborative formats designed to surface talent, spark dialogue, and reward their original thinking.
- The activities include poster competitions that provide researchers and students with a platform to present their work visually and invite critiques and conversations from industry and academic peers.
- Research Articles showcase original scholarly work relevant to current pharmaceutical challenges, encouraging a culture of publication and evidence-based practice.
- Innovation Ideas open the floor to creative problem-solving, from novel drug delivery concepts to process improvements. It bridges the gap between classroom thinking and real-world applications.
- Video presentations bring a dynamic dimension to knowledge sharing, enabling participants to communicate complex ideas in accessible and engaging formats.

Nationwide Celebration of Pharma Anveshan- 2026

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is successfully coordinating the nationwide celebration of Pharma Anveshan-2026 honouring the National Pharmacy Education Day celebrated on 6th March, 2026 every year. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Prof. Mahadeva Lal Schroff, widely regarded as the Father of Pharmacy Education in India. His pioneering contributions has laid the foundation for modern pharmaceutical education and professional practice in the country. The Pharma Anveshan-2026 is being celebrated across India from 6th March and will continue till 30th March, 2026. The Anveshan aims to promote a strong culture of research, innovation, and collaboration among key stakeholders of the pharmaceutical ecosystem. The theme for Pharma Anveshan 2026, "Future Pharma Ecosystem: Fostering Synergy among Academia, Industry, Research, Regulatory and Practice," highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships between academic institutions, pharmaceutical industries, research organizations, regulatory bodies, and pharmacy practitioners to build a resilient and future-ready pharmaceutical sector.

The nationwide celebrations commenced on 6th March, 2026 at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Tamil Nadu, where students, faculty members, researchers, and industry professionals all participated enthusiastically in the scientific deliberations, research presentations, and innovation-focused academic activities. Following the inaugural event, pharmacy institutions of various states are organizing this programmes aligned with the PCI theme. Institutions such as G. Pulla Reddy College of Pharmacy, Telangana, and ISF College of Pharmacy, Moga, Punjab, hosted engaging academic sessions and research presentations that encouraged interaction between students, academicians, and industry professionals. Similarly, Flemming College of Pharmacy, Punjab, and Narayan Institute of Pharmacy, Jamuhar, Bihar, conducted events that emphasized innovation, regulatory awareness, and emerging trends in pharmaceutical sciences.

Further strengthening the nationwide participation, University Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rajasthan, SGT College of Pharmacy, Haryana, and AU College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Andhra Pradesh, organized academic discussions, scientific poster presentations, and expert lectures highlighting advancements in areas such as advanced drug delivery systems, pharmaceutical innovation, digital health technologies, and regulatory science.The events witnessed the presence of eminent academicians, industry experts, regulatory professionals, and representatives from State Pharmacy Councils (SPCs), who addressed participants and encouraged young pharmacists to pursue research-driven careers and contribute to the evolving healthcare landscape. Leadership and representatives associated with the Pharmacy Council of India also actively supported the initiative and encouraged institutional participation across the country.

A notable highlight of Pharma Anveshan-2026 was the enthusiastic involvement of pharmacy students and young researchers, who showcased innovative ideas and research outcomes, reflecting the growing research capacity and academic excellence of pharmacy institutions in India. The nationwide series of celebrations will be concluded on 30th March, 2026 at Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal, marking the successful culmination of a month-long academic engagement that brought together academia, industry, regulators, and practitioners under a shared vision of strengthening pharmaceutical education and research in the country. The PCI is extending its sincere appreciation to all participating institutions, faculty members, students, industry experts, and SPCs for their active contribution in making Pharma Anveshan-2026 a meaningful national initiative promoting innovation, collaboration, and excellence in pharmacy education.

PCI Launches Rational Use of Drugs Programme to Strengthen Pharmacy Practice

In a landmark step toward strengthening pharmaceutical care across India, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has joined hands with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) to launch a comprehensive training program on the rational use of drugs. The initiative reflects a shared commitment to improving public health outcomes by equipping pharmacists with the knowledge and skills needed to guide patients safely and effectively.

What is the rational use of drugs?

According to the World Health Organization, rational drug use entails that patients receive medications appropriate to their clinical needs, in doses that meet their individual requirements, for an adequate period, and at the lowest cost to them and their community. Despite its apparent simplicity, achieving rational drug use in everyday practice requires ongoing education, awareness, and vigilance, particularly among frontline healthcare providers, such as pharmacists.

A Collaborative Vision

The partnership between PCI, WHO, and THSTI brings together regulatory authority, global health expertise, and cutting-edge translational research under one roof. By delivering this training through an accessible online learning platform, the program aims to reach pharmacists across urban and rural settings, breaking geographical barriers that have historically limited professional development opportunities.

This course is hosted on THSTI's dedicated learning management system and is open to registered pharmacists seeking to update and enhance their professional competencies.

Key Pillars of the Programme

The program is built around three core pillars designed to address the most critical gaps in pharmaceutical practice.

•Safe medication practices:

As part of this program, pharmacists are trained to identify potential drug interactions, contraindications, and dosing errors to reduce the risk of adverse drug events for patients.

•Patient Counseling:

Effective communication is at the heart of good pharmacy practice. The programme equips pharmacists with counselling techniques to clearly explain medication usage, side effects, and adherence strategies to patients and caregivers.

•Prevention of drug misuse:

With the rise intowardssicrobial resistance and the growing problem of self-medication, pharmacists play a pivotal role in preventing the overuse and misuse of medicines. This program provides the tools to recognize and address such patterns in community settings.

# PCI Convenes National Coordination Meeting in New Delhi

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) convened the 12th Joint Meeting of the PCI and State Pharmacy Councils (SPCs) at the World Trade Centre, New Delhi in January 2026, with the objective to strengthen collaboration and coordination between the national regulatory body and state-level pharmacy regulatory bodies. The meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble President of PCI in the presence of Vice-President, PCI; Chairpersons of various Committees of PCI; the Registrar-cum-Secretary & Deputy Secretary of PCI; and Presidents & Registrars representing various SPCs across the country. The gathering provided an important platform for constructive dialogue and policy discussions aimed at strengthening regulatory framework governing pharmacy education and profession in the country.

During the meeting, participants engaged in detailed deliberations on several key issues of national importance. Major discussions focused on the upgradation and capacity building of SPCs, modernization of pharmacist registration and renewal systems, and the adoption of digital technology to improve efficiency and transparency in regulatory processes. The deliberations also addressed important aspects related to pharmacy education regulations, implementation of uniform standards, and sharing of best practices among SPCs. Representatives from different states shared their experiences and challenges in administering pharmacist registration, regulatory compliance, and professional oversight, contributing to meaningful exchange of perspectives.

PCI leadership emphasized the importance of strong institutional coordination between PCI and SPCs in ensuring effective implementation of the provisions of the Pharmacy Act 1948. The meeting reinforced the shared commitment of all stakeholders to maintain high standards of pharmacy education, strengthen regulatory governance, and enhance professional accountability within the pharmacy profession. The 12th Joint Meeting concluded with a collective resolution to continue collaborative efforts towards building a robust, transparent, and future-ready pharmacy regulatory ecosystem in India, supporting the advancement of pharmacy education, professional practice, and healthcare delivery nationwide.

Fuelling Pharmaceutical Innovation through Research Development Scheme
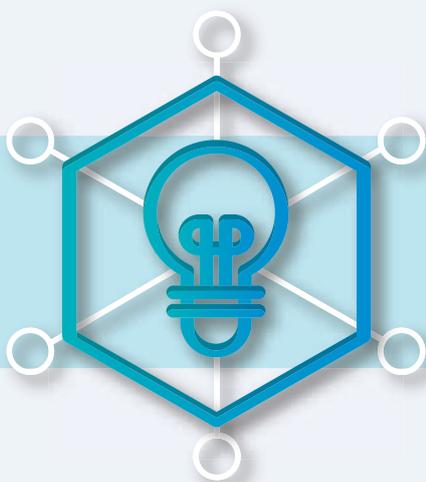
In a significant step towards nurturing a culture of research and innovation within the pharmacy profession, the Pharmacy Council of India has introduced a dedicated Research Development Scheme that provides meaningful financial support to researchers, academicians, and institutions working at the frontiers of pharmaceutical science.

Under the scheme, funding of up to ₹15 lakh per project is available, offering researchers a credible and accessible source of support to pursue ideas with the potential to make a genuine difference. This level of investment reflects PCI's belief that quality research requires not only talent and dedication, but also the resources to translate ideas into impactful outcomes.

The scheme is designed to support a broad spectrum of research activities across three key areas. In the domain of pharmaceutical innovation, it encourages the exploration of new drug formulations, delivery systems, and therapeutic approaches that can advance the standards of pharmaceutical care. For academic research, the scheme provides faculty members and students with the opportunity to pursue rigorous evidence-based research that enriches the knowledge base of the profession. Through industry collaboration, it actively bridges the gap between academic institutions and the pharmaceutical industry, fostering partnerships that ensure that research remains relevant, applicable, and aligned with real-world needs.

By investing in research at this scale, PCI is sending a clear and encouraging message to the pharmacy community that innovation is welcome and actively supported. The Research Development Scheme is a testament to PCI's long-term vision of a pharmacy profession that is well-regulated, intellectually vibrant, scientifically rigorous, and continuously pushing the boundaries of what pharmaceutical science can achieve for the health of the nation.

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