

**MET's Institute of Pharmacy,**

**Bhujbal Knowledge City,**

**Adgaon, Nashik**

### **2nd MET-I-CON 2026, Conference Report**

The **2nd MET-I-CON 2026**, an International Conference on "*Future Trends and Opportunities in the Pharmaceutical World*", was successfully organized by **MET's Institute of Pharmacy** under the aegis of **Mumbai Educational Trust**, on **9th and 10th January 2026** at **Bhujbal Knowledge City, Nashik**.

The conference aimed to provide a multidisciplinary platform bringing together academicians, researchers, industry professionals, and students to deliberate upon emerging scientific advancements, innovative technologies, regulatory perspectives, and research opportunities in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.

With participation exceeding **600 delegates** from across India and abroad, the conference demonstrated a strong commitment toward fostering academic excellence, research collaboration, and industry-academia interaction at national and international levels.

| <b>Convener</b>      | <b>Coordinator</b> |                   |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. S. J. Kshirsagar | Dr. S. S. Gaikwad  | Dr. S. S. Chhajed | Dr. D. S. Bhambere |

### **Objectives of the Conference**

The primary objectives of the 2nd MET-I-CON 2026 were:

- To discuss **emerging trends, innovations, and future opportunities** in pharmaceutical sciences.
- To provide a platform for **knowledge exchange between academia, industry, and research organizations**.
- To encourage **young researchers, postgraduate students, and doctoral scholars** through poster and oral presentations.
- To create awareness regarding **government research funding opportunities and regulatory perspectives**.
- To strengthen **international academic and research collaborations**.

### **Inaugural Function**

The inaugural ceremony was held on **9th January 2026** at **Meenatai Bhujbal School, M.P. Hall, MET Campus**. The inaugural address was delivered by **Hon. Dr. Shefali Bhujbal**, Chief Administrator, Mumbai Educational Trust, Nashik. The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Sanjay J. Kshirsagar**, Principal, MET's Institute of Pharmacy, Nashik.

The conference was graced by eminent dignitaries, including:

- **Chief Guest: Dr. Ulhas Dhupad**, President and Head – Global Pharmaceutical Development, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited, Nashik
- **Guest of Honor: Dr. Suchita Lokhande**, Scientist-D, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India

The dignitaries emphasized the importance of innovation, translational research, regulatory readiness, and industry-driven academic research. The souvenir of conference with Abstract of presenter had been unveiled by the dignitaries.

#### **Scientific Program – Day I (09 January 2026)**

The first day featured a rich scientific program with invited talks from internationally acclaimed speakers.

An invited lecture was delivered by **Dr. Zyta Ziora**, IITC Institute for Molecular Bioscience, **The University of Queensland**, Australia, on "*Natural non-antibiotic antimicrobials for skincare treatment*", highlighting alternative antimicrobial strategies.

Post lunch, sessions included expert talks by **Dr. Kim Seok-ho** (South Korea) on neurological drug discovery and **Dr. Abdi Wira Septama** (Indonesia) on natural products for combating antimicrobial resistance.

Technical sessions also covered advanced drug delivery technologies and cancer targeting approaches by **Prof. Rakesh K. Tekade**, NIPER-Ahmedabad, and **Dr. Kailas Kalicharan Moravkar**, South Korea.

A dedicated session by **Dr. Suchita Lokhande** focused on **Government of India funding opportunities**, exclusively for faculty members.

The day concluded with **Poster Presentations**, campus visit, interactive discussions with speakers, followed by a **Gala Night and Dinner**, encouraging networking and collaboration.

#### **Scientific Program – Day II (10 January 2026)**

Day II commenced with technical sessions emphasizing **industry perspectives, digital health, quality systems, and regulatory preparedness**.

Key sessions included:

- **Dr. Sachin Kushare**, Research Scientist, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, on *AI and Digital Health in Pharma*.
- **Mr. Sharad Chandak**, Packaging Head, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, on advancements in respiratory devices.
- **Dr. Nilesh Prakash Nirmal**, Mahidol University, Thailand, on nutraceutical applications from fruit waste.
- **Dr. Manoj Chitnis**, Vice President, JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, on pharmaceutical quality systems.

Parallel **Oral Presentation Sessions** were conducted, allowing researchers and students to present their findings.

A special session on funding opportunities was delivered by **Dr. Dinesh Jagtap**, Scientific Officer, **Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission**, Government of Maharashtra.

The conference concluded with **Result Declaration and Valedictory Function**, chaired by **Dr. Sushant Bhandari**, Director, Kaliberr Bioscience Pvt. Ltd., Nashik.

### Participation, Sponsors, and Support

The conference received overwhelming participation from academia, research institutes, and pharmaceutical industries. The event was strongly supported by industry sponsors including **Inkarp Instruments Pvt. Ltd.**, **Labindia Instruments Pvt. Ltd.**, **Erweka India Pvt. Ltd.**, **RAP Analyticals Research Pvt. Ltd.**, **Clinomic Center for Clinical Research Pvt. Ltd.**, among others.

Their support significantly contributed to the success of the conference.

### Outcomes and Impact

- Strengthened **industry-academia-research collaborations**
- Enhanced awareness on **emerging pharmaceutical technologies**
- Encouraged **student research and scientific communication**
- Provided insights into funding, regulatory compliance, and quality systems
- Promoted international academic interaction
- The institute successfully signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with following institutes/Universities for collaboration in faculty exchange, student exchange, joint research, publications, and engagement with funding agencies
  - The University of Queensland, Australia,
  - Kangwon National University, South Korea and
  - Jamia Hamdard University
- The institute is **in the process of finalizing an MoU** with National Research and Innovation Agency to further strengthen international cooperation in academic exchange, collaborative research, innovation, and funded projects.

### Conclusion

The **2nd MET-I-CON 2026** concluded successfully, achieving all its intended objectives. The conference served as a vibrant platform for intellectual exchange, innovation, and inspiration. The organizing committee expresses sincere gratitude to all speakers, delegates, sponsors, and volunteers for their invaluable contributions.

The event has set a strong foundation for future editions and stands as a significant milestone in advancing pharmaceutical education and research.

  
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