

Protest against atrocities in Abbott

A large number of sales promotion employees working in Abbott Healthcare in different divisions across the country have been transferred to distant places in the name of non-viability. Few were summarily terminated on flimsy grounds without following the principles of natural justice. Abbott management has resolved one transfer issue and has settled COD with FMRAI's committee. But the transfer issues and harassment for non-achievements continue. Badge-wearing programmes were also undertaken by the Abbott fieldworkers to protest against the atrocities of the management. To protest against the attacks of this US multinational, FMRAI has called for Protest demonstration on 21st March 2023 in front of Abbott establishments across India. A huge response has been noticed from all the SPE's across the industry. A demand letter was also handed to the management in various places opposing the enormous pressure on the Abbott field workers. More such programs are to be organized against Abbott management

Vice President of Abbott Established Products Division Mr Venu Ambati on December 2023, but no developments are being noticed so far. Programmes were initiated by protest mails, and demonstrations in front of Abbott establishments across pan India. Meanwhile management has resolved one transfer issue and has settled COD with FMRAI's committee. But the transfer issues and harassment for non-achievements continue. Badge-wearing programmes were also undertaken by the Abbott fieldworkers to protest against the atrocities of the management. To protest against the attacks of this US multinational, FMRAI has called for Protest demonstration on 21st March 2023 in front of Abbott establishments across India. A huge response has been noticed from all the SPE's across the industry. A demand letter was also handed to the management in various places opposing the enormous pressure on the Abbott field workers. More such programs are to be organized against Abbott management

TMSRU forms three tier organisation

TMSRU in their last General Council Meeting adopted the policy decision of forming three tier organisation in the state. Initially they have identified seven subunits to form three tier organisation. Recently in Hyderabad subunit a new local unit was formed. This is a definite step by the TMSRU leadership to expand the organisation further to ensure better connectivity and mobilisation of members.

ICPA breakthrough in the Legal Corridor

The Learned Judge of the Hon'ble Industrial Tribunal, Mumbai has awarded in favour of the Charter-of-Demands placed by FMRAI and advised the company management to implement the order by paying Sales Promotion Employees the arrears arising out of the mentioned pay-scales, allowances and service benefits and the same shall be paid w.e.f. 01.04.2011 within a period of 6 months from the date of the publication of Award.



■ International Working Women's Day celebration at Raipur unit of CGSPEU

8th March, Day of demand for equal rights

International Women's Day is the symbol of struggle for working women. Nowadays, worldwide the day is being presented as a day of womanhood by the corporate world. So CITU every year calls for observing the 'Day' to remind the women about their rights in the society. This year also FMRAI called for observing the Day at the state units and subunits. This program was carried out from 6th-12th March in different part of India. Several forms of programmes were organized by the state women subcommittee with the help of other state leadership as per the guideline of all India women subcommittee. In some places hall

meetings were arranged, FMRAI's special note was placed during the meetings, members were explained FMRAI's 12-point demand for women field workers. The occasion became more special this year because of present socio-political environment that has pushed women in a very precarious condition. FMRAI has given call to fightback through exercising electoral rights this year, women also are part of the battle. Not only in India; all over the world, inequality among men and women in every aspect is registered by the OXFAM report this year. Globally men won US\$105 trillion more wealth than women, women's share of

estimated earnings in 2020 was just 35% of total income globally, which was slightly more than the estimated 30% in 1990. Women's disproportionate unpaid and under paid status heaps up corporate profit throughout the globe. OXFAM estimated the monetary value of unpaid care work carried out by women globally is at least US\$10.8 trillion. Globally after covid number of women workers has gone down drastically. Economic inequality showcased the position of women in society.

Over last few years sexual harassment in work places for women are increasing. Advocate Anindya Lahiri was invited at WBMSRU

state center to explain POSH Act among the women field workers. In CRU, state unit with the help of Government Medical College Hospital arranged free health checkup for women, where not only our members, Drs, students and nurses also participated, 140 women register for free test.

State units like WBMSRU, KMSRA, CRU(NER), UPMSRU, TNMSRA organized programs at their different subunits by mobilizing women field workers. State units like DSMRO, PCMSRU, APMSRU, TMSRU, RMSRU, MPMSRU, CGSPEU conducted programmes at their state centers. BSSRU also did the same in one subunit.

Electoral Bonds inflate BJP's coffer at the expense of people's health

In spite of the best efforts by the SBI to stall the details of donors and recipients from the electoral bonds, through a petition, within 6th March 2024; the 5 Bench Supreme Court Judges on 18th March 2024 headed by chief justice of India, forced them to publish entire list of beneficiaries. Even after apex court's direction to

SBI, industry bodies like FICCI, CII & ASSOCHAM have involved Supreme Court's Bar association members to move a petition to revert the apex court directives to save face of their clients. The big pharma companies are represented through their associations IDMA (Indian Drug Manufacturer's Association) & IPA

(Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance). The entire episode is unprecedented in nature & must be an eye opener for all how the corporate monopoly power is directly involved in the process of governance of the country as well as their audacity to poke nose in directives of Supreme Court. Never before in the history of Independent

India, Union Government have had ever initiated such unscrupulous ways of fleecing money on behalf of ruling political masters at the expense of the sufferings of the people of the country. This nexus between the political masters of the country & corporates have spelled disaster for

EDITORIAL

Electoral bonds and its impact on medicine prices

The electoral bonds revelation is probably the most putrid skeleton that has come out in the recent years from the closet of the BJP led Government. That the SBI which runs under the central government was repeatedly dithering to reveal the names of the donors and receivers of the bonds, in spite of the direction by the Apex Court; is evidence enough how desperate the ruling party was to hide the facts from the public. The case was lodged by the Association for Democratic Reforms and The CPI (M) in September 2017 and January 2018 respectively. Finally, the court decided that the people deserve to know the details of the corporate funding to political parties, which is also hugely spent during the election processes. The majority of the corporate donation, is received by the BJP. Another major recipient in the list is the TMC the party in power in the state of West Bengal. The ghastliest information to emerge out of this entire episode is that the companies which are hunted by the ED or CBI are substantial buyers of the bonds. The SBI under the instruction of the Central Government tried its best not to divulge the Unique Numbers to the court. These are the numbers which reveals which company has donated to which party.

It is now revealed that almost half of the total corporate bribing (> 12,700 crores) was received by the BJP. 60 per cent of the total corporate funding through these corporate bonds has gone to only two parties; the BJP and the TMC. A major part of the public discourses is now focussed on the Pharma companies. This sector which is a major revenue earner for the country and has gained reputation for supplying quality drugs to the world, glorified the face of Modi's India in the world. The Government, under the demands of this lobby has been allowing the price rise of all medicines continuously. Last year too, the government allowed price rise of controlled medicines twice. Under the pressure of the pharma companies, the pricing of the medicines under DPCO has now been linked with the Wholesale Price Index, meaning that there is practically no control of the government in the pricing of the medicines. In spite of continuous agitation of FMRAI to reduce prices of medicines, there was simply no responses from the government.

Now, after revelation of the unique numbers by SBI it has become clear how much the Modi government owed to the pharma lobby! Almost 400 crores of the total donations by the pharma sector have been done by 9 companies that belong to the top ten bracket. The "quid pro quo" theory applies heavily here as these are the companies that have taken their pounds of flesh in the form of permission from the government to increase the prices of their medicines. They have thus raised their profits by extracting money from the pockets of the common people by making the Modi government compliant.

What is more startling is that lawfulness has not been a determining factor for acceptance of donation. Aurobindo Pharma, whose director P Sarath Reddy was arrested on November 10, 2022 in the Delhi liquor case, purchased bonds of 5 crores days later which was redeemed by BJP on 21st November 2022. Between April 2021 and November 2023, Aurobindo Pharma purchased bonds of 52 crores, 52% of which was purchased between November 2022 and 2023. 66% of these bonds were directed towards the BJP as per the ECI data. Reddy is an accused under the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act).

It is therefore not surprising that the latest UCPMP 2024, which was aimed at preventing the unethical marketing practices of the pharma companies, is far more liberal in allowing freebies and sponsorships than the UCPMP 2014. The permission for many such activities has been given for ensuring more profits for the companies. The same companies that have donated so generously in the coffers of the ruling party are also the most vicious ones to trample the rights of the field workers. Over the last five years, especially post COVID, many of these companies who purchased bonds have been in the forefront of attacks to the field workers and their unions and victimised the workers. The naked corporate cronyism is now out in the open for the Modi regime. It is for the interest of the common people of the country and the working class of the country that this regime should be shown the door; for as long as this regime remains in the power, the people of the country will never be safe and secure.

Whom to elect and why

Think twice deciding Whom to vote for better service condition, and job protection. Experience says that whenever the elected member raised voice of the working class, the Government took decision favouring the workers. The voices of the parliamentarians desisted the Government from formulating policies that goes against the working class. Particularly the left MPs played significant roles in raises issues of the working class. After the Parliament election in 1980, 54 left MPs in the parliament was a big boost for the SPEs as during that term the Union Government agreed for holding a tripartite meeting for the field workers. The formidable presence of left MPs ensured that the laws were not relaxed in favor of the employers. The situation became conducive for expanding the movement and in companies such as Ranbaxy, Sarabhai, Smith kline Bechem, Astra IDL, S.O.L., Ethnor, ADL, CFL, Beiersdorf,

Khandelwal, Wockhardt, Lupin, John Wyeth-service settlements were signed between the SPEs headed by FMRAI. Even after the Gatt agreement signed, which is a major rightward shift in policy, the presence of Left MPs in the parliament and relentless struggle by FMRAI could fetch MRTU Pulp Act enactment. The left MPs were instrumental in raising and formation of the Industrial Tripartite Committee formation and extension of Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976 for ten Other Industry fieldworkers. The fight by the Left MPs and the movement by FMRAI helped the first meeting of Industrial Tripartite Committee. This fight inside and outside could compel the Union Government to agree for framing the "Statutory Working Rules" for the Sales Promotion Employees. But the parliament with reduced left MPs can be the eye opener for the sales promotion employees facing

aggressive employers. The employers in recent times are resorting to mass retrenchments, imposing burdensome and gruelling working conditions on the Sales Promotion Employees (SPEs) as the Union Government is giving them literally free hand to break the law with the hidden guarantee of not getting prosecuted and penalized. That hidden guarantee became clearly visible when the incidence of money being pumped into various political party's fund through electoral bonds by the corporates got exposed. The repetition of the same policy regime shall make the situation worse than ever for the working class. Therefore, the opinion of the working class in the ensuing parliament election must be in favour of the regime which can ensure better service condition, protection of job and punishment for the erring employers who fails to comply with the law. Hence think twice before casting your opinion.

Protest against Himalaya Wellness

As a part of continuing protest against the onslaught brought by the Himalaya Wellness, massive demonstrations were organised in front of Himalaya establishments at different parts of the country. In continuation of protest demonstration, programmes in front of various Himalaya retail outlet were held in the state of Kerala. Demonstration were also held in front of C&F of Madhaya Pradesh and in front of office establishment in the state West Bengal. In the state of Telangana, state leadership submitted memorandum in the premises of C&F. In all the programmes, FMRAI Working Committee members and state leadership of various state units participated and addressed the members.

Resist attack on the union by SUN management

All the unionised SPE's of SPIL are valiantly fighting against the inhuman action of the Sun Pharma (SPIL) management both legally and organizationally. The working environment within the company has deteriorated over a period of time. The COD discussion remains incomplete, and on the other hand SPIL has transferred 8 SPE's including 3 PC committee members citing business exigencies. A legal case has already been filed by FMRAI against the transfer orders under the MRTU PULP Act. Later the management unilaterally brought a new reporting system and started new formats without any discussion with the Progressive Committee. When the MSR's refused to submit

the MTP, their salaries and expenses were stopped. Management has continued with its rigid stand and is not convening meeting with the Progressive Committee. All the issues and grievances including the transfers are pending. There has been no advancement on the submitted Charter of Demands and more alarming is that the management is trying to convert the MSR's to non-bargainable category under threat and coercion. Added to these, the management is threatening and harassing the MSR's on sales ground. Compelled by the situation FMRAI called for a massive demonstration in front of SPIL offices across India. On 18th March demonstration programs

were organized by BSSRU in Patna and Ranchi. OSRU in front of Cuttack cfa, APMSRU did programs in Guntur. Programmes were also organized by KMSRA, TMSRU, WBMSRU and other state units. This is the high time to galvanize SPIL SPE's across the country under one council through which a platform can be created to discuss the issues and grievances of the SPIL fieldworkers. Recently the management has released the salary and expenses of the SPE's. But the bigger danger lurking around is the threat of converting MSR's to SE's and thus trying to break the Union. This is a principal fight against the SPIL management, and the SPE's are strongly fighting against this heinous attack.

New state unit of FMRAI

Sales Promotion Employees working in Jammu and organised under the banner of New Image Medical Representatives' Association (NIMRA) are becoming consolidated to fight against the oppression of the employers. The leadership of NIMRA approached FMRAI to become associated with FMRAI's movement against the employers and the policies of Union Government. The FMRAI General Council Meeting held at Vijayawada decided to recognise NIMRA as one of its affiliated state unit. According to the decision of FMRAI General Council, Shiv Awasthi, Secretary FMRAI and Pankaj Kumar, Working Committee Member went to Jammu and met the leadership of NIMRA. They elaborately discussed about organization functioning and movemental aspects of FMRAI. Now NIMRA, the youngest state unit of FMRAI shall ensure the presence of FMRAI's flag in the region of Jammu and fight against the employer's attacks on the SPEs.

Obituary

Aman Rajput



Worked in Bulandshahr in Mankind. He died on 12/03/2024 in a road

accident on spot. We deeply condole and express our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family.

Ujjawal Bajpai



Was working as SPE in Xena Coronus Healthcare at

Lakhimpur. He died on 25/03/2024 in an accident. We express our deep condolence to the bereaved family.

Shashi Shekhar



From Bulandshahr was working in Arcmed Pharma. He died on

20/03/2024 in brain haemorrhage. We express our sincere condolence to the bereaved family.

Press release

Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices 2024: An exercise in vain

The latest UCPMP 2024 released on the 12th of March, 2024 can only be described with the adage, "Start with a bang, end in a whimper", to quote from T. S. Eliot. After so much debate and controversy over the applicability of the earlier UCPMP released a decade earlier, the people of the country expected that the government would take concrete steps to stop the unethical marketing practices in the pharma industry. Any such step would have warranted removing the voluntary tag from the code and making it statutory with laid down penal provisions for any violation. What the 2024 avatar of the UCPMP delivers is the same old wine in a new bottle.

Instead of making it statutory, the 2024 code assures to constitute an Apex Committee for Pharma Marketing Practices or ACPMP to be headed by the Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, a Joint Secretary and a Finance officer. The path to reach the Apex Committee, however remains complex and obscure. It is only after the complainant feels dissatisfied with the actions of the Ethics Committee formed by the industry, can he approach the Apex Committee of the Government. In fact, the accompanying circular with the code, addressed to "All pharmaceutical Associations" requests them to "constitute an Ethics Committee for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (ECPMP), set up a dedicated UCPMP portal on their website, and take further necessary steps towards implementation of this Code". In the earlier version of 2014, the words, "to be voluntarily adopted" were written.

The penalties

remain unclear too. As mentioned, there are no specific penal provisions for unethical marketing by the companies. The code absolves itself by saying, "In case where disciplinary, penal, or remedial action lies within the domain of any agency or authority of the Government in accordance with the statute, the Committee may send its recommendations to such agency or authority through the Department of Pharmaceuticals". Needless to say, that the committee in question is the Ethics Committee of the Industry. The only role of the Government is that the so-called Apex Committee of the DOP may prescribe any penalty or make a reference to an appropriate agency or an authority of the Government in accordance with the penalties under authority of the Industry Committee! The insincere attitude of the Government to the unethical practices of the industry cannot be more explicit.

It is the above casualness in dealing with the perpetrators that the 'pay for prescription' model has continued to thrive in the industry even after the release of the code 10 years back. It is also precisely the reason why FMRAI has time and again mentioned that the UCPMP is toothless and it should be brought under the realm of statute of the country. FMRAI lodged the case in 2021 in the Supreme Court of India, after repeated demands and persuasion at all levels fell flat to make the code statutory. After the Apex Court directed the Government to submit its response, a High-Powered Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vinod K. Paul, a member of the Niti Ayog.

Till date none has any clue as to what the said committee has done. In the meantime, freebies offered by the companies continue to flow freely in the market.

There are related discrepancies in the code that are noteworthy. The code allows informational and educational items (sic) in the form of calendars and diaries and other items like books and dummy devices up to Rs 1000.00 but without any time limit. Whereas the much-talked section 194(R) of the IT Act says that promotional inputs worth of Rs. 20,000 can only be given in a single year. Then again clause 5.3 says, "The giver and recipient of brand reminders should comply with the relevant provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 with respect to deductions and reporting of income". Further clause 5.2 of the code asserts that, "Receipt of brand reminders from pharmaceutical companies by healthcare practitioners may not be construed as endorsement activity if it does not amount to recommendation or issuance of a statement by a healthcare professional w.r.t. use of the respective brand". It raises serious doubts regarding the true intention of the code, whether to stop unethical practises or to legitimise the same.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2023 were notified in the Gazette of India on August 2, 2023 (later withdrawn). In relation to the sponsorship of seminars and workshops, Regulation 35 of the aforesaid Regulation states: "RMPs and their families must not receive any gifts, travel facilities, hospitality,

cash or monetary grants, consultancy fee or honorariums, or access to entertainment or recreation from pharmaceutical companies or their representatives, commercial healthcare establishments, medical device companies, or corporate hospitals under any pretext... Also, RMPs should not be involved in any third-party educational activity like CPD, seminar, workshop, symposia, conference, etc., which involves direct or indirect sponsorships from pharmaceutical companies or the allied health sector". The UCPMP 2024 says (Clause 6.1), "Engagement of pharmaceutical industry with the healthcare professionals for Continuing Medical Education (CME), Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or otherwise for conference, seminar, workshop, etc. should only be allowed through a well-defined, transparent, and verifiable set of guidelines based on which the pharmaceutical industry may undertake such expenditures". The 2024 UCPMP is replete with such contradictory sets of recommendations of Governmental agencies.

In essence, the UCPMP 2024 is nothing but an effort to obfuscate the real issue, that is, the true desire of the Government to punish the erring companies by law. The pressure created by the pharma lobby is clearly evident everywhere in the new code. This vindicates the demand of FMRAI that in the absence of statutory provisions, the current Code shall remain a toothless tiger and in fact will be used to legitimise the various questionable promotional activities of the pharma companies.

... Electoral Bonds inflate BJP's...

Turn from P 1

on manufacturing was initiated by regulatory authorities. Remdesivir of Zydus Healthcare was found to be "NSQ" by Bihar drug regulator in 2021, but 29 crore donations between 2022 and 2023 through Electoral Bonds had saved them from any punishment. Glenmark received five notices for its substandard drugs between 2022 and 2023. Four of these were issued by the Maharashtra FDA, which flagged its blood pressure regulating medicine Telma as substandard, failing dissolution test. The company purchased 9.75 crore of electoral bonds in November 2022 & not received any punishment. The same was true for Cipla not being penalised for substandard productions of RC cough syrup & Remdesivir. Since 2019 to 2022, it has purchased bonds worth Rs 39.2 crore. IPCA Laboratories too bought bonds worth 13.5 crore between November 2022 and October 2023 after Lariago, manufactured at Dehradun plant had lower than required chloroquine phosphate levels and was found substandard. Intas Pharmaceutical bought 20 crore worth of bonds in October 2022 after Enapril-5 tablet had failed the dissolution test by the Maharashtra FDA in 2020.

The ruling party has gathered huge funds even from companies black marked because of producing sub par medicines. In Covid time, when entire world was reeling under lockdown, confusions & fear were looming large upon the countrymen, then there was enough reasons for suspicion when rampant black marketing of essential medicines were surfaced all over the country. Our suspicion & apprehension are found to be true only after exposure of list of beneficiaries & subscribers after Supreme Court order.

There are 7 big companies who had escaped penalties for manufacturing below quality substandard medicines by bribing ruling party through Bonds. Hetero Labs and Hetero Healthcare received six notices regarding "NSQ" in 10 months in 2021 & 22 for below quality manufacturing of Remdesivir, antifungal medicine Itbor capsule and ceftriaxone injection from Maharashtra FDA but escaped punishment from government regulatory authority. Reason became clear now, company bought 60 crore Electoral Bonds between April 2022 to October 2023. Torrent Pharma bought electoral bonds worth Rs 77.5 crore between May 2019 till January 2024 in 5 tranches. The Gujarat-based company's Deplatt-150, Losar H, Nicoran LV were declared substandard by the Maharashtra FDA in 2018. In October 2019, the US FDA issued a warning too repeated for quality-related failures. But no penalty or embargo

on manufacturing was initiated by regulatory authorities. Remdesivir of Zydus Healthcare was found to be "NSQ" by Bihar drug regulator in 2021, but 29 crore donations between 2022 and 2023 through Electoral Bonds had saved them from any punishment. Glenmark received five notices for its substandard drugs between 2022 and 2023. Four of these were issued by the Maharashtra FDA, which flagged its blood pressure regulating medicine Telma as substandard, failing dissolution test. The company purchased 9.75 crore of electoral bonds in November 2022 & not received any punishment. The same was true for Cipla not being penalised for substandard productions of RC cough syrup & Remdesivir. Since 2019 to 2022, it has purchased bonds worth Rs 39.2 crore. IPCA Laboratories too bought bonds worth 13.5 crore between November 2022 and October 2023 after Lariago, manufactured at Dehradun plant had lower than required chloroquine phosphate levels and was found substandard. Intas Pharmaceutical bought 20 crore worth of bonds in October 2022 after Enapril-5 tablet had failed the dissolution test by the Maharashtra FDA in 2020.

It is alarming for our country's reputation that being the 3rd largest manufacturer of medicines in the world after U.S & China & supplier of 20% of world's Generic medicines such offenders can go scott free. This surely indicates ominous signs for the health of our people, that the BJP led government is compromising for the sake of donations through illegal ways & means. This is especially serious after WHO's caution of substandard medicine supply in different countries by the Indian manufacturers. The demise of 13 children consuming cough syrup in Gambia in 2022 & other incidents in Sri Lanka & USA regarding Eye products, the government has set new GMP standard for MSME companies after finding that 65% MSME companies are producing "NSQ" medicines following joint inspections made by CDSCO & different state Drug agencies.

27th Conference of KSM & SRA

The 27th Conference of KSM&SRA was held at KEB Samudaya Bhavana in Kolar (Com Basudeb Acharya Nagara) on 16-17th March 2024. The Conference commenced with flag hoisting by the President Gururaj Desai followed by floral tributes to the Martyrs column by leaders & delegates. A rally was held demanding 0% GST on Medicines,

UCPMP, scrapping of 4 Labour Codes & punishment of erring employers for unfair labour practices. Various eminent personalities addressed the gathering during the conference like Dr. Aravind N. Dr. Narayana Swamy, President of IMA Kolar, Mr. M. Narayana, SP, Kolar along with leaders of chemists & druggists association, CITU. The

gathering was also addressed by B. Chandra Kumar, G.S- KSM&SRA and Treasurer-FMRAI Partha Rakshit. 113 delegates from 14 sub-units participated in the conference. 19 delegates discussed on reports placed by GS & Treasurer, Partha Rakshit deliberated on the second day of the conference in the business session highlighting the views

of FMRAI & explaining tasks ahead. 8 Resolutions were adopted including amendment of Rules of the Union. The conference has unanimously elected State Committee with 12 Secretariat members & delegates of KSM&SRA-GCM. Anandraju K. H, Gururaj Desai & A. S. Sathya Poorna are elected as President, General Secretary & Treasurer respectively.



61st MSMRA State Conference

MSMRA has organised its 61st State Conference at Sangli at Saurabh Gautam Manch, Bharat Ratna Dr. Swaminathan Nagar on 8th to 10th March 2024 at 4pm the conference commenced with Flag hoisting by Narendra Singh, President MSMRA and paying floral tribute to Martyr's column. Dr. Shirish Chavan (Former IMA president, well known chest physician), Chairman of the Reception Committee welcomed all delegates. Adv. M. H. Shaikh, General Secretary CITU-Maharashtra, inaugurated the Conference with his speech in which he placed the current political situation, anti-people, anti-labour strategies of Modi lead Central Government and farmer's protest at Delhi. Dr. Chidanand Awalekar, (MD) well known Physician and CITU activist, Dr. Madhura Killedar, IMA President-Sangli District, Dr. Sanjay Nitave, MD Gyn, former IMA President, Dr. Anand Pol President General Medical Practitioner Forum, Umesh Deshmukh state President All India kisan

Sabha), Rehana Shaikh, state Vice President - Janwadi Mahila sanghatana, Hanmant koli, Secretary- Citu Sangli District, Meena Koli President Asha workers union Sangli District, Mr. Vinayak Shete, MSCDA - state Regional Secretary, Madhuri Deshmukh, Shivaji University Teachers Association and Santanu Chatterjee, General Secretary, FMRAI greeted during the inaugural session. At 6pm on 8th March Committees were formed for the functioning of the conference, Condolence resolution was placed followed by Presidential speech by Narendra Singh, President. Shrikant Phopse, General Secretary and Vishal Bhumre, Treasurer placed their reports. 59 delegates from 26 units deliberated on the General Secretary and Treasurer's report. Time was also dedicated to council for deliberation in which 6 council leadership participated. Separate time was scheduled for the women subcommittee. Following resolutions were taken and unanimously passed by the house. 1) Task in the Ensuing

Parliamentary Elections 2) On Reduction of medicine prices and Zero GST 3) On protection of Legal Rights and Notification of Statutory Working Rules. 4) Against growing attacks on jobs of Sales Promotion Employees and Combative Struggles 5) Accounts related issue 6) To make next FMRAI Conference successful scheduled to be held in Maharashtra. The General Secretary and Treasurer's report was passed unanimously. Total 261 delegates and 3 observers from 28 units participated in the Conference which elected Narendra Singh- President, Shrikant Phopse- General Secretary and Vishal Bhumre- Treasurer along with 16 other office bearers and 54 State Working Committee members. 6 women members were incorporated as invitees in the SWC. Santanu Chatterjee, FMRAI General Secretary gave the concluding speech. On 8th March "International Women Day" was celebrated by felicitating women delegates, volunteers and guests attending the inaugural session.

UPMSRA State Rally

In persuasion of state related demands, a massive rally was organized at Lucknow which was participated by more than 1200 members of UPMSRA. The Rally was addressed by many Central trade union leaders including J. S. Majumdar, former General Secretary, FMRAI and Prem Nath Rai, General Secretary, CITU, Uttar Pradesh. The major demands were notification and fixation of 8 hours' work, notification of Rs. 26000/- as minimum wage, removal of restriction in Hospital Working in the state of Uttar Pradesh and repealing 4 Labour Codes. 25 point demands memorandum was also submitted to Chief



Minister of the state This is also to be noted that state government did not grant any permission for the rally, rather two days prior to the date of rally they denied the permission on the plea of Ramjan & forthcoming Lok Sabha Election. continuous persuasion of UPMSRA

leadership along with state CITU compelled the administration to allow holding the rally. With spirited response from the members, the programme concluded with call of future rally in August, 2024 along with other programmes till the just demands of the fieldworkers are met.

New subunit in TMSRU

Telangana Medical and Sales Representatives' Union organised the formation meeting of new subunit Nirmal on 24th March, 2024 at CITU office, Nirmal. G. Vidya Sagar, Secretary, TMSRU attended and in his inaugural speech has explained about the movement of TMSRU and FMRAI and how present Governments and managements are attacking on rights of working class. Suresh,

Secretary, CITU Nirmal District Committee explained about impact of the labour codes on working class. Dr. U. Ramakrishna, IMA Nirmal District President, Dr. P. Santhosh IMA Secretary greeted the members. The formation meeting unanimously elected 7 office bearers and 8 working committee members elected with B. Praveen, President, G. Rajashekar, Secretary and Vijay Kanth as Treasurer.

Programmes in PCMSRU

PCMSRU organised memorandum submission to the executives of various companies demanding compliance of law and providing Bonus, gratuity to the fieldworkers. The programme created enthusiasm amongst the fieldworkers in the state. In recent times because of continuous activities in Sangrur unit, 75 fieldworkers joined PCMSRU and FMRAI as members.



5th TMSRU state conference held at Karimnagar

The 5th state conference of TMSRU was held on 9th and 10th March, 2024 at Padmashali Kalyanmandapam in Karimnagar. Conference began with the hoisting of TMSRU flag by President Ch. Bhanu Kiran along with floral tributes to the martyrs' column by attending delegates and dignitaries who are invited. Inaugural session started with invitation to leaders, invitees and dignitaries to the dais by the organizing secretary, M. Anjaiah. Condolence

resolution placed by Ch. Sreedhar. Mr. K. Venugopal, chief guest and former General Secretary, AIIEA, inaugurated the conference and greeted the audience. Dr. E. Vijayandra Reddy, Chairman, Reception Committee addressed the audience. K. Vijayandra Reddy, Secretary, IMA Karimnagar and other dignitaries present from different fraternal organization greeted the audience one by one. In the business session I. Raju Bhat placed General Secretary's

report and the accounts was placed by the Treasurer. 15 delegates from 10 subunits discussed on the report placed by G.S. and Treasurer. Ramesh Sundar, President, FMRAI, Sunil Kumar, Jt. General Secretary, FMRAI, P. Bhaskar, J. Venkatesh office bearers from CITU, P. Krishnanand and C. Venkat Rao, both G. S. of KMSRA and APMSRU respectively addressed and guided the 5th conference. Different resolutions were adopted, among which a

constitutional amendment to increase the number of State Working Committee members from 11 to 12, were adopted unanimously. Other important resolutions were against the companies like Wallace, Sanofi and ADL were also adopted. Resolutions to defeat BJP led NDA and demand to implement labour laws and minimum wages were adopted in the conference. General Secretary and Treasurer replied on the discussion on report by the delegates. Both the reports

were unanimously adopted. Mementos were handed over to all the Guests, Invitees and sub unit leaderships. Also, certificates were presented to subunits who achieved their membership objectives for 2023. The new committee was elected unanimously with 9 office bearers and 12 SWC members. The conference elected Ch. Bhanu Kiran as the General Secretary and Ch. Sreedhar as the President of TMSRU for the next term. 159 delegates attended this 5th conference.

