

Name of the Activity: Inauguration of the Pharmaceutical Formulation Innovation, Technology and Engineering Centre

Name of the School: SIES School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Date: 24th May 2025

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: SIES School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Mode: Offline

Speaker Details:

- **Chief Guest:** Padmavibhushan Padmabhushan Prof. M. M. Sharma- Eminent Scientist
- **Guest of Honour:** Dr. Ananthakrishnan – Renowned Academic & Industry Mentor
- **Special Acknowledgement:** Shri Mehul Shah – Philanthropist and Principal Donor

Detailed Description of the Event:

On 24th May 2025 at 11:00 AM, the SIES School of Pharmaceutical Sciences celebrated a landmark occasion with the inauguration of the Pharmaceutical Formulation- Innovation, Technology and Engineering Centre (PFITEC). The centre is not just an infrastructure upgrade, it is a manifestation of management's long-term vision to bridge the gap between lab research and real-world applications. Held in the heart of the institution's academic block, the event was attended in person by senior dignitaries, industry leaders, faculty members, and students.

The atmosphere was vibrant and filled with enthusiasm as the inauguration ceremony was honoured by the presence of Prof. Manmohan Sharma, Dr. Ananthakrishnan, and Shri Mehul Shah. Sh. Mehul Shah's unwavering belief in the power of science has realized this center.

The dignitaries were welcomed with floral greetings, and the inauguration commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony and Saraswati Vandana, setting a spiritual and scholarly tone to the proceedings. The SIES School of Pharmaceutical Sciences delivered the welcome address, highlighting the centre's goals, its relevance in today's research ecosystem, and the long-standing dream of creating a platform that turns research into real-world pharmaceutical solutions.

Prof. Manmohan Sharma, a stalwart in chemical engineering, delivered the keynote address. With decades of wisdom, he emphasized the critical importance of integrity in science, and how facilities like PFITEC can reshape the future of pharmaceutical

education and product development. He shared inspiring insights into how innovation must be aligned with societal needs.

Dr. Ananthakrishnan, an advocate for translational research, motivated students to go beyond textbooks and actively engage in formulation trials, machine design, and process simulation. He stressed the importance of learning by doing and appreciated the hands-on approach the new centre offers.

The event also included an exclusive tour of the new centre, where participants were introduced to the cutting-edge equipment and research spaces provided through collaborations with Encube Ethicals, Gansons, Buchi, Accupak, Sunsai, Trident, Electrolab, Kalweka, and IRM. Students and faculty had the opportunity to interact with technical experts present during the demonstration sessions.

One of the emotional highlights of the day was the felicitation of **Shri Mehul Shah**, who encouraged students to innovate with purpose and passion, during his address. His generous support and firm belief in the power of education were acknowledged with a commemorative plaque.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the academic coordinator, acknowledging all contributors, staff, student volunteers, sponsors, and guests.

Significance and Impact:

The PFITEC represents a turning point in the evolution of SIES School of Pharmaceutical Sciences. It is not just a physical lab space but a living ecosystem of experimentation, research, and problem-solving. This facility allows the development of scalable pharmaceutical formulations, advanced drug delivery systems, and prototype batch designs that mirror industrial practices.

Moreover, the centre fosters partnerships with pharmaceutical companies, offering opportunities for joint research, consultancy, internships, and product development, thus reinforcing the institution's commitment to 'Research to Reality'.

