

Chemist shops in city stay shut

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Over 6,800 chemist shops across Delhi-NCR remained shut on Wednesday due to the nationwide strike called by All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD). The organisation, which has eight lakh members across the country, is opposed to the Centre's move to regularise online sale of medicines.

"Over 90% of chemist shops across the country are shut. However, 10% were allowed to remain open to avoid difficulty to patients," said AIOCD president JS Shinde. The association has warned of an indefinite strike if the government fails to add-

ress the issue within a week. The pharmacists claim regularising sale of medicines through the internet would increase the risk of adverse drug reaction and give an opening for entry of low-quality, misbranded and spurious products.

"We met the drug controller of India GN Singh and submitted a memorandum to him. Our representatives also went to the chemicals and fertilisers ministry. We have even submitted a memorandum to the PMO, health minister JP Nadda and chief ministers of all states. A copy was sent to all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, but no one has responded yet," Shinde said.

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