



SOUTH CHEMISTS & DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

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Ref: SCDA/2023/0275

22nd December 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Prosecution of Pharmallama – a startup appeared in Shark Tank India securing an All Shark Deal

<https://pharmallama.com/> - a Health Startup participated in Shark Tank India which was telecasted on Sony Entertainment TV in February 2023. The video of the broadcast is below:

<https://youtu.be/WWE03Yv-nOM?si=eOLd0ptr0kiUdzhf>

After the telecast, SCDA sent a letter to the Founders of Pharmallama, Investors invested in Shark Tank, namely, Mr. Aman Gupta, Mr. Amit Jain, Mr. Anupam Mittal, Mr Peyush Bansal and Ms Namita Thapar, along with the regulatory offices of the Drug Controller General of India, Drugs Controller, Government of Karnataka, Union Secretary & Joint Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Honorable Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and the Prime Minister's Office, mentioning that the business is illegal and against the rules and regulation for the dispensation of drugs in our country under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act & Rules thereunder.

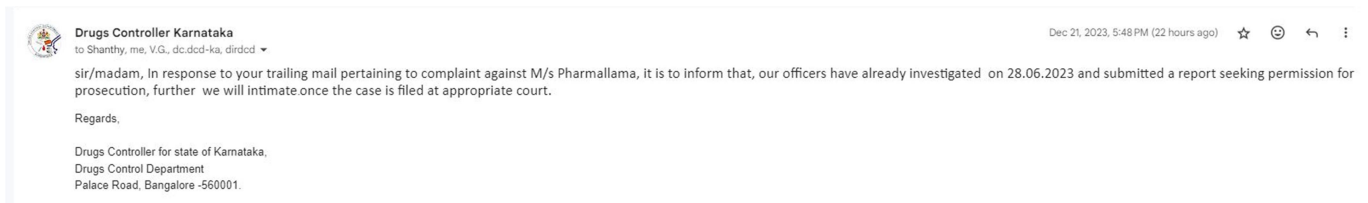
In the above letter, Ref: SCDA/2023/0188 dated 28th February 2023 (Copy Attached), we mentioned various Sections which are being violated by the above business. The repacking of medicines and segregating them dose-wise as done by Pharmallama is not allowed under the rules of our country and amounts to selling Misbranded, Adulterated, and Spurious Drugs, immensely endangering the lives of our citizens.

SCDA even sent a Legal Notice (Copy Attached) to the above Founders and Investors of the Startup on 22nd March 2023 for which a frivolous reply was received from them.

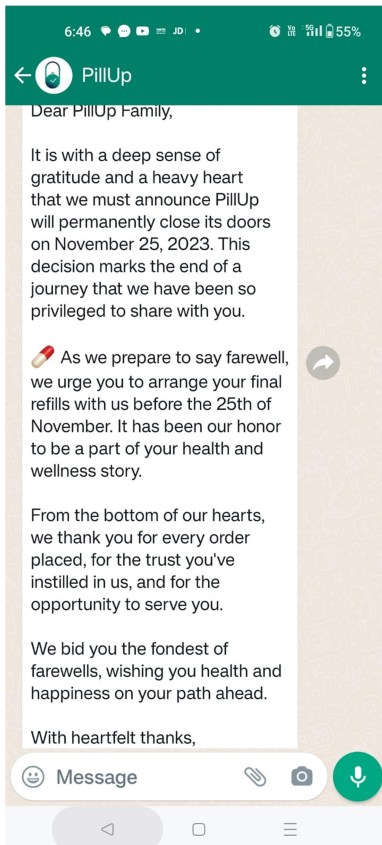
Members of our Association, namely Shri Rampat Ji and the undersigned also met the officers from the Drugs Control Department, Government of Karnataka with the Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka on 3rd June 2023 in Bangalore to pursue our case further.

We also wrote a similar letter Ref: SCDA/2023/0190 dated 3rd March 2023 (Copy Attached) to another Health Startup operating in Delhi namely, <https://www.pillup.com/> with copy to the Drugs Control Department, Government of NCT of Delhi and other regulatory authorities.

It is a matter of massive relief in the Interest of Public Health that the Drugs Control Department, Government of Karnataka has taken strict action against the Startup and has sought Permission for Prosecution. A screenshot of the communication is attached below:



Pillup, a similar Health Startup has also closed its operation from 25th November 2023 and communicated this to their clients via WhatsApp message on 6th November 2023. A screenshot of the same is also attached below:



Both Startups don't seem to have any recent posts on their Social Media Handles and WhatsApp messages to them are not replied to and phones are unanswered.

The action against the erring Startups by the Regulatory Authorities of Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and Drug Controller General of India is a welcome step towards safeguarding the health and welfare of our citizens who were at grave risk due to their illegal, unregulated, insecure and weak model of business.

We thank our all Regulatory Authorities for this appropriate action.

At SCDA, this also strengthens our belief in our Government Agencies and gives us revitalized courage to work for the health of our citizens.

Kind Regards,



Yash Aggarwal
Legal & Media Head