

## Industry Visit: ACG Associated Capsules Pvt. Ltd, Dahanu.

**Day and Date:** Saturday; 17th August 2024      **Time:** 10:00am – 5:00 p.m.

**No. of attendees:** 29 students (Final Year B.Pharm)

**No. of Faculty:** 2 (Mr, Nikhil Rajnani and Ms. Ketki Bhatt)

**Content:** Students and Faculty were warmly welcomed by Mr. Shashikant Joag and Mr. Ganesh Vichare, who provided a brief introduction to ACG. The facility was highlighted as the largest in the Asian continent and the second largest in the world for manufacturing hard gelatin and HPMC capsule shells.

The tour began in the gowning room, where students were required to don aprons, shoe covers, caps, masks, and earplugs, following strict hygiene protocols outlined in the instructional posters. Mr. Nilesh guided the group through the core areas of the manufacturing unit.

In the solution preparation area, students observed the transformation of solid raw gelatin into a clear liquid, essential for capsule shell production. They learned that colorants (dyes) were added during this stage, and ACG boasts the capability to produce 10,000 different shades of capsule shells.

The tour continued to the Production Hall, where automated in-line machines were seen in operation. These machines handle the intricate process of clipping, cutting, and joining capsule heads and bodies. The Inspection Room showcased the automated quality control system, governed by in-house AI software. The finished capsules were then transported using advanced robotic technology. ACG's integration of computerized AI technology allows the production of 130 billion capsule shells annually.

The students visited the Quality Control (QC) Lab, the centralized lab for testing capsule samples at the Dahanu facility. They were introduced to various instruments used for testing and the microbiology lab, where they learned about the industry's stringent measures to prevent microbial growth in the production unit and final products. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Shashikant Joag, Mr. Ganesh Vichare, and the entire team at ACG for their exceptional hospitality and support throughout the visit.

