

**Press Release**

**A)** Drugs Control Administration, Telangana detected the manufacturing of medicines under the guise of **'food products/nutraceuticals'** at Chengicherla Village, Medipally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District.

The medicine **'Ferrous Ascorbate, Folic Acid & Zinc Tablets'** is being falsely manufactured under a food license with the brand name **'Ferrous-XT Tablets'** at **Maxtra Laboratories**, Chengicherla Village, Medipally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, and is being illegally sold to medical shops. Stocks worth **Rs. 5.5 lakhs** were seized during the raid.

**B)** In a separate event, Drugs Control Administration, Telangana raided an unlicensed premises at **Petlaburj, Hyderabad**, which was operating illegally without a drug license. During the raid, DCA seized a substantial quantity of **'Steroid medicines'** from the premises. Stocks worth **Rs. 1.17 lakhs** were seized during the raid.

**C)** In a separate event, Drugs Control Administration, Telangana seized overpriced and misbranded antibiotic ointment **'MUPITRUSS 5gm'** (**Mupirocin Ointment 2% w/w**) at Hanumakonda – The MRP indicated is very high compared to the Ceiling Price fixed for the product by the Central Government.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **A) Raid Conducted at Maxtra Laboratories, Chengicherla Village, Medipally Mandal – Busted Manufacturing of Medicines under the Guise of ‘Food Products/Nutraceuticals:**

The details are as follows:

Based on gathered intelligence, officials from the Drugs Control Administration, Telangana raided the premises of Maxtra Laboratories located at Plot 68, Sy. No. 65, Ranga Rangaiah Nagar Colony, Chengicherla Village, Medipally Mandal, Medchal-Malkagiri District on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The company was found manufacturing medicines under a food license/FSSAI license and illegally selling them as food products/nutraceuticals.

During the raid, DCA officials found that the firm illegally manufactured and sold Ferrous-XT (Ferrous Ascorbate, Folic Acid & Zinc Tablets) under a ‘food license (FSSAI license)’, falsely claiming it as a food product/nutraceutical.

The DCA officials seized the product Ferrous-XT (Ferrous Ascorbate, Folic Acid & Zinc Tablets) with Batch No. FSX.9045, Mfg. Date April-2024, Exp. Date November-2025, manufactured by Maxtra Laboratories and marketed by Max Biomedics Pharma. The seizure included a quantity of 20,300 tablets, 900 grams of printed aluminum foil rolls, and 100 units of secondary packing cartons from K. Kumar Swamy, the proprietor of Maxtra Laboratories, during the raid. The total worth of the seized stocks is **Rs. 5.5 lakhs.**

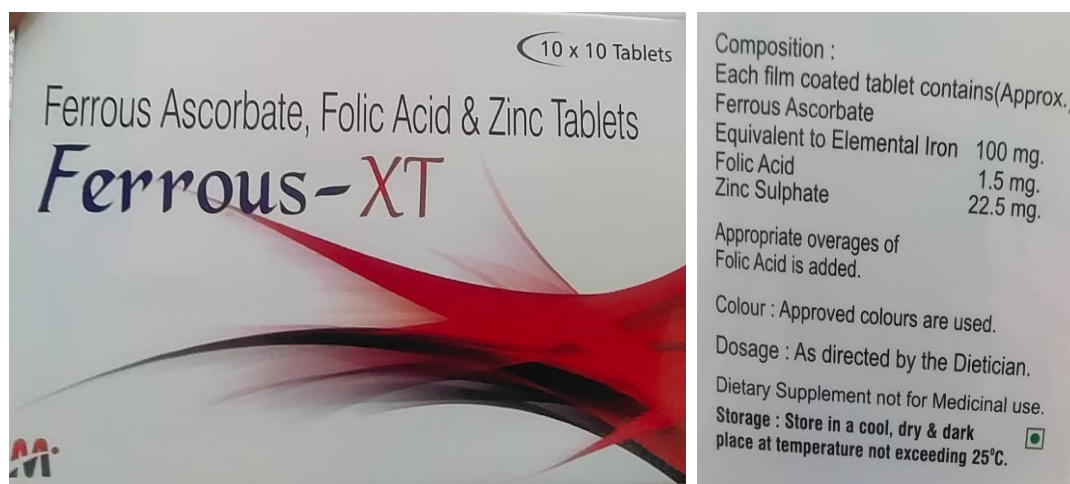
The product 'Ferrous Ascorbate, Folic Acid & Zinc Tablets', containing Ferrous Ascorbate equivalent to Elemental Iron 100 mg, Folic Acid 1.5 mg, and Zinc Sulphate 22.5 mg, is a '**drug**' under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. It was

approved as a 'drug' by the Drugs Controller General (India) for the treatment of iron deficiency anaemia.

The said product shall be manufactured only under a 'drug license' issued under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, adhering to the 'Good Manufacturing Practices' (GMP) prescribed under Schedule-M of Drugs Rules, and shall meet the quality standards prescribed in the 'Indian Pharmacopoeia' (IP) mandatorily.

Smt. G. Indira Priyadarshini, Drugs Inspector, Medipally and Sri. B. Lakshminarayana, Drugs Inspector, Uppal are among the officers who carried out the raid.

### Photographs of the Product Seized



Similar cases of 'drugs' being manufactured under a 'food license' were previously detected by the Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, in November 2023 and January 2024. These products were declared as 'spurious' by the Drugs Control Laboratory, Hyderabad, as the content of the active ingredient was found to be 'NIL' (i.e., zero drug) in the said products.

The drugs that are falsely manufactured and sold under a food license are not manufactured in accordance with 'Good Manufacturing Practices' (GMPs) and also fail to meet the quality standards prescribed in the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP). Such products may have serious implications on patients' health.

**Manufacturing and selling of 'drugs' without a valid 'drug license' is punishable under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, with imprisonment of up to five years.**

---

## **B) Raid carried out at Petlaburj, Hyderabad – Seizure of Steroid Drugs:**

Drugs Control Administration, Telangana officials, acting on credible information regarding the illegal sale of medicines, raided an **unlicensed premises** located at 21-4-456, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Gulabsingh Lane, Petlaburj, Hyderabad, which belongs to M. Mallikarjuna on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

During the raid, DCA officers detected unauthorized stocking of huge quantity of **steroid medicines** for sale. 32 varieties of steroid medicines, including **androgen and anabolic steroids**, were found stocked for sale at the premises, indicating the potential abuse of steroid medicines.

The abuse of **androgen and anabolic steroids** poses significant health risks. These drugs, often misused by bodybuilders to enhance muscle growth, can lead to a range of adverse effects, including cardiovascular issues, liver damage, mood swings, and hormonal imbalances. Moreover, long-term

**abuse can result in severe health complications such as infertility, kidney failure, and psychiatric disorders.**

DCA officials seized the stock of total worth **Rs. 1.17 lakhs** during the raid.

Sri. T. Rajamouli, Assistant Director, Hyderabad, Smt. B. Lakshmi, Drugs Inspector, Charminar and Sri. V. Ajay, Drugs Inspector, Goshamahal, are among the officers who carried out the raid.

DCA officers lifted the samples for analysis. Further investigation shall be carried out and action shall be taken as per the law against all the offenders.

Wholesalers/Dealers who supply medicines to such unlicensed entities, who are stocking and selling drugs without a drug license, are also punishable under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, and stringent action shall be taken against such Wholesalers/Dealers. Wholesalers/Dealers shall mandatorily ensure that the recipient entities hold a valid drug license before supplying medicines to them.

The Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, issues drug licenses for the stocking and selling of medicines in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. **Stocking drugs for sale without a drug license is punishable under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, with imprisonment for up to five years.**

---

**C) Seizure of overpriced and misbranded antibiotic ointment 'MUPITRUSS 5gm' (Mupirocin Ointment 2% w/w) at Hanumakonda:**

The details are as follows:

Drugs Control Administration officials seized 'MUPITRUSS 5gm' (Mupirocin Ointment 2% w/w) on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 at Hanumakonda.

The product Mupirocin Ointment 2% w/w sold under brand name 'MUPITRUSS 5gm' is under price control as per Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 and the price of product shall be in accordance with the 'Ceiling Price' fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Government of India. The product 'MUPITRUSS 5gm' has not been labeled in the prescribed manner and is considered a '**misbranded**' drug.

The product 'MUPITRUSS 5gm' (Mupirocin Ointment 2% w/w) of B. No: 235, Mfg Dt: 04/ 2023, Exp Dt: 09/2024 **Manufactured by:** Arius Formulations Private Limited, Tamilnadu. **Marketed by:** Strauss Burg Steriles, Enumamula, Warangal, Telangana, **bears MRP as Rs. 165/- for 5 gm pack on the label of the product** which is a violation of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.

The Ceiling price fixed by the Central Government including Wholesale Price Index for the product "Mupirocin Ointment 2% w/w" is **Rs. 20.29 per 1 gm i.e. Rs. 101.45 per 5 gm (Ceiling Price)**.

Hence Maximum Retail Price (MRP) i.e. including GST 12 % should not be more than **Rs. 113.6 per 5 gm tube** (MRP=Ceiling Price+GST)

The firm overpriced the product. Firm charged **excess of Rs. 51.38/- per 5 gm tube**, which is a violation of **Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013**.

Dr. G. Rajyalakshmi, Assistant Director, Warangal, Sri. Kiran Kumar Jannu, Drugs Inspector, Hanumakonda and Sri. M. Aravind Kumar, Drugs Inspector, Warangal are among the officers who carried out the raid.

Further investigation shall be carried out and action shall be taken as per the law against all the offenders.

The prices of Essential Medicines shall be in accordance with the Ceiling Prices fixed by the Central Government. Overpricing of essential medicines is a violation under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 and stringent action shall be taken as per the law against violators.

**Photographs of the Product Seized for Price Violation**



\*\*\*\*\*

The public may report any complaints regarding illegal activities concerning medicines through the **Drugs Control Administration, Telangana Toll-Free Number 1800-599-6969**, which is operational from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm on all working days.

Date: 09-04-2024

V.B. KAMALASAN REDDY, IPS

DIRECTOR GENERAL

**Photograph of Seizure carried out at Maxtra Laboratories, Chengicherla Village, Medipally Mandal – Busted Manufacturing of Medicines under the Guise of ‘Food Products/Nutraceuticals**





**Photograph of Seizure carried out at Petlaburj, Hyderabad – Seizure of Steroid Drugs**



**Photograph of Seizure of overpriced and misbranded antibiotic ointment 'MUPITRUSS 5gm' (Mupirocin Ointment 2% w/w) at Hanumakonda**



\*\*\*\*\*