

President Speak...



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Dear Members,

The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has issued construction commencement certificate on 29th July, 2018 clearing all the hurdles faced by IPA for the past 10 years towards the construction of long awaited IPA building at Kalina campus, Mumbai. I congratulate Mr. Subodh Priolkar and the IPA building committee for their relentless efforts in obtaining all the requisite permissions to commence the project. The IPA team thanks individual IPA members for the whole hearted support towards the voluntary contribution offered to make the IPA's Building project the most momentous one. I earnestly request all the IPA state and local branches to collectively work to bring the dream project of IPA building in reality.

I congratulate IPA advocacy group for their input on various issues pertaining to pharmacy profession and protecting the interest of pharmacists by sending representations to concerned authorities. IPA has sent representation to Ministry of H&FW for including B.Pharm as a qualification for recruitment as a Food Safety Officer & Food Analyst under Food Safety and Standards Rules 2011. IPA has communicated to the authorities concerned, to ensure that there should be pharmacist available wherever drugs are involved and also requested for the implementation of already gazette - notified Pharmacy Practice Regulations 2014. IPA has also pointed out various lacunae in the draft guide lines prepared on e-pharmacies and has requested the authorities to rectify the same before the implementation.

IPA welcomes the move of the Ministry of H&FW for forming a committee on Fixed Dose Combinations to verify their safety and efficacy in the interest of public health and for implementing ban on 349 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs based on recommendations of the Kokate committee. The committee reported that these combinations are found to be irrational, posing health risks, would lead to unnecessary over use and patients would be exposed to risk of multiple ingredients. The DTAB formed a subcommittee to review the report as per Supreme Court directions for a fresh review after drug makers challenged the ban. The subcommittee reviewed the report and submitted

the recommendations by taking major parameters of safety, efficacy and therapeutic justification in addition to literature published in scientific peer-reviewed journals, meta-analysis provided by international organizations and guidelines issued by the WHO. The committee submitted report after conducting 41 meetings, 812 representations and hearing from 467 companies recommend re-enforcing the ban on 343 of the 349 drugs. The panel pointed out that many of these FDCs containing two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients in a fixed dose ratio and were formulated without due diligence and the dosing mismatches could result in toxicity that may adversely impact vital organs. The committee has recommended that 343 of them should be prohibited and the remaining 6 need to be restricted or regulated. The ban is expected to deal a severe blow to the pharmaceutical industry as it affects as many as 6000 brands from top manufactures. The companies are estimated to be incurring losses of Rs.4000 crores due to the ban.

IPA being a member organization of FIP is participating in a big way in the FIP world congress to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 2 to 6 September 2018. The theme "Transforming outcomes" will serve as a reminder to pharmacists, with focus always on patients and expanding the role of pharmacists in primary healthcare through collaborative non-dispensing services and focus on innovations in education and collaborative working with other professions.

I am of the opinion that pharmacists need to demonstrate their worth and prove that there is plenty of evidence of the value and impact that pharmacists can have in health care system. However, there is not enough strategic communication and collaboration between the major sectors of the profession – practice, education and regulation / policy and other key stakeholders. It is the responsibility of each of us to transform and advance the profession to improve the health of our patients and nation.

"Pharmacists can help to make care more efficient, effective and accessible"

Dr. T. V. Narayana