



President Speak...



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Dear Readers,

"We must come to the aid of the ultra-vulnerable – millions upon millions of people who are least able to protect themselves. This is a matter of basic human solidarity. It is also crucial for combating the COVID-19 virus. This is the moment to step up for the vulnerable."

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has created a global health crisis that has had a deep impact on the way we perceive our Nation, world and our everyday lives. The COVID-19, which has been characterized as a pandemic by the WHO, is attacking societies at their core. More than a health crisis, it is a human, economic and social crisis. There are currently no approved treatments for COVID-19, the highly contagious respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus that has infected over 2.5 million people worldwide with more than 1.5 lac deaths as on today. The alarming acceleration in other countries with not only the rate of contagion and patterns of transmission, but the safety measures put in place to contain the spread of the virus. We anticipate severe hardship for already overstretched

health systems, particularly in rural areas, which normally lack the resources of those in cities. Every single person has a role to play in ending this pandemic. The outbreak affects all segments of the population and is particularly detrimental to members of those social groups in the most vulnerable situations, continues to affect populations, including people living in poverty situations, older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, and indigenous peoples. The pandemic and consequent lockdown have hit various sectors, including MSME, hospitality, civil aviation, agriculture, business and allied sectors. Ultimately, the behavior of each of us will determine the behavior of the virus. This will take perseverance and patience as there is no fast-track back to normal. It is imperative that we do not let down our guard. Physical distancing, lockdowns and other measures slow down and stop transmission though affecting lives and livelihoods. As we consider transition, we must acknowledge there are no 'quick wins'. Complexity and uncertainty lie ahead, which means that we are entering a period where we may need to rapidly adjust measures, introduce and remove restrictions, and ease restrictions gradually, whilst constantly monitoring the effectiveness of these actions and the response of the public. 'Janata Curfew' is the beginning of a long battle against coronavirus outbreak and the countrymen have proved that together they can defeat any challenge. We all showed our unity, solidarity by lighting the lamps on 5th March at 9 pm for 9 minutes in response to the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the sake of the Nation. Let us all follow the guidelines given by Modiji with effective implementation of lockdown, the only alternative at present to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am happy to share the news with members that, IPA has been recognised at National level and got an opportunity to raise our voice through National TV channels and media. IPA has been contacted by various National TV Channels and National Media to give our input in various issues during COVID-19 crisis. I feel privileged to participate in the Panel discussion on "Challenges of Maintaining supply of essential commodities including medicines" conducted by Mirror Now on 25th and 26th March 2020 and also shared IPA views in the magazines: Out Look India, BBC- Asia, India Today on issues related to drugs used in Covid-19 and their exports. IPA also appealed to the Government and related agencies to engage PharmD students in COVID-19 control measures to reduce shortage of manpower.

I feel privileged to share that all the IPA State, local branches and Divisions are immensely contributing their services to the public and to the society at large. The COVID-19 material and posters prepared by Community Pharmacy division has been well received and my special appreciation to Manjiri Gharat for the contribution. My appreciation to IPA-MSB particularly Mr. Nitin Maniar and team for their charitable and societal activities in the most affected state of Maharashtra. My appreciation to IPA local branches Enikepadu, Rajahmundry, Ananthapur, Warangal City for their initiatives in creating awareness on COVID-19 with posters, other material. My compliments to Dr. G. Nagarjuna Reddy, Dr. K. Padmalatha, Dr. Sumalatha, Dr. J.V. Suresh, for preparing the awareness posters and also for distributing food to the migrant workers and transport people carrying essential commodities in Rajahmundry high way area. My special appreciation to Dr. Rao Vadlamudi and Dr. Ramalingam for sharing the COVID-19 updates of CPA and SEAR Pharm Forum regularly to IPA.

My compliments to Dr. Alka Mukne, Editor, Pharma Times for coming out with COVID-19 special issue featuring messages on COVID-19 from stalwarts of Pharmacy Profession and also briefing us all with the activities organised by state, local branches and divisions of IPA.

My sincere appreciation to Mr. P. D. Sheth, Returning Officer of IPA Elections 2020-22 for his timely decision to cancel the IPA elections due to COVID-19 Pandemic. My sincere thanks to all the CEC members for supporting the suggestion of Returning officer and consented to postpone the election process.

My thoughts and deepest sympathy are with those grieving from the loss of loved ones or who are seriously ill themselves. I send my heartfelt gratitude to those on the frontline - government Officials, in health care services, Technicians, Pharmacists, Pharma Industries, Police, Sanitary workers, Volunteers who are keeping services operating, working relentlessly to save lives.

"When all of us work together and start making our presence visible and demonstrate the value addition to the patients and community, the importance of the pharmacist in the society gets recognized by one and all. Let us make it possible by proving that pharmacist can contribute to a healthy society and thereby to "Swasth Bharat".

Dr. T. V. Narayana