

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018

Dear students, faculty members, scientific staff, administrative staff and all members of the NIPER fraternity,

As you all know, India is celebrating its 72nd Independence Day. NIPER, SAS Nagar is proudly and happily joining the rest of the country in these celebrations. I take this opportunity to greet every one of you and all the Alumni of this great institution living in this great country and across the world a HAPPY 72nd INDEPENDENCE DAY. I heartily welcome our special guests from 11 countries who are participants of ITEC program to this celebrations.

It is more than seven decades India became independent from the British rule. We all became citizens of an independent country, we received our identity as we deserve. Since the historical day on 15th August 1947, we have evolved as nation in which science and technology is respected. We adopted the highest values in science and technology, progressed to be recognized as a country with many scientific merits. In this world which is a knowledge based world, we are working in a profession which supplies scientifically talented work force to the knowledge based pharmaceutical industry.

Independence Day brings me to some of the most energizing moments of my life. I took interest in reading about democracies and other forms of governance in the world. According one survey, there are currently 123 democracies in the world of all 192 countries. Democratic nations are more likely to “secure the peace, deter aggression, expand open markets, promote economic development, protect citizens, combat international terrorism and crime, uphold human and worker rights, avoid humanitarian crises and refugee flows, improve the global environment, and protect human health.” I was reading these statements, but could not appreciate much until I was made to understand the value of democracy till I started living in a non-democratic nation like Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. India is widely respected for its working democracy and its pluralistic life in the world.

Government of India is giving utmost importance to the health of every citizen of India. It started world's largest government funded health care programme during the past one year. We are working in this health service sector. Our institute is directly contributing to the health sector of India. We are involved in drug design, drug discovery and drug development, which are indirectly part of the grand plans unveiled by Government of India during the budget 2018. This new policy shall be giving many opportunities to the pharmacy professionals in the country. With an increase in the health insurance cover to the citizens of India, the requirements of improved standards in pharmaceutical field also shall be emerging. This necessitates that NIPER should extend its quality education and research components to quality in pharmaceutical management, stability of products, distribution of drugs, etc. NIPER should establish very high standards in technology transfers, dosage forms, bioavailability tests, etc. It will be our endeavour to bring out significant change in our pharmaceutical field keeping pace with the Government efforts in making India a very healthy nation, on par with all the rich nations.

The challenges in our field are in terms of translational aspects of pharma profession. We do have facilities to achieve this, but efforts need to be improved in this direction. We have excellent team of Computer aided drug designers. We have world's best organic chemistry community (both in synthesis and in natural product extraction). Our in vitro and in vivo research facilities are of on par with the best in the world. The drug development team is establishing new heights every year. NIPER scientific teams are paying attention to toxicity, metabolism, safety, etc. aspects of drugs/leads at very high standards. All these efforts by the student community in the guidance of the highly talented teachers has resulted in securing number 1 position in India, in terms of Pharmaceutical Education (NIRF) ranking number #1 for the year 2018. It is time for us to integrate the efforts all the above teams to achieve viable products.

Not everything is rosy, several challenges still remain. In the health sector, spurious drugs is an issue, which crops up every now and then. NIPER has responsibility in this direction. Honourable Governor of Punjab and Haryana entrusted this responsibility to NIPER in his recent visit on the

National Technology Day. Drug menace in Punjab and malnutrition issues in the country also important challenges, which the pharmaceutical experts should pay attention to.

15th August every year will not be a time of celebration of historical independence alone. It will be the day when we publicly share our achievements and contribution to the Nation to free it from poverty, disease, malnutrition and other ills and issue a 'report card' on what we planned and what we achieved.

With your immense support, we have within the past one year, NIPER achieved the following.

Institutional:

1. NIPER achieved NIRF rank 1.
2. Joint Parliamentary Committee visit – We received 14 Cr. For up-gradation of Infrastructure
3. NIPER adopted best practices in green campus, declared plastic-free.
4. The academic activities of the Institute are making an impact as reflected from the high H-Index of the institute i.e. 110
5. Review of ITEC/SCAAP Training Program at NIPER by Dr. Neena Malhotra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (Govt. of India) (January 15, 2018).
6. National Technology Day celebrated at NIPER S.A.S. Nagar (May 11, 2018)
7. NIPER Signs MoU with Ayurved Ltd. Ghaziabad (UP) (October 24, 2017) and 7 academic and industry collaborations were signed.

International

1. Two INDO-German projects have been granted by DBT.
2. International Training Programmes -3 ITEC events were organized since last Independence Day
3. NIPER-Shizuoka University (Japan) Meet @ NIPER (October 27, 2017)
4. Dr. Ahad Ahmedov, Vice Chancellor of Rector, Bukhara State Medical Institute, Str. Navai No.1, Bukhara City, Bukhara Region, Uzbekistan visited NIPER, SAS Nagar (April 27, 2018)
5. A fully sponsored conference participation for 3 NIPER students at GxP summit at, Russia (July 11, 2018)
6. Indo-German Symposium on Science Communication at NIPER (November 8, 2017)

Student Related Issues:

1. Three students visited Russia recently, one of the won cash award.
2. One student visited Germany for 50 days as part of DAAD-DST project.
3. One student is visiting UK currently to work at University of Sheffield.
4. Placement activities were conducted and I am happy to announce over 75 % (approx. 90%) of our students have been placed in reputed firms.
5. International Exchange of Faculty and students are in progress

INDO-Japan
INDO-German
INDO-Uzbekistan

6. Efforts are in progress on two issues: DoP supported our request in allowing the continuation of its projects on TB and KA.
7. Dual degree programs are being pursued with Japanese and Uzbekistan institutions.
8. Inter-NIPER Scientific, Sports and Cultural Meet-2018 @NIPER SAS Nagar (21-25 February, 2018)

9. Director honored the students & staff with “Certificate of appreciation” for participating in Marathon “Race against Drugs” (March 23, 2018).
10. Workshop on gender sensitization, a lecture on legal aspects of “Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013” delivered by Dr. Upneet Lalli, Deputy Director, Institute of Correctional Administration, Chandigarh. (April 11, 2018).
11. National Pharmacy Week and World Pharmacist Day were celebrated.
12. Inter NIPER Sports Meet was conducted.

Employee Welfare

1. 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations will be implemented soon.
2. **Grievance redressal:** Grievance redressal process is an ongoing process. It will be a permanent part of good governance. I have made happiness of the employees my target and will not rest till NIPER becomes grievance free. Together we shall attain freedom from negativity and unhappiness.
3. **Transparency: promotes trust.** Process of uploading minutes of meetings and other documents, for which RTI had to be filed, will be freely available. I have taken special steps to ensure transparency.
4. **Curbing administration related conflicts:** This has been our focus and many efforts proved successful. All others will be addressed soon.
5. **New team at the cafeteria:** A new team has been chosen to look into the matters of Cafeteria, they have identified a new contractor. Hope you all had an opportunity to visit this place – please give your feedback.
6. MR Vaccination Camp (June 8th, 2018)

7. World Happiness Day & Staff Club Opening Ceremony @ NIPER (March 20, 2018)
8. Construction of walking track and park opposite to staff quarters is in progress
9. Summer Camp @NIPER Creach

Environment

1. Three plantation drives.
2. World Environment Day (June 5th, 2018)
3. A green window is functional under which quality germplasm of medicinal plants is freely available to all at very nominal cost.
4. Water Harvesting and solid waste management initiatives have started
5. Power saving is a cause of concern for me. We are not only going 'solar' but also focussing on effective utilization of existing resources.
6. Swatch Bharat Abhiyan is in progress at NIPER.
7. Swatcha Pakwada will be held in NIPER (Sept. 2018)

Social

1. Farmers Meet at NIPER-SAS Nagar (March 19, 2018)
2. NSS Program - Director honored the students & staff with "Certificate of appreciation" for participating in Marathon "Race against Drugs" (March 23, 2018)
3. NSS Wing (NIPER) participated at 'Race Against Drugs' at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh (November 26, 2017)
4. "Anti Terrorism Day" marked at NIPER S.A.S. Nagar (May 21, 2018)

5. Workshops on Gender sensitization, a lecture on legal aspects of "Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace and
6. Interactive session on "psycho-social aspects on prevention and dealing with sexual harassment"
7. Pledge Ceremony held on National Unity Day at NIPER (October 31, 2017)
8. International Yoga Day was celebrated.

New Initiatives in Research and Education for national progress

1. NIPER TDC Plant (Formulation) was made functional for student training Activity and trainings programs are being conducted successfully. Several more machines are being added with the liberal support from Industry.
2. NIPER Green Window for medicinal plants
3. NIPER S.A.S. Nagar is working in consonance with the vision of our honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, towards Digital India. DBT (Direct Beneficiary Transfer) scheme was implemented for direct transfer of student fellowships to their bank accounts. Almost 100% payments to suppliers/parties, etc are being made digitally
4. Industrial collaboration is in process with top MNCs such as P&G, Novartis, BMS, Biocon, Zoetis and Lupin etc.

On this Independence Day, we take a conscious decision to work towards improving the standards of NIPER to make it 'on a par with the best institutions in the world'. International interactions will improve, a special committee will be constituted towards this endeavour.

On this auspicious day let me remind you that detailed and comprehensive '5 YEAR MANIFESTO' was declared a year ago.

The constitution of **'NIPER Technology Ratna' awards of Rs. 5 lacs each** to be given to the teams which successfully commercialize research / technology and bring a product to the marketplace.

I declare that the focus should be on 'application of knowledge' to make the nation self-reliant and robust in critical areas where we face challenges. I request all to structure their efforts, projects and research around the manifesto, so that we can achieve the goals in a time bound manner.

Let us join hands to make NIPER not only an institution of national pride but an institute of global recognition and service to humanity.

Jai Hind!