

This is AIPMA's 9th Edition of Webinar on the topic Digital Conference on Role of Plastics in the Medical, Health Care & Pharmaceutical Sectors- Emerging Opportunities. It is a very significant topic for the industry point of view as COVID-19 is changing the face of Healthcare at an unprecedented pace. It has highlighted the need for efficient responses to urgently required goods and services. Perhaps never before has there been as much urgency in ensuring the supply of equipment crucial for frontline workers, essential services providers, and the population at large, in such a short time.

Plastic based Medical & Healthcare Industry Products are in the frontline playing a crucial role in ensuring that the right technologies are available for healthcare providers and patients to combat the virus. With the massive demand for personal protection equipment (PPE), surgical and N95 masks, ventilators and testing kits, it has been necessary to look for solutions domestically. And Indian entrepreneurs have stepped up to fulfil the demands through innovation, repurposing, and bolstering the production of essential goods.

Our expert panelists for the day were: Chairman & Moderator – Dr. Ashutosh Gor, Past President, AIPMA; Mr. Kishore Khanna- Managing Director - Romsons Group of Industries & Jt. Co-ordinator, Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMED); Mr. SR Shivshankar, CEO, ACG Films & Foils; Mr. Manoj Bhardwaj, Managing Director, SMC Medical Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.. Mr. D L Pandya, Editor & CEO, Medical Plastics Data Service.

More and more developments by medical polymer companies have created not only growth opportunities but also opportunities to move up the value chain by offering high end critical care products. There is no better time for the plastic industry to look at this Sunrise Sector. To highlight these opportunities, four industry experts shared their long and rich experience for the benefit of the Plastic Industry at large.

Entrepreneurs, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, Medical Device and Medical Equipment Manufacturers, Plastics Product Manufacturers, Manufacturers of Consumables/ Disposables/ Diagnostics, Product and Engineering Design Firms, Design and Development Professionals, Healthcare Hardware Startups, Hospital Professionals, Vendors & Suppliers, Regulators, Research Professionals attended this webinar which was a great success.

Mr. Kishore Khanna, MD Romsons Group of Industries went ahead and shared many vital facts & figures for the medical devices and equipment - covering 53% of the diagnostic imaging, consumables, patient aids, orthopedic processes and dental products. India's pharmaceutical devices consist of 80% of imports mainly from China, Europe and USA, even though we have 750 to 800 domestic manufacturing companies in India. The pre-COVID expected CAGR- 28% (Markets size was 1,75,000 Crore), including medical products like IV Sets, IV Cannula, Catheter, Suction Drainage Tubes, Syringes. However, he mentioned that now post COVID scenario is reflecting new hope for 'unprecedented growth' in the pharmaceutical sector. It is going to be the focus area for MAKE IN INDIA programme as well as bring a boom in the economy.

Mr. SR Shivshankar, CEO, ACG Films & Foils and Mr. Manoj Bhardwaj, Managing Director, SMC Medical Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd. were also of the view that for plastics is going to be the 'Driving Force of this revolution' in the post COVID scenario. Polymers will become an inseparable part of our daily lives because of more demand for PPE personal protection kits.

In terms of factors affecting the Future of the Pharmaceutical Packaging- (1) Sustainability, (2) Sterilization and Anti-counterfeiting, (3) Reduction in costs for more affordable healthcare, (4) Compliance packaging & Digitization, solutions like Bio-polymers Polyglycolic acid (PGA) with high tensile strength, as well as high barrier properties and Bio-monomers are undergoing further innovation to boost their hydrophobic resistance properties, heat resistance etc.