

# **Indian Medical Association**

## **Country Report**

IMA is the largest organisation of doctors of modern system of medicine. It has 3,22,000 members in its 1765 local branches spread all over India. They are organised under 32 State Branches 5 Union territorial Branches. IMA HQs is situated in New Delhi.

### **Vision:**

IMA is a democratic forum working to maintain dignity, honour and social security of the medical fraternity in the country. It strives to provide quality healthcare to each and every citizen of India. IMA is committed to preserve the autonomy of profession.

### **Objectives:**

- To promote and advance medical and allied sciences in all their different branches and to promote the improvement of public health and medical education in India
- To maintain the honour and dignity and to uphold the interest of the medical profession and to promote co-operation amongst the members thereof;
- To work for the abolition of compartmentalism in medical education, medical services and registration in the country and this to achieve equality among all members of the profession.

### **History and Legacy:**

- Prior to the formation of the Association, four All India Medical Conferences were held, the first at Calcutta in 1917 under the Presidentship of Lt. Col. Raghavendra Rao, the Second at Delhi in 1918 with Sir Nil Ratan Sircar as the President, the third in 1919 with Dr. M.N. Odedar as its President and the fourth at Nagpur in 1920 under the Presidentship of Rai Bahadur Dr. Maharaj Krishan Kapur. It was at the 5th conference held at Calcutta on 28th December, 1928 under the Presidentship of Dr. G.V. Deshmukh of Bombay , that a resolution was adopted forming an All India Medical Association with the objective of promotion and advancement of medical and allied sciences in their different branches, the improvement of public health and medical education in India and the maintenance of honour and dignity of the medical profession. In the year 1930, the All India Medical Association and the body was duly registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

- The Association had come in to being at a time when there was political unrest and the country was passing through big turmoil. Yet, it was a matter of great satisfaction that the stalwarts of the medical profession in those days like Dr. K.S. Ray, Sir Nil Ratan Sircar, Dr. B.C. Roy, Dr. M.A. Ansari, Col. Bholanath, Major M.G. Naidu, Dr. B.N. Vyas, Dr. D. Silva, Dr. N.A. Ghosh, Dr. D.A. Chakravarti, Dr. Viswanathan and Capt. B.V. Mukherjee actively participated in the promotion of the Association. Some of these stalwarts were also active in the Indian National Congress and had their terms in the jail for participating in the struggle for participating in the struggle for Independence of the country.
- Though the Association was formed with only 222 members. Yet even with this numerical strength, it could achieve its position of strength and command respect from the British rulers. It could prevent the appointment of British IMS Officer as a Commissioner of Medical Education in 1929 and it could achieve to organize an all India Medical Register and include the licentiates in it. The Medical Council of India Act was got amended to have an elected President in place of a nominated one and it was a matter of a pride that Dr. B.C. Roy, one of the most illustrious Past President of IMA, became the first elected President of Medical Council of India followed by many other illustrious Presidents of IMA gracing the exalted chair including Dr. A.K.N. Sinha and Dr Ketan Desai.
- The Headquarters Office of the IMA was originally located in Calcutta. At the suggestion of Dr. S.C. Sen supported by Dr. B.V. Mulay, Dr. Chamanlal C. Mehta and Maj. General Amirchand, the IMA Headquarters was shifted to Delhi in January 1949, after the attainment of Independence. The Journal of IMA continued to be published from Calcutta. Dr. S.C. Sen also obtained a plot of land in Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi from the Government and the project of construction of IMA Building thereon was undertaken, supported by Dr. B.V. Mulay, Dr. Chanlal Mehta, Dr. C.S. Thakar, Dr. A.P. Mitra, Dr. Ved Prakash, Dr. R.C. Goulatia, Dr. P.C. Bhatla and Dr. D.S. Mehra. The foundation stone of IMA House was laid by the First President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad on September, 19, 1958 and the construction was supervised by Dr. P.C. Bhatla. With his untiring efforts, the building was completed and opened on September 6, 1964 by the then President of India, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.
- During the British Rule, some selected members of the profession were members of the British Medical Association which had branches in India. The stalwarts of IMA ultimately succeeded in reaching an agreement with British Medical Association that they would have no branches in India and got mutually affiliated, which relationship continues even today.

- In the year 1946, IMA participated in the organization of the world body viz., the World Medical Association and thus became its founder member through DR A K N Sinha. Dr Ketan Desai was the President of WMA. IMA has continued to play an important role in the affairs of the Commonwealth Medical Association, CMAAO, WONCA and SAARC Medical Associations

### **Affairs of the Association**

The affairs of the association are managed by the elected members of the Central Council and the Working Committee which lay down the policies. It has a number of Standing Committees which look after the specified subject entrusted to them under the various terms of references. Each state and local branch holds regularly Scientific and Medical Meetings and elects its Office Bearers once a year. The State Branches organize their respective State Conference every year during which, besides organizational matters, they have scientific sessions for the benefit of their members in the various specialties in medicine.

IMA College of General Practitioners has been conducting regular examinations twice a year and the successful candidates became eligible for the award of Fellowship.

When it comes to updating the knowledge of its members and keeping them abreast of the latest technologies in health care, IMA has academic wings for General Practitioners (called IMA College of General Practitioners), for specialists (IMA Academy of Medical Specialties) and IMA AKN Sinha Institute for conducting online courses. IMA Hospital Board of India provides services related to Hospitals & Nursing Homes especially on patient care and safety.

The IMA AMS also awards Fellowships every year to selected highly distinguished specialists.

### **Publications:**

IMA regularly publishes Journals, News bulletins and other publications for doctors and for general public in Hindi, English and other languages.

- Journal of Indian Medical Association is a monthly scientific Journal indexed in the Index Medicus and Copernicus
- Apka Swasthya is a monthly publication for the general public in Hindi, the national language of India
- Your Health is a monthly publication for the general public in English

**IMA is looking after the interests of its members through social schemes like: -**

- IMA National Social Security Scheme: The schemes purely designed on brotherhood fraternity basis, and try to help the family member (Nominee) of the member on the event of death of IMA NSSS member.  
On event of death (by any cause), rest of the members contribute a token share from which some amount is passed on to the nominee of the deceased member.
- IMA National Professional Protection Scheme to provide professional indemnity to our registered members
- IMA National Health Scheme: IMA has designed National Health Scheme to assist its members and their families at times of Health needs.
- IMA National Family Welfare Scheme: Scheme provides assistance to family of member in times of need through mutual contributions.
- IMA National Pension Scheme: To provide monthly pension to medical practitioners (IMA Life Members) after the age of 60 years or at the age the member ask for. To provide financial assistance to the doctor at the time of crisis in life.

**Quackery and Crosspathy:** The existence and identity of modern medicine have never been challenged as on today. Any attempt to legitimise quackery and promote unscientific treatment is being opposed vehemently by Indian Medical Association. NMC Act 2019 and the National Educational Policy are complimentary in promoting these threats to public Health.

#### **NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION BILL 2019**

The main concerns of IMA in the new legislation are the clauses 32, 51 and 52:

- i. The new concept of middle level practitioners with provision for independent practice regarding primary and preventive services. (clause 32).
- ii. Provision for states to make appropriate measures to increase the capacity of health professionals (clause 51, 52). This clause has been specifically included to provide for Ayush bridge and similar measures at state level.
- iii. The mode of conduct of final year exam which will be the qualifying criteria for PG courses. The long struggle by IMA against NMC yielded results but we should continue our struggle to address the remaining issues Discussion is regarding future course of action.

IMA opposed sections 32, 51 and 52 of the Act which promote Quackery and Crosspathy and has sought to amend several other sections.

**Ayushman Bharat:** Ayushman Bharat is an ambitious plan by the Government of India to provide medical care to poor families. But IMA is of the view that the program is inappropriately funded. IMA HOSPITAL BOARD OF INDIA is providing suggestions to the government to improve the reach and bring in more partnership by private HCOs.

**Consumer Protection Act 2019:** The Consumer Protection Act 2019 brought by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India excludes 'healthcare' from the ambit of 'Services' as defined at serial no.42 of Clause 2 of the said act. IMA was demanding exclusion as the summary trial by such for a brought injustice to medical profession and healthcare This was a big achievement for IMA.

**National Education Policy:** National Educational Policy was announced by Government of India. The policy envisages sweeping reforms in the education sector including that of medical education. In this regard a meeting of National Working Group on NEP was held with an aim to make a critical appraisal of the New Education Policy. The policy document was analysed with special reference to the impact thereof on medical education, along with generation of trained health manpower in the domain of modern medicine and resultantly on the affectivity of healthcare delivery as a whole in the context of welfare state enshrined in the Constitution of India.

**PCPNDT ACT:** The Pre-Conception & Pre natal diagnostic techniques act was intended to fight female foeticide and gender selection prevalent in some parts of the country. But there were instances of harassment of innocent medical practitioners under the provisions of the act, IMA has demanded review, re-conception and re-enacting of PC-PNDT Act.

**Pollution Control Laws:** Hospitals apart from any other industry is facing serious difficulties due to certain provisions of pollution control laws, especially small and medium hospitals and nursing homes.

IMA demanded re-categorization of hospitals into non industrial category which was accepted by the government. But there is still a need for modifying laws applicable to Healthcare institutions.

Suggestions and observations in this regard were sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

### **Indian Medical Services (IMS)**

Indian Medical Services is an intervention that the Government could bring in as a game changer in this difficult situation. It is a matter of record that such an All India Service existed in British India. The need for such an All India strategic force is all the more relevant and imminent today. An All India Medical Service is a lifeline for the safety and health of our people.

The need for a Central Cadre is felt acutely especially by the doctors. One Nation One Guidelines has been the voice of IMA. Medical profession deserves to handle medical institutions and the streams considering the uniqueness and complexities involved.

It is with this great anticipation IMA looks up to the Government to accept the legitimate demand for the Indian Medical Service (IMS). Apart from giving doctors their well-deserved role and responsibility in nation building, it will be the appropriate answer to the current situation and a huge leap into the future. This Covid crisis has shown that when health of a nation is challenged every facet of the country grinds to a halt.

**MSME:** IMA took an initiative to bring healthcare services under MSME (Micro, Small & Medium enterprise category). Due to efforts by Indian Medical Association, Govt of India has officially inducted small and medium hospitals, nursing homes and clinics under the MSME. The healthcare sector will now be eligible to avail several benefits of MSME. IMA organised a Webinar on MSME on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 500 participants attended the webinar which was live streamed on YouTube. Shri Gopinath Rao, IEDS, Dy. Director, MSME Development Institute Bangalore also addressed the meeting which was very useful and the same was uploaded on IMA Website. The main agenda of the meeting was to give the brief idea about the MSME and its benefits to the members.

**National Covid Registry:** The increasing morbidity and mortality amongst doctors, nurses and Healthcare workers due to COVID is matter of great concern for IMA. IMA NCR (National Covid Registry) was formulated by IMA. As on date around 500 doctors have succumbed to Covid in the country.

**N-95 Initiative:** IMA has taken initiative to provide PPEs to doctors and healthcare workers at affordable rates in association with 3 M India Ltd. There has been a tremendous response to this program from all over the country.

**National Digital Health Mission:** This is an ambitious project by Government of India to establish a digital health ecosystem in India. IMA has concerns regarding privacy and data security. These concerns have been communicated to the Government.

**IMA commemorated Doctors Day** with the theme “Lessen the mortality of COVID 19”. Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Hon’ble Union Home Minister along with Secretary (Health), Govt. of India, tweeted a message on the occasion of Doctor’s Day and appreciated the work done by the Indian Medical Professionals. On this occasion, IMA started a Helpline Number for the personnel of Delhi Police. Guidelines were prepared by IMA and circulated to all concerned departments.

This year’s Doctors Day was dedicated to the innumerable doctors who are serving during this epidemic in the primary and secondary care setups as well as the dedicated COVID care hospitals. National President announced the Doctor’s Day Awards to recognize the members who have contributed during this pandemic.

## **VIOLENCE ON HOSPITALS & DOCTORS**

National IMA was working on the issue of violence on doctors and was demanding a comprehensive Central Law for the last 4 years. IMA has also demanded to declare Hospitals as safe zones which is also being discussed.

Govt. of India had made a Sub-Committee for drafting the Draft Central Law against Violence and IMA was a part of this Sub-Committee as one of the main stakeholders.

During the Covid Pandemic, seeing the assault and violence on doctors, hospitals and their establishments, IMA had sent letters to Hon’ble Prime Minister, Health Minister, Home Minister, Chief Ministers and Health Minister of all States apprising them about the situation and requested them to enact a Central Law in this regard.

Government of India invited IMA to a video conference which was Chaired by Honourable Union Minister for Home Affairs, Honourable Union Minister for Health, High officials of several departments.

IMA apprised them about the unfortunate incidents which have been happening in our country and they assured IMA that suitable amendments will be done in Epidemic Act. After this meeting, Government of India has proclaimed an Ordinance to amend the Epidemic Act 1986. This is the first response of the Government to our long pending demand on violence against Doctors, Nurses and Health Care Workers. The ordinance has been passed as an amendment of epidemic act by the parliament. The amended act has provisions to provide imprisonment upto 7 years for violence on healthcare.

### **THE ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS BILL 2020**

THE ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS BILL 2020 to provide for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by allied and health care professionals and maintenance of a central register of allied and healthcare professionals has been tabled in the Rajya Sabha and is being considered by the PSC on H&FWD.

Although the regulation and registration of allied healthcare professionals is necessary, many provisions of the proposed bill, especially those allowing independent practice by some allied health care professionals are highly detrimental to the public health at large and will subvert the current team-based approach adopted by the modern medical profession.

In the proposed bill, a new category called HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL has been added with an intend to confer right for independent and unsupervised "practice" by some allied health care professionals. This is in violation of the existing laws as the right to practice modern medicine is confined to those who have recognized medical qualifications described in 3rd schedule of Indian Medical Council Act.

IMA had submitted Clause by Clause analysis of the proposed legislation to the concerned Department with the request to kindly consider the same.

**IMA WEBINARS ON CIVID Pandemics are fought with information and knowledge; IMA organised following Webinars for the benefit of the medical**



**professionals as per details given below:**

- 14.3.2020:** 1<sup>st</sup>IMA Webinar on “Update on Covid-19”.
- 21.3.2020:** 2<sup>nd</sup> IMA Webinar on “Update on Covid-19”
- 10.4.2020:** 3<sup>rd</sup>IMA- -ISCCM Webinar with interactive session – training for non ICU professionals for handling corona patients
- 18.4.2020** – 4<sup>th</sup>IMA Webinar on “Oxygen therapy in covid-19”
- 25.4.2020:** 5<sup>th</sup>IMA Webinar on “Sudden Death in Covid-19”
- 9.5.2020:** 6<sup>th</sup>IMA Webinar on “Vaccine for COVID-19”
- 16.5.2020:**7<sup>th</sup>IMA Webinar on 2<sup>nd</sup>Part “Vaccine for COVID-19”
- 23.5.2020:**8<sup>th</sup>IMA Webinar on "Immuno Inflammation”
- 30.5.2020:** 9<sup>th</sup>IMA Webinar on "Thrombo Inflammation”
- 6.6.2020:**10<sup>th</sup>IMAWebinar on “Pregnancy in Covid” was organized by IMA HQs.
- 13.6.2020:** 11<sup>th</sup>IMA- CMAAO Webinar on “Acute Kidney Injury in Covid 19”
- 20.6.2020:** 12<sup>th</sup> IMA – CMAAO Webinar on "Update on Covid-19”
- 27.6.2020:**13<sup>th</sup> IMA - CMAAO Webinar on Neurological Complications in COVID-19 Part-2”
- 4.7.2020:**14<sup>th</sup> IMA - CMAAO Webinar on Imagining in COVID 19”
- 11.7.2020:** 15<sup>th</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on COVID Testing”
- 18.7.2020:** 16<sup>th</sup> “IMA – CMAAO Webinar on Skin Management”
- 25.7.2020:** 17<sup>th</sup> "IMA - CMAAO Webinar on Paradigm shift in COVID 19”
- 31.7.2020:** 18<sup>th</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on COVID and Gastroenterology”.
- 8.8.2020:**19<sup>th</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on Management of Endocrinology” in COVID-19
- 15.8.2020:** 20<sup>th</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on "Understanding Corona Virus Differently”
- 22.8.2020:** 21<sup>st</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on COVID-19 and Dentistry”.
- 29.8.2020:** 22<sup>nd</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on Understanding the basics of Epidemiology”
- 5.9.2020:** 23<sup>rd</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on Understanding Coronavirus”
- 12.9.2020:** 24<sup>th</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on Anti-Viral Drugs”
- 19.9.2020:** 25<sup>th</sup> “IMA - CMAAO Webinar on Reduction of mortality among Health Care Workers”

**Statement of Press Releases issued by IMA**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	6.1.2020	Violence on Doctors and nurses barometer of anarchy

2	8.1.2020	Indian Medical recommends VLCC for Weight Management and Wellness Programs
3	14.1.2020	Deny or prove or apologize
4	17.1.2020	IMA MSN Press Release – NMC Implementation creating chaos
5	29.1.2020	Indian Medical Association mourns the loss of Padma Bhushan Awardee, Prof. (Dr.) M.K.Bhan the world-renowned Microbiologist and Biotechnologist
6	1.2.2020	Union Budget: Health is a Blind Spot-IMA
7	10.3.2020	IMA Appeals to halt the Panic Epidemic
8	7.4.2020	Thanking and Wishing our Nurses
9	10.4.2020	Professionalism saves lives
10	12.4.2020	IMA launches Psycho-Social Counselling helpline for Doctors, Nurses and Healthcare workers engaged in the treatment of Covid-19
11.	20.4.2020	IMA warns retaliation if cremations are obstructed
12.	22.4.2020	Union Home Minister assures IMA of Central Law
13.	12.5.2020	Nurses are the anchor of care IMA
14.	13.5.2020	Press Release - The Second Partition along with Annexure – Appeal from National President, IMA
15.	5.6.2020	Position of IMA on Covid related issues
16.	11.6.2020	Health Care violence requires zero tolerance
17	9.7.2020	IMA demands IMS: Indian Medical Services
18	15.7.2020	Red Alert for Doctors – Take Care
19	23.7.2020	A civilisational aberration
20	8.8.2020	Rededication
21	17.9.2020	Indifference and Abdication

## Conclusion

Indian Medical Association baptised in the freedom struggle of India continues to play its vital role in nation building. Its stature and status as the national medical organisation of India has earned its legitimate place in international arena as well. IMA will continue to contribute to the Health of mankind for years to come.

**Dr Rajan Sharma**  
**National President IMA**

**Dr R V Asokan**  
**Hony Secretary General IMA**