

INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REPORT

Indian Medical Association (IMA) is the largest represented organisation of doctors of modern system of medicine in India which looks after the interests of doctors as well as the wellbeing of the community at large. It has a membership of 3.5 lakh doctors spread over in 28 State Branches, 5 Union territorial Branches and 1750 local branches in almost all the districts of India.

Indian Medical Association was established in 1928 and since then the Indian Medical Association has traversed a long path and has contributed substantially during the freedom struggle.

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. Bhola Nath, Major M.G. Naidu, Dr. B.N. Vyas, Dr. D. Silva, Dr. N.A. Ghosh, Dr. D.A. Chakravarthi, 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. IMA Hospital Board of India provides services related to Hospitals & Nursing Homes especially on patient care and safety.

Publications:

IMA regularly publishing Journals, News and other publications for general public in Hindi and English.

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

WINGS

The academic activities of IMA are propagated through following Wings of IMA:

1. IMA College of General Practitioners
2. IMA Academy of Medical Specialities
3. IMA AKN Sinha Institute
4. IMA Hospital Board of India
5. IMA Mission Pink Health
6. IMA Women Doctors Wing
7. IMA Service Doctors Wing

Scheme:

Promotional and Welfare activities are carried out through following Schemes:

- IMA National Social Security Scheme
- IMA National Family Welfare Scheme
- IMA National PP Scheme
- IMA National Health Scheme
- IMA National Pension Scheme

Junior Doctors and Medical Students:

Junior Doctors and Medical Student carry out nation-wide activities through:

1. IMA Junior Doctors Network
2. IMA Medical Students Network

Current Activities:

Keeping its vision an objective in high spirit, IMA has been striving hard to get the following demands for its members and medical professionals:

Central law against violence in healthcare establishment and Doctors: IMA has been pleading with the Government to enact Central law against violence in healthcare establishment and Doctors since 2015. At the behest of the then Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri J.P. Nadda, a committee was constituted representing all concerned Ministries. The Health Ministry, in principle, had agreed on the proposed draft prepared by IMA. However, the law is yet to be taken up for formal implementation.

This matter was also discussed with Hon'ble Health Minister in our past meetings to take up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs for early implementation.

Recently the Chief Justice of India has also shown his concern over increasing incidences of violence against doctors.

In view of persistent and recurring incidence of violence against doctors and healthcare establishments, IMA is still pursuing the matter with the Government for implementing Central Law at the earliest.

CPA: Health services were wilfully excluded from the ambit of CPA 2019 after detailed debate in the Parliament and intervention of the then Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs Late Shri Ram Vilas Paswan in 2019. But the exclusion is not explicitly mentioned in the said act. The representation was submitted to Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Shri Piyush Goyal after personally meeting on 2.2.2022. IMA humbly requested to various Ministries to take up this matter on priority with the concerned Ministry.

Death due to medical negligence: The guidelines as proposed and adopted by the Ethics Board of National Medical Commission, as per directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India need to be incorporated in the Criminal Procedure Court (IPC). The Indian Medical Association which was part of the Task Committee constituted by the then President, MCI (Now NMC) has proposed new Section 304C in PIC new Section 427 A in IPC to enable the Govt to implement the recommendations of the Task Committee effectively.

IMA requested the Government to issue directives to all the State Governments to follow Supreme Courts' Guidelines to conduct an enquiry before filing an FIR in cases of Medical Negligence, and also not to invoke IPC Section 302 in cases of deaths during treatment.

Mixopathy: The Notification of CCIM dated 19.11.2020 has created confusion not only among the medical doctors practising modern medicine but also among the public. IMA has been requesting the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as well as National Medical Commission to take necessary steps so that the curriculum of modern medicine shall not be converted into Mixopathy. IMA requested the various Ministries to intervention in this matter to enforce the NMC to maintain the purity of Modern Medicine and allow the other streams of Ayush grow independently.

Dr. B.C. Roy Award: Dr. B.C. Roy Award was instituted in 1973 in the fond memory of Dr. B.C. Rly and was regularly conferred to the eminent medical practitioners by Hon'ble President of India on National Doctor's Day which falls on 1st July every year. However, since 2017 the said Award is not being conferred due to the changes in the management structure of Medical Council of India and National Medical Commission.

With the constant persuasion of Indian Medical Association, Ministry of Health and FW, GoI has finally agreed to restart the process of conferment of **Dr B C Roy Memorial Award** ceremoniously, which was pending since last four years. Hopefully large number of deserving doctors will be benefited by this. Our sincere thanks to Hon'ble Minister of Health, Shri Mansukh Mandaviaji for his support in this cause. IMA also thanks all those who supported us overtly or covertly in this task.

Draft Regulations of licence to practice in India issued by National Medical Commission (NMC): Draft Regulations of licence to practice in India as placed by National Medical Commission in public domain for comments. IMA has gone through in detail and discussed this issue in our appropriate forum and feels that the proposed Draft Regulations is defective, plagued by inconsistencies, arbitrariness and aims at annihilating not only the authority of the State Medical Councils but also to make them look puppet in the hands of Ethics and Medical Rating Board in NMC by divesting them of their core authority of registering medical professionals in the concerned States, maintaining State Medical Register thereto, and incorporating additional qualifications thereunder. It is, therefore, requested that Draft Regulations be put on hold and reviewed as per the suggestions already issued by IMA to NMC on 25.4.2022.

Indian Medical Services (IMS):

Uniformity in health services across the country is necessitated due to various National Health Schemes. National Health Mission (NHM) was also created in 1995 to have uniform services in the patient care across the country. The present covid pandemic has once again proved the requirement of centralized uniform dictate for smooth and adequate discharge of health care delivery. Had it been Indian Medical Services during the Covid pandemic, the result of public healthcare delivery would have been more effective and efficient. Apart from giving doctors their well-deserved role and responsibility in national building, it will be the appropriate answer to the current situation and a huge leap into the future.

Indian Medical Services was conceived during the British period and was approved under Section 312 of the Indian Constitution. The rules were also once notified but not implemented. Implementation of Indian Medical Services in line with other All India Group- 'A' services will make the healthcare care in different States inconsonant with the Central Guidelines.

Indian Medical Association has already submitted a detailed report on Indian Medical Services (IMS) prepared by the National Working Group in 2020. Earlier a Report of Study Group constituted by President, Medical Council of India in 2017 is also with Health Ministry for ready reference. IMA requests to take necessary steps to implement the Indian Medical Services based on these reports at the earliest.

Report on the Draft National Medical Commission Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional conduct) Regulations, 2022: The entire membership was agitated and concerned over the Draft Regulation displayed by National Medical Commission (NMC) on Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations 2022 in public domain. Indian Medical Association has several rounds of meetings with State leaders to discuss the key issues concerning our profession in the Draft Regulations. IMA HQs constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Vedprakash Mishra, Dean, IMA Academic and Accreditation Board for furnishing observations on the said Draft Report based on the

suggestions made by the members of Indian Medical Association. IMA HQs received a large number of suggestions which were considered by the Committee. The Committee, after going through the various observations & suggestions and extensive deliberations with members submitted its report. The Report submitted by the above Committee was endorsed and adopted in the meeting of State Presidents & Secretaries, Past National Presidents and General Secretaries, all Office Bearers, members of IMA Standing Committee for Medical Ethics, State Medical Councils and Federation of Medical Association (Specialty Associations). The observations of IMA were sent to NMC on 21st June 2022. In the meeting of NMC held on 23rd June 2022, we took the opportunity to reaffirm the observations of IMA to be incorporated in the final Draft Regulations.

National Medical Commission had put on public domain the Draft of New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetic Bill 2022 on 8, July 2022, soliciting suggestions/comments from the public and other stakeholders. Indian, Medical Association has submitted its observations to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 20th August, 2022.

Statement of Press Releases issued by IMA

S.No.	Date	Topic
1	31.1.2022	Indian Medical Association appeals to Hon'ble Health Minister to resolve the delay in NEET PG Course Counseling.
2	05.01.2022	Current situation of Covid-19
3.	07.01.2022	Initiative of National President IMA bears fruits in National Interest
4	21.2.2022	Delegation met with Hon'ble Health Minister
5.	25.2.2022	Press Release- communication sent to Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding Plight of Medical Students stranded in Ukraine
6.	04.03.200	Press Release Communication sent to Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding Uncertainty looming large over the fate and future of medical students undergoing undergraduate course at the various stages in medical colleges thereat and redressal thereto with a copy mark to Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Honourable Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India.
7	05.03.2022	Press Release – IMA Kidneycon-2022
8	11.04.2022	Indian Prime Minister Urged to Stop Attacks on Physicians
9	30.06.2022	Doctors Day
10.	30.7.2022	IMA condemns humiliation of Dr. Raj Bahadur, Vice-Chancellor of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences

The following days Observed by Indian Medical Association: -

- World Cancer Day was observed on 4th February 2022
- National Immunization Day was observed on 27th February 2022
- On the Occasion of World Kidney Day, Indian Medical Association organized Kidneycon-2022 – National Conference on Kidney Diseases on March 5 & 6, 2022
- International Women's Day observed on 8th March 2022
- World TB Day was observed on 24th March 2022

- World Health Day was observed on 7th April 2022.
- World No Tobacco Day was observed on 31st May 2022.
- World Cancer Day was observed on 3rd June 2022
- World Environment Day was observed on 10th June 2022
- National Doctors; Day was observed on 1st July 2022
- IMA Medical Teachers' Day Celebrated on 5th September 2022

Conclusion

Indian Medical Association maintained its vibrant stance ever since its inception till date. The footprints left behind by the stalwarts of the Association continue to be the guiding force to the leaders and members of the Association. In view of its positive outlook toward public health, the Association has gained support and popularity among the general public. For this reason, The Government always considered the views of the Indian Medical Association. Many a times, when the policies of the Government were not in favour of the general public, IMA always opposed them tooth and nail. However, during the Covid pandemic IMA worked in tandem with the Government to mitigate the suffering of the covid victims and also to disseminate the public health measures as propagated by the Government. This has prompted the Prime Minister of India to address the medical fraternity on the occasion of Doctors' Day on 1st July 2021. Indian Medical Association will continue to work not only for the benefits of its membership but also to promote public health measures in India in support and beyond its objectives.

Dr Sahajanand Prasad Singh
National President IMA

Dr Jayesh Lele
Hony Secretary General IMA