

INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REPORT

Indian Medical Association was established in 1928 and since then it has traversed a long path while contributing substantially during the freedom struggle. The legacy is being carried forward under the very able guidance of Dr. Ketan Desai, chief Patron of IMA and past WMA President by President 2023, Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal and Hony. Secretary General, Dr. Anilkumar J. Nayak.

IMA is the largest represented organization 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 3.8 lakh doctors spread over in 28 State Branches, 5 Union territories and 1760 local branches in almost all the districts of India.

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 the 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. 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.
- Indian Medical Association is the largest represented organisation of doctors of modern medicine in India, having more than 4 lakh members. It has 1700 Local Branches and 32 State Branches spread all across the Country. It serves as the platform for the medical fraternity as an academic forum, trade union as well as the family outlet of doctors apart from being the voice of the fraternity and the people in the issues of Health.

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 Service Doctors Wing

SCHEMES:

Promotional and Welfare activities are carried out through following Schemes:

- IMA National Social Security Scheme
- IMA National Family Welfare Scheme
- IMA National Professional Protection Scheme
- IMA National Health Scheme

IMA JUNIOR DOCTORS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS NETWORK:

IMA Junior Doctors and Medical Student Network 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:

AAO GAON CHALEIN (LET'S GO TO RURAL AREAS)

India is a country of villages and the reach of healthcare in villages, especially remote ones is not equivalent to the one in cities. Although India has a great network of Primary health care which is robust in most of the villages still there is need to get the latest medical care to the villages. Under the able guidance of our chief Patron Dr. Ketan Desai sir, his dream project was relaunched all over the country with all the 1760 local branches adopted at least one or more villages to give comprehensive preventive and curative medical services of the standards enjoyed by the cities. The program has become a huge success as all the senior specialist have adopted the villages to give comprehensive care and teaching them how to prevent various seasonal and communicable diseases. To motivate our State and Local Branches to adopt higher number of villages, IMA has declared 1st, 2nd and 3rd award prizes (cash prize with certificate) for them.

Vaccination is being provided to all the children and adults who need it. The program is being appreciated for its comprehensive care provided by the IMA members to the door steps of the villagers and latest treatment is being provided.



Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal, National President, IMA welcomed by State and Branch Presidents with other Senior Members of IMA Tamil Nadu State and IMA Madurai branch at IMA Madurai building , where he inaugurated the Blood Donation Camp , felicitated achievers of the branch and inaugurated State AMS conference.



Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal, National President, IMA inaugurated the IMA "AAO GAON CHALEN" project in Muthuvayal village, adopted by the IMA Ramadasapuram branch in Tamil Nadu, IMA Tamil Nadu has already adopted 50 villages and will adopt 50 more villages on June 25, 2023. This is the day when the dream project of Indian Medical Association "AAO GAON CHALEN" will be relaunched.

ORGAN DONATION PROGRAM

The country wide launch of this program was appreciated for creating awareness of organ donation and it's need in a large country where requirements of harvested organ is huge. The doctors and general public were made aware about organ donation through an APP that was launched so that people can through that APP create a pledge for organ donation and a list can be prepared for all the donors who pledged through this APP.



MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST TAKEN UP WITH GOVERNMENT

IMA PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING

A dinner meeting was organised with the lawmakers of both upper and lower House of Parliament to interact with them and to make them aware about the program initiated by IMA for the public and to make them aware about the problems being faced by the doctors as well as small and medium hospitals all over the country. They were requested to be our voice in the Parliament to make various laws suitable for the health care facilities and doctors so that they can discharge their duties to the public at large. All the lawmakers from ruling and opposition were appreciative of the works being done and promised to be the voice of doctors in the Parliament.

VIOLENCE AGAINST DOCTORS IN THE COUNTRY.

IMA is extremely worried and concerned about the safety and security of medical professionals, paramedics and healthcare establishments while on duty. IMA condemns any type of violence on doctors as it affects the medical services as well as other patients admitted in the hospital. The violence demoralize the doctors and healthcare staff working in the hospital. IMA strongly emphasized that it should no longer be ignored. IMA took up the matter of violence against the doctors with the Honorable Prime Minister of India and Chief Ministers of various states where the incidents of violence occurred and requested him to make a Central Law regarding violence against medical professionals as it is a dire need of the hour to ensure effective deterrence of violence and the safety of doctors, nurses and healthcare workers. It was also requested that a stringent action should be taken against the accused. Most of the state government have passed state laws after discussing with IMA to prevent violence against doctors and the central

government also passed a law during COVID pandemic. IMA is taking this issue to bring the same central law as was passed during COVID and the government has assured to take it soon in the parliament.

IMA has also requested that a safe atmosphere even for junior doctors, medical students may be created at their work places so that they can feel safe and work fearlessly.

BANNING OF KITE FLYING THREAD

The National President wrote a letter to Union Minister of Environment to take urgent action in the thread used for kite flying.

The thread colloquially vialled Manja had killed an 11-year-old child in Nagpur, a 2-year-old child in Bhavnagar, a 47-year-old man in Bhiwandi, a 45-year-old man in Pune, a 35-year-old man in Nadiad, a 30-year-old man in Vadodara, a 52-year-old man in Surat, and a 3-year-old child in Mehsana. It had seriously injured countless others.

IMA requested honourable minister for prohibiting all forms of Manja, including cotton threads coated with glass, metal, or other sharp materials. It was requested and that kite-flying be done only with plain cotton thread, free from any strengthening material. While this is a start, a nationwide policy is needed prohibiting all forms of sharp kite string. Kite-flying can be equally enjoyable for all with plain cotton string. The National government responded very positively to set-up a committee to consider a ban on this type of thread.

RIGHT TO HEALTH BILL IN RAJASTHAN - A STATE IN INDIA

IMA Rajasthan under the guidance of National IMA was negotiating with State government to stop the right to health bill that was full of irregularities both for the public as well as health care facilities and was draconian. The state IMA had to go on Pen down strike for 24 days. It was negotiated by the nation IMA with CM of Rajasthan and was later modified to the complete satisfaction of IMA.

PRE BUDGET CONSULTATIONS WITH FINANCE MINISTRY

Pre-budget suggestions for the healthcare proposal were discussed with IMA by the Finance ministry. IMA insisted for universal health care in India, increased spending on the health care delivery and infrastructure to achieve the sustainable development goals to which India is signatory, to Prioritize the Primary health care, To increase the participation of private health sector in various government schemes, Removal of GST and other taxes, to support the families of COVID martyrs by allocation of more funds, to enhance budget allocation for elderly care and migrant workers and to start Indian medical services on the lines of IAS, IPS etc.

NMC NEGOTIATIONS

IMA has been interacting very successfully with NMC for various issues related to the ethical issues in medical practices, registration and renewal of registration of the doctors online, medical negligence cases and issues related to the governance of medical practices in very ethical and

moral ways to serve the public with empathy and efficiently. The stress during the negotiations was on increasing the Postgraduates seats, starting more diploma courses, starting new courses, webinar classes, Good clinical practice guidelines, fellowship program for international students, conduct of examinations.

NExT NEGOTIATIONS

NExT an exit exam for medical graduate was planned and it was vehemently opposed by the students and IMA strongly supported them as it was creating hurdles rather than uniformity in the medical examination system. It was not giving a level playing field as India is a vast country and the post graduate exam and passing of the MBBS was being clubbed. Also the exam was being conducted centrally and not by various medical colleges and universities causing problems to various medical colleges and their students. The government agreed to postpone it and further discuss it with all stakeholders before implementation.

TEACHING FACULTY AT MEDICAL COLLEGES

IMA negotiated with the health ministry requesting the appointment of only Medical Postgraduates as teachers in Medical Colleges as the colleges where this criteria is diluted the standards of education in our medical colleges.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICES

Indian Medical Association recognized the importance of such cadres during covid times and came up with the IMS Document prepared by IMA Study Group, detailing the need of Indian Medical Services Cadre who would be from a medical background and would be trained in Health administration similar to those undergoing IAS, IPS, IFS etc. The said document was handed over to the HEALTH MINISTRY in 2020. These trained Medical Administrators would be very helpful during any Emergency Health Calamities as in Pandemics, Natural Disasters, Epidemics, etc. and would be a specialized Task Force for implementation of the flagship programs related to health. The Parliamentary Committee in 2021 had expressed its views in favor of setting up such an exclusive service aiming to bring major changes in the Healthcare Sector.

BIOMEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Although IMA is fully committed to the biomedical waste management but some recent modified guidelines by the government were not only impractical but difficult to implement by small and medium hospitals causing them huge financial burden without any specific benefits to the biomedical waste management.

in light of the above, IMA requested the government to grant much wanted relief to small to medium HCEs from compliance with these standards.

SWASTHYA CHINTAN SHIVIR (HEALTH CONTEMPLATION CAMP)

IMA through its National President participated in Swasthya Chintan Shivir - 15th Annual meeting of Central Council of Health & Family Welfare (CCHFV), an Apex Advisory body of Govt of India. The Swasthya Chintan Shivir consisted of 33-34 members committees from all over the country and Govt. of India. Only two Ex-Officio members were there to attend the said meeting out of which IMA was one of them. It was attended by Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Hon'ble Minister of State for Law and Justice and Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare along with officials of top most management of Central Health Ministry. Through this camp, IMA presented its view point on various issues related to medical professionals and general public at large.

The Union Ministers and entire Council unanimously admired and appreciated the work of IMA doing for the benefit of community.



PARTICIPATION IN G-20 SUMMIT

National President, Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal & Hony Secretary General Dr. Anilkumar J. Nayak participated in G20 Summit on Healthcare at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat on 17-18 August, 2023.

National President took the stage as an invited speaker. The inauguration of the summit was done with great enthusiasm by Hon'ble Health Minister, Shri Mansukh Mandviya Ji. The event was further graced by the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Minister of State Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharti Panwar, Minister of State, Prof. S.P Singh Baghel, World Health Organisation, Chief, Mr. Tedros Ghebreyesus and representatives of Japan, USA, China, Germany, UK, Russia, Italy, Korea, Malaysia etc along with other invited dignitaries.



Statement of Press Releases issued by IMA

S.No.	Date	Topic
1	5-1-2023	IMA stands with the Government towards betterment of Indian Healthcare- Dr Sharad Kuma Agarwal Follow COVID appropriate behaviour to prevent another outbreak – IMA.
2	6-1-2023	IMA condemn the incidence of violence on the resident doctor of Yavatmal, Maharashtra - IMA Demands Central Hospital Protection Act.
3.	2-2-2023	Highlights Of National Budget 2023 IMA's appreciate the Central Government Union Budget 2023
4	7-2-2-2023	Legal illiteracy – IMA
5	23-3-2023	Yes! We Can END TB
6	28-3-2023	IMA Observe National Protest Day
7	6-4-2023	"SAMARPAN DIVAS"- WHO Day Celebration - 7th April 2023
8	10-05-2023	IMA condemn the incidence of violence on the murder of Dr. Vandana Das, a 22 years old House Surgeon in Kerala (India).
9	09-06-2023	Walkathon for awareness regarding ill-effects of noise pollution and precautions
10	06-07-2023	Reconsider NExT, A National Loss – Indian Medical Association (IMA)
11	05-08-2023	National Organ Donation Program
12	14 08-2023	IMA opposed Government of India - to prescribe generic drugs only by medical professionals

The following days were Observed by Indian Medical Association: -

- World Cancer Day was observed on 4th February 2023
- National Immunization Day was observed on 27th February 2023
- On the Occasion of World Kidney Day, Indian Medical Association organized Kidneycon-2023 – National Conference on Kidney Diseases on March 5 & 6, 2023
- International Women’s Day observed on 8th March 2023
- World TB Day was observed on 24th March 2023
- World Health Day was observed on 7th April 2023
- World No Tobacco Day was observed on 31st May 2023.
- World Cancer Day was observed on 3rd June 2023
- World Environment Day was observed on 10th June 2023
- National Doctors; Day was observed on 1st July 2023

Conclusions

IMA has always maintained a strong ethical and vibrant stance ever since its inception. The guidance left behind by the stalwarts of the Association continue to be the guiding force to the leaders and members of the Association. Working tirelessly for improvement in the public health, the Association has gained support and popularity among the general public. The Government always considers the views of the IMA while making policy decisions for health care. Whenever the policies of the Government are misguided and not in favour of the general public, IMA always opposed them tooth and nail. 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 2022. Indian Medical Association will continue to work not only for the benefits of its members but also to promote public health measures in India in support and beyond its objectives.

Dr Sharad Kumar Agarwal
National President IMA

Dr Anilkumar J. Nayak
Hony Secretary General IMA