



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
KERALA STATE BRANCH



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

By

Dr. SAMUEL KOSHY

IMA STATE PRESIDENT 2021-22

On Sunday 14th November 2021

at

64th IMA ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE
IMA PERIYAR HOUSE, DESOM - ALUVA

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Immediate Past State President Dr. P.T. Zacharia, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Smt. Veena George, National President of IMA Dr. J. Jayalal, State Health Secretary Dr. Rajan Khobragade, National President elect Dr. Sahajanand Singh, Director of AKN Sinha Institute Dr. Muhammed Rasheed, Past National President Dr. Vijayakumar, Dr. A. Marthanda Pillai, National Vice President elect Dr. Joseph Mani, Past National Vice Presidents, Past State Presidents, Leaders of sister organisations, Senior Colleagues, Invited Guests, Media Persons, Ladies and Gentle men.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 64th State Conference of IMA Kerala State Branch. I am most humbled and grateful to you all, for electing me unanimously to the coveted chair of State President, IMA Kerala State Branch. I do promise that I, along with my team of office bearers, will try our level best to do justice to the confidence you have reposed in us. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the team led by Dr. P.T. Zacharia as the State President for the excellent work done during their tenure.

Indian Medical Association formed in 1928 as a small organisation has grown as the largest professional organisation in the world, with more than 4.5 lakhs members spread all over the country. This organisation has a great legacy with many of its leaders having had participated in the freedom struggle of this country. We take pride in non discrimination among members based on religion, caste, creed, sex, geographic location or political belief. The members of this organisation are committed to the profession and the society. Members of this professional organisation include those working in government, private, teaching and insurance sectors. IMA Kerala State branch, which came in to existance in 1957 is now one of the most vibrant branches of Indian Medical Association with its head quarters at Trivandrum. The branch through the committed continuous leadership by many great leaders, now holds its head high with many of its excellent schemes and projects for the betterment and protection of its members, their families and the society. The prestigious Periyar house at Aluva is another unique achievment of State IMA. IMA houses built across the State by branches give strength and pride to the organisation.

The edifice of IMA stands on its four strongly built pillars. The **first pillar** is the professional and association activities by members across the State. The three tier system of Kerala State IMA with 108 local branches and 14 district committees, is

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committed to protect the interests of the profession and society. The **second pillar** is the academic pillar with two wings, the College of General Practitioners and Academy of Medical Specialities. Medical science is subjected to continuous and constant updates as per current scientific knowledge. All members of IMA are expected to update their knowledge through the branch chapters of these academic bodies. Also the Research and Analysis wing of IMA is giving strength to the scientific cult of the organisation.

The **third pillar** is important by its commitment to social services. IMA is doing a lot of social activities to the community through its various wings and programmes. IMA Goes Ecofriendly (IMAGE) is an outstanding commitment of IMA Kerala State to the society and is the project which is responsible for disposal of Biomedical wastes generated through out Kerala. Committee on Child Health, IMA End TB project, Committee for Organ donation, Care of Elderly, IMA AIDS Cell, Tribal and Coastal Welfare Committee, Food Safety Initiative, Trauma Rescue initiative, Patient Care Scheme, IMA Palliative care Project, IMA Initiative for Safe Sound, Blindness Control Project, Mental Health Project, Basic and Advanced life support training initiative, IMA movement against Quackery are some of the social programmes of IMA. Also IMA runs State of the art and licensed Blood banks through various branches in different places.

The **fourth pillar** is for helping the members and supporting their families through various schemes of IMA. The Professional Protection Scheme provides legal aid to members in medico legal issues. Social Security Schemes provide support to member's family following an unexpected eventuality and IMA Health Scheme provide support to members and their family for treatment of any ailment. IMA Pension Scheme provides scope for pension to the members and IMA Professional Disability Support Scheme is for supporting members developing Temporary or Permanent disability. Professional Equipment Protection Scheme and Hospital Board of India are other projects to provide support to members and hospitals.

IMA is committed to science and works in tandem with the Government but our continuous strong demands for allocation of minimum 5% GDP for health sector, safe drinking water for all, pollution free environment measures to prevent Road Traffic Accidents and Social Security Programmes for Doctors are all yet to be fulfilled. Also staff pattern in Government hospitals needs updation depending on present needs, in the sector.

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One Health: IMA endorses the concept of 'One Health'. Human beings, Animals and all living creatures of universe should Co- exist. This enviornmental friendly attitudes will help us a lot in preventing many deseases. Recognising the interconnections between people, animals, plants and their shared environment is needed for the future existence of human life.

Fight against COVID- 19 Pandemic: IMA and its members are in the forefront of the fight against Covid 19 We have lost 748 doctors during the 1st wave of the pandemic and more than 1400 doctors during the 2nd wave in this fight in our country. Kerala lost 32 doctors in this war. Such massive casualties are rare even during war but we are still in the forefront of this war against the pandemic. All doctors are asked to take self protective measures and treat patients in these most difficult times. All hospitals both in government and private sectors treat Covid 19 patients. Awareness programmes for doctors and general public regarding Covid -19 are conducted by IMA through visual and print media. IMA provides all support to the government in vaccinating maximum number of people in minimum time possible

Attack against Doctors and Hospitals: One of the major challenges that we face even during the difficult times of pandemic is attack against doctors, health care providers and hospitals. Often brutal attacks are made even against leading senior doctors including lady doctors. These attacks happen for no reason or trivial reasons and hospital equipments costing lakhs of rupees are destroyed. Many a times police take a cold half hearted step against these culprits and are given adequate time to take anticipatory bail. IMA cannot be a mute spectator to this unendig brutality. An action plan to prevent attacks, and in case of an attack, immediate action plan to be followed also will be chalked out. All such cases will be followed up and these anti-socials will be made accountable, as per laws existing in our country.

Myxopathy: The Central Government is promoting low quality health care to the common people of our country, through their unscientific policies. Different systems of treatment having different basic principles are mixed together by legislation to promote myxopathy. But science can't be inclusive of everything. Science is research oriented and evidence based but myxopathy is unscientific and hence unacceptable. Mixing unscientific and pseudoscientific modalities of treatment with modern medical science will destroy the quality of health care system in our country. IMA will continue its fight against this unscientific and unacctable policies.



National Medical Commission and Quackery: Medical Council of India, which was a democratic statutory body controlling the medical professionals, was allowing only MBBS graduates to prescribe and practice modern medical treatment. With the introduction of National Medical Commission, Government is allowing even people related to health care profession to prescribe and practise modern medicine as 'Community Health Providers'. IMA is totally against legalisation of quackery and promotion of myxopathy.

Medical Education : Medical education in India is at cross roads and new syllabi with a clear intention to promote unscientific modes of treatment and mixing them with modern medical science in medical colleges is being introduced in our country. This is unprecedented, unscientific and unacceptable. Medical colleges should be centres of excellence and only medical science should be taught in these institutions. IMA believe that Medical pluralism and deviation from internationally accepted scientific modalities of treatment are not good for the people and intrusion in to the scientific domain of modern medical system by other unscientific systems will be opposed relentlessly. IMA will also make efforts for improving academic quality and infrastructure of medical institutions in our State. Our demand and efforts for a '**Monofaculty Medical University**' and '**Monofaculty Medical Council**' will be carried forward.

Clinical Establishment Act: CEA 2018 aims to improve the quality of health care but at the same time brings unwarranted Government control and inspection raj in health care institutions. IMA has no objection in the overall objectives of the Act but certain clauses in the act are detrimental to small and medium sized hospitals. These clauses should be amended before the law is implemented in the State or else many of the small and medium sized modern health care institutions, which are already struggling for existence, will be closed. Closure of these institutions which are the pillars of 'Kerala Health Model', will ultimately destroy our good health care model.

Consumer Protection Act-2019: New Consumer Protection Act 2019 has not included 'Health Care Services' in the ambit of the act. But since the Health Care Services are not excluded from the Act, many legal luminaries are of the opinion that medical services is also included in the Act. We will legally fight this issue together with National IMA till Supreme court, to find a legal remedy for this issue.

Unemployment among Doctors: There is excess inflow of doctors in to our State from Medical Colleges inside and outside the State and also from outside the country. All



these doctors can't be accommodated in the available health care facilities of the State. Hence unemployment among doctors is inevitable. The best available option for the issue of unemployment among professionals is self employment. IMA will act as a facilitator for self employment among doctors, especially young doctors in rural areas.

Insecurity of Jobs in Private Sectors: Employed doctors in private sectors feel insecurity of jobs. Doctors are terminated and salaries are reduced in many hospitals. We will try to find solutions for this also. Making legally valid mutually agreeable contracts with the employers can reduce the insecurity to an extent.

IMA will fight against all these evils in the best interest of its members and the profession.

Strengthening the Association: The area of thrust will be to strengthen the association at various levels. Membership drive will be of prime concern and all weak branches will be under direct supervision of State IMA for strengthening its activities. Formation of more branches with new members will be promoted. Association will be strengthened more because only the voice of a strong organisation will be heard at the corridors of power .

District Yathras and District Conventions will be undertaken to strengthen the organisation and for personally meeting the members Women Doctors Wing will be encouraged and prompted to take up issues concerning women and children. Involvement of families in all branches for facilitating IMA activities will be encouraged and anaemia alleviation through Mission Pink Health will be promoted. All committees including cultural wing and sports committee will be made more popular.

Junior doctors and Medical students will be encouraged to come together, understand the issues faced by the profession and fight for their rights. Also IMA will demand for adequate payment of stipends for house surgeons and PGs.

IMA- UNICEF Partnership Programmes: Partnership programmes with UNICEF and IMA is reopened and will be continued for the health promotion of general public through health care providers and doctors. Various projects under this partnership will be taken up and carried forward. The project for Covid- 19 CME series for Doctors and Health care workers will be continued.

Research Ethics: Initiation to promote IMA as a 'Research Ethics Body' will be done.



Once IMA is approved as a body to give Ethical Sanction for Research, IMA will take up more research and research oriented studies especially on Covid- 19 Pandemic.

IMAGE: IMA's Flag ship project of community activity, 'IMAGE' is challenged by business groups. IMA will go ahead with our social commitment for Biomedical Waste Disposal at minimum cost and will continue with efforts to start new projects in other parts of State also.

IMA Publications: IMA publication for the general public, 'Nammude Arogyam' is published every month with articles on health, written by doctors from various specialities. The Academic publication 'Kerala Medical Journal', is published for the benefit of members and is in the process of indexing, IMA News Letter gives information regarding various activities of IMA to the members.

Conclusion: I once again sincerely thank all the members of our professional organisation for unanimously electing me as the President of IMA Kerala State Branch. Myself and my cabinet will be in the forefront of all activities. All the District Committees and 108 branches will work in tandem to strengthen the association and successfully face the challenges ahead. All our sister organisations and speciality organisations will be brought under one umbrella and together we will serve the public with dignity and dedication. Let me thank my family, my wife Dr. Rekha Samuel, Daughter Mrs. Saira Sara Sam and Son Dr. Koshy. T. Sam for giving me all support and stand with me during the last 28 year of my IMA activities.

Let me conclude with words of Simon Sinek, a contemporary British Orator.

**'A TEAM IS NOT A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO WORK TOGETHER.
IT IS A GROUP WHO TRUST EACH OTHER'**

Friends and colleagues it is this trust that I crave from each and every one of you. Together We Can, separate we fall.

Thank You,

Jai IMA, Jai Hind

Dr. Samuel Koshy

State President, IMA Kerala

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Dr. SAMUEL KOSHY
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