

## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentleman,

It was on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2016 that with all humility I had the profound privilege of taking over the reins of the prestigious World Medical Association as its President. In my presidential address delivered thereat, I had flagged of important and vital issues in various domains, which needed effective, prompt and timely tackling in the larger interest of medical profession, professionals and legitimate rights and interests of men and mankind beyond considerations of discrimination and differentiation.

My mission as WMA President brought out very clearly from the word go was to bring to the centre stage the core issue of '**professional autonomy**', which is paramount and under any circumstances is not open to any concession, condonation, compromise or marginalization in any form, mode and manner.

In addition the other important issues that I had flagged pertained to augmentation of the membership of World Medical Association, emphasis on mental health, meaningful incorporation of the core concepts of equality, justice and equity.

Further, bringing to fore the inevitable necessity of zero tolerance against sexual violence, gender selection, cuts commission and kick-backs being resorted to by the medical professionals bringing shame to the profession as a whole was of equal priority and importance. Sex selective abortion was yet another important aspect brought out for the purposes of desired advocacy so as to generate impact of consequence.

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appropriate policy interventions by the Government of India and the initiative of Indian Medical Association has resulted in the required cost reduction by the Government of India, vide an appropriate capping with reference to knee replacement operations and coronary stents, which has brought the same into an affordable zone, to be within the reach of the common man which was illusive hitherto



very count that the Indian Medical Association gave a clarion call in response to which well over 10,000 medical professionals all over the country on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 gathered at a historic rally in New Delhi, which aired its concern for extension of merited safety and security to the medical professionals in India by suitable policy interventions at all levels.

During the Annual meeting of the American Medical Association held between 10-14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 undertook the privilege of having meaningful interaction with Dr Madera CEO AMA, Ms Liyah Secretary General Israel Medical Association, Dr. Yokokura President JMA, and President Thailand Medical Association Prof Dr Saranatra Waikakul on vital areas of cause and concern alike.

In the address made at the meeting of Confederation of Medical Association of Asia and Oceanic countries on 29.09.17 in Tokyo, Japan, the Indian position in regard to legality, social ethos, medical norms and practices pertaining to 'End of Life' was brought to fore, wherein it was emphasized that the constitutional position bringing out right to dignified life as a fundamental right vested with the citizen ought to include right to decent and dignified death.

Addressing the Central Working Committee meeting of the Indian Medical Association held between 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017 at New Delhi and also the celebration of Centenary of Medical Conference in India, the paramount need for ethics based medical practice was emphasized. The Centenary Indian Medical Association Award was also ceremonially conferred.

All over initiatives and efforts need to be viewed in the backdrop of the material reality that



The challenge is huge in magnitude and gigantic in its existence. The ef



