



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (HQs.)

(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)

Mutually Affiliated with the British & Nepal Medical Associations

I.M.A. House, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi-110 002

Telephones : +91-11-2337 0009 (10 lines), 23378680 / +91-9999116375, 9999116376, Fax: +91-11-23379470

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08.09.2020

New Delhi

To

Shri Amit Shah ji

Honourable Home Minister

Government of India

New Delhi.

Respected Sir,

Sub: Hospital Protection Act

Indian Medical Association expresses its relief and happiness on your resuming routine work. We wish you good health and long active service to the nation.

We also thank you for the expeditious enactment of amendments to the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 to prevent violence against doctors, hospitals and health care workers. We also acknowledge your efforts to obtain the Parliamentary approval for the same in this monsoon session.

The larger issue of safety of our hospitals, doctors, nurses and caregivers remains. Physical, Verbal and social media violence continues inspite of the selfless sacrifice of the doctor community during this Public Health emergency. Behavioural aberrations of a consumerist society, inappropriate expectations, ignorance of limitations, infrastructural and Human Resources constraints, inadequate support systems to defray the cost of treatment, absence of structured communication and counselling logistics etc contribute to the civilisational degeneration called violence on doctors and hospitals. It is a complex issue defying simplistic solution. The solution cannot but start from first countenancing the existence of the problem and acknowledging the qualitative difference of violence in hospitals. Equating violence in common parlance with doctors and nurses getting beaten up in gruesome manner is injustice.

The rectification can only start with deterrence. A strong Central law will strengthen the 23 state legislations in this regard. A central guidance to states to incorporate the amendments to the Epidemic Diseases Act into their Hospital Protection/ anti violence Acts will also strengthen these Acts till the Central law is enacted.

Protect the Single and Couple Doctors Setup

All communications intended for headquarters office should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary General



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A comprehensive solution to the violence on doctors and hospitals needs to address the security level in our hospitals. These arrangements should be on par with our airports. It will not be out of place to point out that a central deterrent law is in place for prevention of violence against airlines personnel.

A much larger perspective will include sufficient investment in Public Health infrastructure and Human Resources. A State sponsored mechanism to purchase care from private hospitals for all citizens is also in order.

Violence in our hospitals is a matter of great concern. It demotivates our doctors and defensive medicine costs lives. A solution to this complex issue should be found during our generation. The medical fraternity expects our National Government to begin this process by enacting a Central Law against violence on doctors and hospitals. We kindly request your goodself to initiate action in this regard.

**Thanking you
Yours sincerely**

Dr. Rajan Sharma
National President

Dr. R.V. Asokan
Hon. Secretary General