



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters - IMA House, IP Estate, New Delhi

HEALTHCARE VIOLENCE

Healthcare Violence are the violent incidents directed against Doctors, Healthcare staff and Healthcare establishments with or without reason. The incidences of healthcare violence have increased over the years & have become widespread & the dreaded entity poses to be threat to the medical practice. Unfortunately, the approach against the same has been soft to make the violence appear as a built-in part of the system...!! Amongst the major causes of healthcare violence include trust deficit in the medical fraternity, costly medical expenses, difficulties in accessibility, affordability, unfavorable treatment outcomes, high expectations from the fraternity & professionals, Unprofessional & unethical issues, Inadequate Communication practices, Wrong media inputs, Political Populism & business module healthcare policies. Healthcare as a science has evolved over past century & the evolution has added up many modalities & treating modules for various diseases. The entry of corporate business module in healthcare has augmented the healthcare costs parallel to the investments. Healthcare policies have been parallel to the rising corporate business module. Insurance sector with the biased policymaking has given setback to the service-oriented sector. Higher healthcare costing & inadequate insurance back up has obviously led to high, unaffordable out of pocket expenditure. While the policymaking has overlooked the healthcare over decades, rising needs have put a direct burden on people. The largest healthcare delivery in the country has been through the private sector. Lack of realization of 'Right to Health' has pushed the people against the healthcare sector. The onus of outrage has been indirectly slapped on the healthcare professionals. The overall result is the current scenario of healthcare violence. Violence in hospitals, against doctors, staff causing mental, professional, financial harm along with disrepute has reached peak levels in our country and the Indian Medical Association declares this as the National Emergency that taking toll on the basic structure of the healthcare system and in return has massive negative impact on public health. Stigmatization and discrimination of professionals is taking toll to the extent that IMA lost its devoted professional Dr. Archana Sharma. The incidence has marked a dark blot of apathy towards the healthcare professionals and overall healthcare system in the country. Government inaction and irresponsiveness in this worst episode speaks volumes. The attacks against professionals treating patients with COVID-19 during pandemic, that too in presence of the central government ordinance in the Epidemic Act 1897, has

proved it beyond doubt that the situation of healthcare violence has become refractory to the measures. It also has proved that meagre solutions like ordinance to safeguard the professionals are ineffective.

INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION STAND

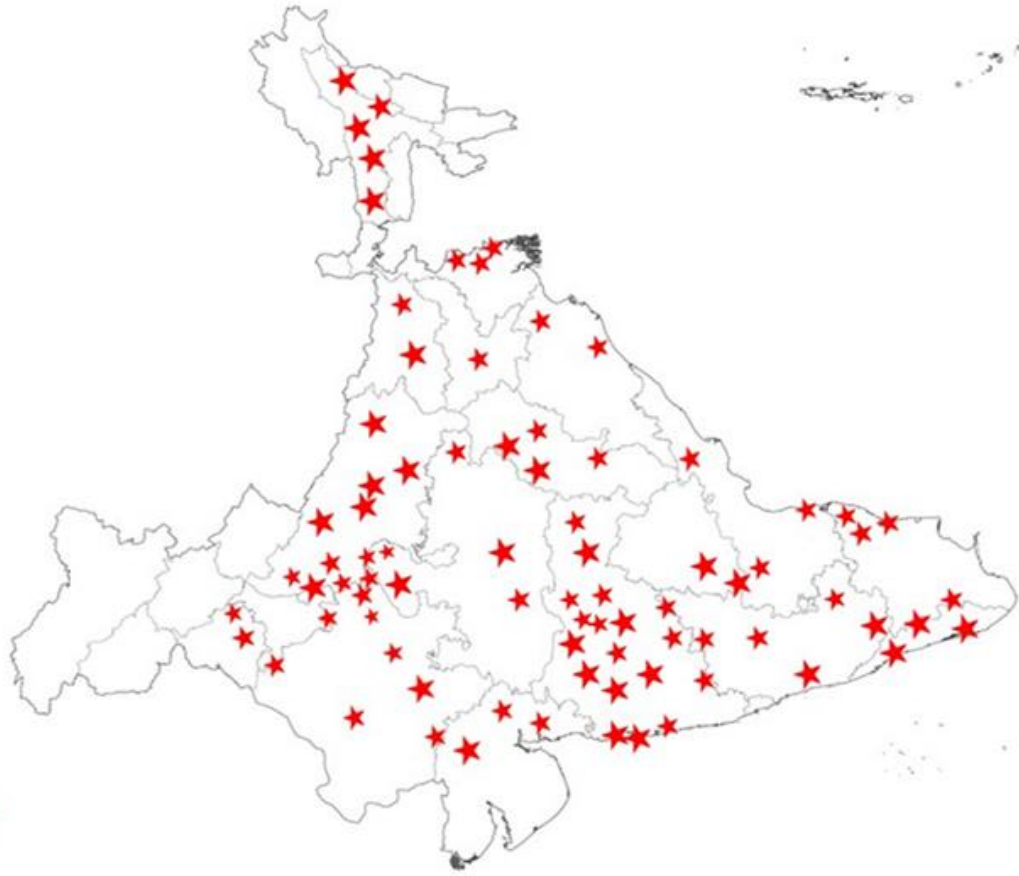
Indian Medical Association has raised this issue and demanded for protection of doctors. After hurricane efforts, few states got their own State Medicare Acts. The existing legal provisions vide; State Medicare Service Persons Acts, are not enough to deal with rising incidents of violence against doctors and medical staff. It is witnessed that majority of the law keeper, enforcers are unaware of the provisions in the act & many with the act itself. Inaction in most of the cases of healthcare violence & failure to book any of the culprits under these State Acts over past many years speak volumes about the ineffectiveness of the state acts. In every case of healthcare violence, in addition to the State Medicare Acts, supportive provisions of the Indian Penal Code need to be enforced. Without enforcing other IPC provisions, State Medicare Acts, as standalone, remain toothless & ineffective. Registered cases of Healthcare Violence are mere tip of the iceberg & do not represent the actual seriousness of the issue. Approximately 90% violence episodes do not reach the law-keepers & are well suppressed before that. Out of those few reaching the police, handful are lucky to get registered in legal frame. And out of handful registered, hardly any of the assault reach near the justice. This is an actual practical story & exposes the unhealthy safe-hood of the professionals. Government initiated a meeting with IMA and brought ordinance, amendment in the Epidemic act 1897. Being an act as an ordinance to epidemic act, it may not be used as a common central act against healthcare violence. Till date 23 states have enacted state-wide acts in their respective states. In the absence of a central comprehensive act, the state-wide acts remain ineffective in prosecution and conviction.

IMA Demands

- The Central Comprehensive Act.
- Legal sound provisions for non-bailable & cognizable nature. Imprisonment provisions should match non-bailable & cognizable nature. Fine should be as per the damages & losses.
- Damage to the credibility & good faith should be considered in the provisions. Hospitals should be declared safe zones.
- Political support system as a root cause for the violence needs special attention. CRPC code for separate comprehensive act.
- Act should be strong to withstand as a singular effective act & other supportive legal provisions in IPC should not be required to enforce the actions.



MAJOR INCIDENCES OF HEALTHCARE VIOLENCE ACROSS INDIA



IMA HEADQUARTERS, NEW DELHI

- Maharashtra: Doctor attacked in hospital in Palghar
- Maharashtra: Patient assaults, stabs doctors at Yavatmal GMC
- Doctor-son duo thrashed for opening clinic late in Maharashtra
- Female doctor attacked in Tyvm Hospital
- Relatives Beat Up Doctors At Kerala Hospital, Kochi
- Property Dealer Kicks Doctor, Teacher Couple In Indore
- Andhra Pradesh Doctor Thrashed, Stripped
- Mob Killing Of 73-Year-Old Doctor At Tea Estate In Assam
- 50-year-old doctor was assaulted earlier this week in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru district
- A doctor in Assam's Hojai, mercilessly punched, kicked, pounded with metal trash cans and bricks
- Hospital ward boy attacks 30-year-old female doctor with scissors in Nashik
- Maharashtra doctor was beaten by a group of men in Baramati
- Doctor assaulted in Assam
- Bihar Lawmaker's Son Allegedly Thrashes Doctor In Hospital
- Doctor thrashed in Aurangabad, Maharashtra
- Lady doctor beaten in Haridwar, UP
- A doctor at Allahabad brutally assaulted
- Mumbai – JJ Hospital Doctors beaten up
- Kanpur – Lady doctor beaten up
- Maharashtra, Nashik, अस्पताल के बाई बाॅय ने महिला डॉक्टर पर किया हमला
- GMC Patiala: Doctor, nursing staff attacked by patient's attendants
- Assistant professor Hazaribag, insulted and roughed up by deputy development commissioner (DDC)
- Kota's MBS hospital doctors, attacked by patient's kin
- Ranchi, Jharkhand - Crime News Ranchi: डॉक्टर अचल कुमार पर हमला, जेलमी हालत में मेडिका में चल रहा इलाका.
- Kerala - Woman doctor injured as patient assaults her in a fit of rage.
- Maharashtra: Patient's family assaults doctor in Dhule
- Lady doctor attacked by a ward boy, with equipment used in surgery at hospital in Nashik
- Casualty Doctor gets assaulted by students in Kozhikode
- Chattisgarh -assaulting doctor at home, Doctor's father injured too.
- Ranchi surgeon assaulted at home
- Karnataka, Mysuru - Attacked With Acid, Doctor Fights for Justice for 11 Years
- Karnataka: Doctor assaulted
- Delhi - Patient attacks doctor in Delhi hospital with scissors.

- Violence Break Out In Hospital After Death Of Woman In Muzaffarnagar
- Maharashtra, Aurangabad - Hooligans Beating Doctors Inside Hospital
- Kolkata: Patient Assaulted In Operation Theatre Of Private Hospital
- NRS Medical College junior doctors assaulted
- Dibrugarh doctor thrashed by 2 men for Facebook comment
- Jaigaon, Maharashtra – Doctor attacked in cabin
- West Bengal: Doctors beaten up after patient death
- Nagpur: Man declared dead; kin assault doctor, damage hospital
- Relative of Covid-19 patient attacks doctor with knife inside Nanded govt hospital
- workers assault doctor and his mother at clinic in Tamil Nadu
- Chennai – PG doctor attacked RGGGH
- "Can't we at least be treated as human beings?" : Chennai Doctor Breaks Down Narrating The Attack
- Bengaluru: Doctor, nurse assaulted in ICU; patient's son arrested
- Relatives of a COVID Patient Stab doctor in Latur
- Maharashtra - cops assault doctor at Solapur hospital
- Chennai – Autorickshaw driver assaults doctor
- Patiala: Resident doctor attacked at Government Rajindra hospital, suffers multiple facial fractures
- Doctor on coronavirus duty assaulted in Delhi
- Kerala Doctor Attacked After Pulling Up COVID Norm Violators
- Doctor at the Madhya Pradesh's government hospital, suffered serious injuries in his eye after assault.
- Nizamuddin Markaz attendees misbehave with staffers, spit at doctors at Delhi quarantine units
- Family of man who died due to COVID-19 attack doctors at Hyderabad hospital
- Tablighi Jamaat members for attack on health workers
- Patient's relatives attack doctor, vandalise hospital property in Nashik
- Patient's relatives assault doctors at AIIMS hospital in Delhi
- Angry Neighbour Hurls Abuses At Doctor
- Delhi Covid crisis: Anger spills into violence at Apollo hospital
- Telangana: Doctors, Surgeons On Strike After Covid
- Patient's Family Attacks Medical Professional
- Locals attack doctors in Delhi over COVID-19 spread.
- female doctors attacked in Delhi on pretext of coronavirus
- Doctors Attacked After Covid Patient Dies At Delhi Hospital
- Doctor with the Sports Authority of India was allegedly beaten up for filing RTI.

Violence against doctors is seriously threatening. It is an effect of unwell, pathetically backed healthcare system. The hospitals cannot be allowed to become war zones as sick people need a peaceful environment and the Doctors also need a stable and peaceful ambience for delivering 100% safe, quality care. Because of violence doctors have started practicing defensive medicine. Finally, the stressful hospital environment is making doctors as well as patients suffer the brunt. Healthcare violence is an act of aggression, erratic, quarrelling behavior, abusive threats to vandalize the hospitals, physical assault or any sort of threatening behavior that occurs in hospitals. The exposed cases of healthcare violence reach at various levels in the doors of law-keepers. The system with the pressures & presence of illiterate but politically powerful people around suppress the tame, intellectual medicos. The sufferers from healthcare fraternity get lost in the in the doors of law-keepers. Recent incidences of healthcare violence are extremely serious. It has become utmost important to bring in an effective and protective central law for doctors.