

Text message of Dr. Saroj Chooramani Gopal, President NAMS at the delivered at the 60th Annual Convocation on 7th August, 2021, at NAMS, New Delhi

Dignitaries: - The Chief Guest, Honorable Dr. Vinod Paul-Member Health NITI Ayog, Guests of Honour - Dr. Balram Bhargava- Secretary DHR & DG-ICMR; Dr. N.K. Ganguly-Former DG-ICMR and past President NAMS; Dr. P. K. Dave Emeritus President NAMS; Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa Vice-President, Dr. Rani Kumar Treasurer, Dr. D.K. Gupta Hon. Secretary; esteemed council members (Dr. O.P. Kalara, Dr. Velu Nair, Dr. Digambar Behare, Dr. K. S. Gopinath, Dr. S. Mishra, Dr. Rajeshwar Dayal, Dr. Shally Awasthi, Dr. S. Mohanti, Dr. N. K. Arora, Dr. Neerja Bhatla), Chairpersons of standing committees - Dr. Deshmukh, Finance; Dr. H.S. Sandhu, Chairman Credentials; Dr. Prema Ramachandran Academic, Dr. Davendra Taneja CMEs; Dr. Shridhar Dwivedi Geetkar-Academy Kulgeet, Veteran fellows of the academy, Dr. Shridhar Sharma, Dr. Valiathan, Dr. B.M. Hegde, Dr. Ramaswamy, Dr. P.S. Ramani, Dr. J.S. Guleria, Dr. P.N. Tandon, Dr. J. L. Gupta, Dr. P. Upadhyay and Past Presidents, newly elected fellows and members receiving scrolls today, Staff of the NAMS, media persons, ladies and gentleman.

Let me at the very outset express my grave concern about the prevailing situation due to Covid pandemic and pray God for good health of the people and global victory of medical fraternity on Covid19.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), I extend a very warm welcome to you all, who have joined this event online/offline today.

The Academy is proud to welcome as the Chief Guest of the 60th Convocation-2020 Hon'ble Dr. Vinod Paul Member Health NITI Ayog, an Eminent Fellow of NAMS a noted academician, researcher, acclaimed paediatrician, beloved teacher, able administrator, Professor of Paediatrics at All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, who is leading the policies of health, Nutrition and HRD verticals, has played a pivotal role in formulating the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna), wellness Centre Scheme and POSHAN Abhiyaan, apart from being the core team member of Empowered Covid-19 National Task Force. As a scientist he has over 400 scientific publications, h-index of 62 and has received prestigious Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation award by WHO.

We also have the good fortune to have three eminent fellows of NAMS today as guests of honour. They are shaping the Health Policies, Research and Medical Education of the country and all of them are playing impacting role in overcoming the menace of Covid-19.

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you, Dr. Balram Bhargava Secretary Department of Health Research and DG-ICMR, Fellow of NAMS, recipient of prestigious Lee Jong Wook memorial prize and Padamshree for public health endeavours and affordable cardiac health care. You have made us proud by your immense academic achievements, innovations of low cost cardiac stents, Indian covidVaccine (Covaxin) and quick affordable home diagnostic kit for Covid-19. You have transformed the ICMR into a driving force for advanced medical research in the country.

Dr. N K Ganguly Padambhushan, the Past President NAMS and former DG ICMR, presently engaged as President Jawahar Lal Nehru Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and

Research, Em.Prof PGMER Chandigarh and many other bodies, having par excellence record of academics with 775 scientific papers, guiding >130 PhD and research projects. I take the honour of welcoming you to this function to inspire all of us by your vigour.

Dr. P. K. Dave, Padamshree, our Emeritus President of NAMS, former Director AIIMS Delhi, President AIIMS Rajkot, a renowned joint replacement surgeon, chairman Orthopaedics, Rockland Hospital, sir a very warm welcome to you.

Dr. Sunil Kumar - DGHS GoI, Dr. S.C. Sharma, Chairman – NMC and all the literati online/Offline, I most sincerely welcome you all with gratitude for having come to grace this 60th Convocation of the Academy. I will like to add here that this function is being performed as solemn duty in spite of all the odds of Covid .

The Academy was established as the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences on 21st April, 1961 by the 8 visionary Medical Scientists of India. (Dr. B. K. Anand, Col. Sangam Lal, Dr. V. Ramalingaswamy, Dr. K.L Wig, Dr. B.L. Taneja, Dr. R. Vishwanathan, Col. Amir Chand, Dr. S.K. Sen). It was inaugurated by the 1st Prime Minister of India – Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and the first Convocations was held on 8th December, 1963, Dr. Sarvapally Radhakrishnan the then President of India as the Chief Guest.

The Academy was renamed as National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) in 1976. The Academy has the mandate of recognising and promoting excellence in Medical Education among Medical and Bio-Medical Scientist through awarding fellowships, memberships, CMEs, workshops and collaboration with alike academic National/International bodies etc.

Over the years the Academy has recognized the outstanding achievements of Indian Bio – Medical & Allied Scientists. You would be happy to know that Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was a recipient of FAMS (1995) NAMS.

Academy also elects very eminent persons as Honorary Fellows, to name a few:Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. B.C Roy, Drs J.N. Mehta, A. L. Mudaliar, Purandare NA, Dr. Sushila Nair, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Dr. Karan Singh and Dr. C.P. Thakur.

The Academy has been fortunate to have eminent medical men and women, as its Presidents like Dr. V. R. Khanolkar the first President and others (Dr. A. K. Basu, Dr. K.L. Wig, Dr. Padmawati, Dr. P.N. Chhuttani, Dr. B.K. Anand, Dr. B. Ramamurthi, Dr. B.N. Sinha, Dr. R. K. Gandhi, Dr. N. K. Ganguly, Dr. Snehlata Deshmukh, Dr. Mathangi Ramakrishnan, Dr. Hari Gautam, Dr. P. K. Dave, Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Dr. K. K. Talwar, Dr. C.S. Bhaskaran and Dr. Mukund Joshi etc).

As on date the academy has 959 fellows, 2333 MAMS members and 8018 MNMS, It is also noteworthy that large number of its fellows are recipients of prestigious National Padma Awards: - Two Bharat Ratna (Dr. B. C. Roy and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam) 7 Padma Vibhushan, (Dr. J.S. Bajaj, Dr. P. N. Tandon, Dr. Padmawati, Dr. M.S. Valiathan, Dr. B.M. Hegde ; 18 Padma Bhushan including Dr N K Ganguly, Dr. K. K. Talwar and more than 50 Padma Shree.

From April 2020 to March, 2021, the academy has conducted 18 extramural CMEs and 4 Intramural CMEs in various medical institutions of the country in online/offline mode in spite of the Covid Pandemic. Fifteen Prestigious Orations for senior and Six Awards for young Bio-

Medical scientists are instituted by the Academy for recognition of outstanding contributions. During the year 2020-21, six orations and five awards and Amritsar Award instituted by the Chief Minister of Punjab, for best presentation amongst the 6 awardees of NAMS, have been conferred.

The Academy also contributes towards Human Resource Development under Scientific Exchange Programme for Junior Scientists sending them to Centres of excellence for training in advanced methods and techniques. Two hundred and three (203) Medical Scientists/Teachers have been helped.

The academy also has a pool of Emeritus Professors who are ever ready to extend helping hand to any medical institution in the country for establishment of infrastructure or skill enhancement.

The Academy established NAMS Centre for Research in Medical Education at AIIMS, Jodhpur. The center has carried out multiple activities in relation to enhancing the Medical education and Research component of the NAMS.

NAMS-AIIMS collegium is formed with AIIMS at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur, and Rishikesh in order to provide the benefit of experience of eminent Emeritus Professors and Fellows of the NAMS to advise and support academic programmes.

The Academy publishes its Annals regularly, which is also uploaded on its website. All the information of Annals, Monographs, CMEs, conferences, and various learning resource materials are available on the website.

The Academy has National Knowledge Network (NKN) connectivity at its Smt. Kamla Raheja and Prof. J.S. Bajaj Centre for Multi-Professional Education auditorium at NAMS wherein regular CMEs, Workshops and Lectures are held and is made available to others for academic activities. Every year Conference CME & Symposium and Public Lectures are organized on the topics of relevance to the health needs of the country.

The Academy Plans to enhance the spirit of Medical Ethics, emphasizing Indian Ethos and Research and Innovation among the Bio-Medical Graduates, Post-Graduates and Faculty for which the plans are on the anvil. There is need for: -

1. Repair & Renovation of the Infrastructure
2. Collaboration with other Academies in India & overseas
3. Play key roles as Advisory body to the Govt. on policy in public interest e.g.
 - Develop new programs to improve health of masses.
 - Augment teaching, training & Academic activities in medical institutions.
 - Sensitise the faculty & technical staff to develop newer technologies/establish facilities with cutting edge technologies in their centres for skill development.
 - Initiating some schemes for promoting research and innovation in under graduates, post graduates and young faculty.

I am confident that with the cooperation, support, guidance and blessings of the Ministry of Health and the very capable eminent fellows of this academy like Honourable Dr. Vinod Paul, Dr. Balram Bhargava, Dr. N K Ganguly and Dr. P K Dave, the academy would be able to aspire and achieve newer heights.

In the end I welcome you all once again to grace and bless NAMS 60th Convocation 2020.

**Long Live National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) NAMS.
Jay Hind.**

