



Dear fellow IAPS members,

Wishing you all a very happy Republic Day. Republic Day honors the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26th January 1950. It replaced the existing Government of India Act of 1935 as the governing document of India. I take this opportunity to update IAPS members about several endeavors taken up by IAPS Executive Committee. As an association it is important to understand distribution of Pediatric Surgical Services

across India. Dr Amar Shah, IAPS Joint Secretary has created a database showing district wise distribution of Pediatric Surgeons across India. It is a very valuable information for setting up Pediatric Surgery services in both government and private sector. I request all members to check the information about their respective districts and please communicate with Dr Amar Shah to update the database. This information will be useful to discuss with Ministry of Health to create pediatric surgical services in each district. Dr Ramesh Babu along with Dr Amar Shah, Dr Ravi Kanjia and myself had a long meeting with Star Health Insurance Company. The company is coming up with Star Women Care Insurance Policy where they are going to include neonatal surgery and congenital defects insurance cover. It is still work in progress but we have moved forward and are hoping for a break through soon. Further information is eagerly awaited. Like every year there are few takers for MCh Pediatric Surgery registrations and more than 100 seats have gone vacant this year. In the litigations filed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala government for 50% reservation of in-service candidates for super speciality admissions, the supreme court has given clear directives for completion of already delayed admission process with two rounds of counselling. This process as per the court directive was completed by 31st December 2020. As a result, more than 500 seats for all specialties are vacant. All associations have approached the government requesting to see if vacant seats can be filled up. We will await further information. IAPS executive committee is working hard to identify deficiencies in Pediatric Surgery training, how to attract trainees and how to standardize training across the country. We are in the process of forming academic council to address this issue. IAPS awards committee is already formed and is working on streamlining awards process. Due to Covid pandemic IAPS conference 2020, various state and subchapters had online meetings. With Covid numbers decreasing across the country and vaccination process initiated we are hoping for near normal services this year. Many of us have already taken vaccine and all IAPS members are encouraged to take the vaccine. This year PESI-IAPS is conducting first Hybrid conference of IAPS on 19-21 March 2021. The conference will have a physical meeting part at SRCC Children's Hospital managed by Narayana Health at Mumbai and rest of the delegates will be online. There will be one day live operative workshop relayed from SRCC Children's Hospital managed by Narayana Health, Mumbai on 20th March 2021. The details are being worked out by executive committee of PESI-IAPS led by Dr Meera Luthra and Dr Kirti Rathod. This year IAPS conference has been proposed to be fully physical conference in GOA from 21-24 October 2021 if circumstances permit. The Organizing Chairmen are Dr Dinesh Kittur, Dr Sanjay Khope and Dr Sudhakar Jadhav with Organizing Secretaries Dr Jui Mandke and Dr Kant Shah. I am sure all IAPS members will be vaccinated by then and will be very keen to break free from the travel restrictions since March 2020. Goa is an attractive venue to rejuvenate members and their families. Block your dates in the calendar now and wait for further announcements from the organizing team. On the occasion of Republic Day salute to the armed forces and medical professionals along with essential services for providing exemplary services to the nation during COVID pandemic.

Long live IAPS, Jai Hind

Dr Ravindra Ramadwar

President IAPS

President's Message