Greetings from the desk of the IOA President!
At the outset, I would like to thank you all for bestowing upon me this honour. It is a dream come true for a person from a tier 3 city like Solapur without any institutional attachment to reach this top position without carrying the prefix of Professor in the name. Thank you all, once again, for your love and affection over the years which has led me to this coveted post.

Friends, the Corona pandemic has played a spoilsport for all of us. Many of us have lost our near and dear ones in his pandemic and our deepest sympathies are with their family members. I proudly, salute all the frontline health workers for their selfless service since the beginning of the pandemic over a year ago.

My vision for IOA is to enhance membership. I know for every IOA member, there are at least two or three more practicing elsewhere, who are yet to become an IOA member. Catch them young or as soon as they become Orthopaedic Surgeons. If this is delayed for whatever reason, they may not be interested later as majority of the benefits like fellowships are available more to the newly joined. Underline the advantages of being IOA members. Few being, the members get free access to some of the international journals and operative videos. They get to attend webinars conducted by various IOA sub-committees which are available free of cost to all its members. Hey also get the indexed journal IJO. Apart from the benevolent fund of IOA for its members in crisis, there are many fellowships both inland and foreign, both for the fresh graduates as well as experienced ones to hone their surgical skills. What else can we do for uplifting IOA further? Yuva mentorship, to train the young with fellowships is an area close to my heart. If young minds are trained in the specialty of their choice here itself, the brain drain can be curtailed. Also, if we can streamline the working hours and structured assured payments for these young
geniuses, they will not only choose to train in India, but India may also become the hub for Medical super speciality training. This can be given a thought by those who train these young surgeons and who are in decision-making levels.

We in India have a treasure of knowledge still to be unearthed. Because of our different social, economical, and cultural reasons as well as due to lack of medical insurance, we all see many complicated cases which are unheard of in some of the developed countries. We have to tap this experience and produce international literature. We are trying to help our friends and colleagues to write case reports, articles and original research papers in international journals.

My dear friends, my theme for the year 2021. It reads “Aatmanirbhar Orthopedics. Indian @Heart, Global in Competence”.

The first part, Atmanirbhar Orthopaedics represents that we are self sufficient as a whole regarding Orthopaedic care. Let it be regarding training of the young doctors or patients care or even implants and instrumentation including rehabilitation products which are required in our field.

The second part Indian @ Heart, Global in Competence, Indian @ Heart, represents that our heart beats for our patients and we take decision with empathy in the best interest of our patients, considering their social-economic aspects also which is only peculiar in our country as they also play a major role while taking decisions.

Regarding Global in Competence, our skill as Orthopaedic Surgeons will be second to none, we shall imbibe and implement all newer technologies in our field and we will be always ahead of time with the overall aim that India should be the most preferred destination for Orthopaedic Medical Tourism.

Friends, medical services in India are world-class. We all know medical tourism is one of the most important industries in India. We in India have World-class doctors and World-class hospitals to cater to the world. Unfortunately, some of the instruments and machines manufactured in India are looked down on by our members who prefer to use the so-called “imported” implants. I want India, especially the Indian Orthopaedic Association to become self-reliant in this field of implants, prostheses, different machinery, rehabilitation products, etc. It is high time that we become atmanirbhar in this field too by using and promoting quality implants from our manufacturers.

Regarding the Logo, It has the logo of the Indian Orthopaedic Association held by two caring hands above and below, in the backdrop of tricolour. It also has the presidential theme written below.

The hand on top of the IOA Logo represents that we are one family under the banner of IOA. We shall work to protect the interest of our members first and we also care for the IOA. We shall give the healing touch with our hands. The other hand below
represents that we treat and serve our patients with proper care and empathy. It also represents that we support our parent body, IOA.

The tricolour in the background represents Mera Bharat Mahan. We are proud to be members of IOA, we shall give due credits to our Indian studies done by our friends and colleagues and acknowledge them properly on the global platform. We want to promote more indigenization in the field of Orthopaedics, especially in the field of implants and instrumentation of course with international standards to cut the cost of treatment. Be Indian, Buy Indian, And Promote Indian.

Friends, lastly I request all of you to put yourself first then your profession. We all have a propensity to work selflessly and put patients before ourselves. No praise can be too high for the healthcare workers who have toiled tirelessly for more than a year to tend to the infected, risking their own lives and also the lives of their near and dear ones in this pandemic. Now, it is time to take a break! Why am I saying this? Many of us in the rat race to do fellowships and settle down in life in the thirties and forties tend to neglect our family giving importance to our profession only. All things revolve around being available 24 X 7 to our patients at our hospital, putting a lot of stress on personal health, personal family life. I would like to remind you subtly here that the average life of a doctor is 10 years less compared to the general population because of the high stresses he/she passes throughout his/her life. Friends it is high time to introspect, if you are not available for a patient, someone will be ready to slip in your shoes and will be available to the patient. But what happens to for your family if you are not there? So don’t miss being around them when they need you most. So don’t be a 24X7 doctor, separate your professional life from family, personal and social life. Develop a hobby and nurture it well.

Thank you once again.

Be safe. Take Care. Jai IOA.

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