



Indian Medical Association

MAHARASHTRA STATE

[REGISTERED UNDER BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST ACT 1950, NO. F—166 (PUNE)
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PRESS NOTE

IMA PROTESTS MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT'S ORDER

IMA WILL SANCTIFY THE STRUGGLE

Since the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Maharashtra government, the health secretaries and all district administrative officials, have been treating unfairly to the IMA and all other private doctors. All the doctors are being treated like criminals. The treatment rates at Covid Hospitals were fixed up unilaterally without discussing it with the doctors or the hospital bodies, whether they are affordable or not. Because of these unaffordable rates the time has come that many private hospitals in the state are on the verge of closure on account of economical grounds.

On one side the unaffordable rates have been forced on the doctors and on the other side Doctors are being prosecuted by the sending auditors if there is any minor mistake in the bills prepared with the unaffordable rates. At the same time, ministers and leaders have continuously been proclaiming that the Doctors are robbing patients. Because of this unjust criticism the doctors in the state of Maharashtra are losing their self confidence.

Hospitals are finding it difficult to meet the cost of oxygen, PPE kits, biomedical waste charges, staff salaries, disinfection at the current rates set for hospital ICUs. Therefore, out of 25000 hospitals in Maharashtra, it is time to close most of the hospitals. For this, the Health Minister had convened a meeting to increase the rates, and it was decided to hold a meeting with IMA representatives, before August 31st, to discuss the hike. However, without holding such a meeting, the state health secretary issued a circular on August 31 to maintain the rates and add more items in it to make it more unaffordable.

IMA Maharashtra State informed about this to the health ministers office on September 1. The minister of Health was requested by IMA to hold a meeting in the next three days to discuss the rates, but to date the state government has not responded.

As per the instructions in this circular dated 31/8/2020 (No. corona / 2020 / CR97 / arogya 5) issued by the Department of Public Health, Government of Maharashtra, it is impractical and impossible to run hospitals and treat patients. In an emergency State Council meeting of IMA Maharashtra State held on September 4, 2020, a resolution was unanimously approved to reject this circular completely. And we condemn the undemocratic behaviour of the Govt.

We feel that this is an encroachment on our right to fix hospital rates. To force the doctors and ask them to adjust as per the government's unilateral and autocratic orders is totally unfair.

Till date the Govt. of Maharashtra has consistently ignored and turned its deaf ear to all the reasonable demands made by IMA from time to time. On account of many of such problems we have decided to do a series of protest activities.

Around 45,000 doctors from all the 216 branches of IMA Maharashtra will fight against this decision of the Government of Maharashtra in various ways from Monday, September 7, 2020.

OUTLINE OF THE MOVEMENT

1. With effect from September 10, all branches of the IMA will hold a peaceful protest in front of the office of the administrative officers in their region against the injustice done to doctors. (Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Municipal Commissioners, District Administrative Officers, Civil Surgeons, etc.)
2. The Leaders of all political parties will be given detailed statements regarding oppressive treatment, abusive statements against the doctors and off course about the unaffordable & unjust hospital rates. IMA leaders will appeal them to extend their support for the justifiable demands of the doctors.
3. A Doctors' Rally will be held at Azad Maidan in Mumbai and peaceful protests will be held. Proposals will be made to the cabinet as well as the legislature.
4. On 9th September at 11 am, 10 minute silent tribute in the memory of the fellow martyr doctors, who died while doing their duties in treating Covid patients will be given by all the Doctors by gathering in front of their own clinics or hospitals, with the masks on their faces.
5. On the same night from 8 pm onwards all the IMA branches will display a symbolic hoarding or poster outside the branch office or at a prominent place in

their town or the city and all the members, one by one will light and keep one candle in front of the poster.

5. All branches of Indian Medical Association in Maharashtra will burn the replicas of their Medical Registration Certificates at the branch office or at a prominent place.

6. 'Self Quarantine' - For the last six months, all the doctors in Maharashtra have been serving COVID patients without taking any leave, without caring for their own lives. More than 150 doctors doing their private practice have died in this Pandemic.

Numerous doctors have been infected with Covid 19. All the doctors who have worked tirelessly have been providing services to the patients and have been putting their own life at risk.

Just as many leaders and government officials in Maharashtra have made themselves 'self-quarantined', it is time for us doctors to be 'self-quarantined', as a mass movement. The separation period may range from one day to 14 days.

7. Appeal in the High Court - Indian Medical Association, State of Maharashtra. The government is filing a petition in the Mumbai High Court against this unilateral, unjust decision that tramples the values of democracy.

All members of IMA Maharashtra are committed to the treatment of all patients. For this, more than one and a half hundred private doctors from Maharashtra have sacrificed their lives.

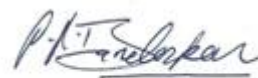
The reason for the failure of the Corona pandemic in Maharashtra state lies in the short-sighted, unscientific, inhumane and repressive practices of the administrators, who are fully responsible for controlling the epidemic in this fashion, by tyrannizing the doctors instead of consulting a them. All the citizens know that the contribution of all the private hospitals in controlling the corona outbreak in Maharashtra is invaluable.

But we are fighting against the government's wrong decisions and its mudslinging behavior regarding private doctors to hide their own failures.



DR. AVINASH BHONDWE

PRESIDENT



DR. PANKAJ BANDARKAR

HON. STATE SECRETARY