VALIDICTORY ADDRESS BY
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES

42\textsuperscript{nd} ICMM WORLD CONGRESS ON MILITARY MEDICINE

1. Hon’ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Dr Subhash Ramrao Bhamre, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, the Defence Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra, dignitaries from the ICMM Secretariat, Vice Chairman Maj Gen Andreas Stettbacher from Switzerland, Secretary General of ICMM Roger Van Hoof from Belgium, Chairman of the Scientific Council Maj Gen Marc Morillon from France, delegates and guests from the member nations of the ICMM, Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. We are privileged to have amidst us the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, Shri Ram Nath Kovindji, Hon’ble President of India and let me say this that how honoured we are with his presence in this audience. His presence here also signifies his solidarity for the ICMM movement and the significance this congress has for him and to the Indian Armed Forces and the country at large. On behalf of the ICMM Congress, I express my profound gratitude to you Sir for your benign presence here this morning.

3. The 42\textsuperscript{nd} ICMM World Congress on Military Medicine is drawing to its conclusion. After five days of intense scientific interaction, it is time for curtains to go down after some extremely cerebral and path breaking discussions. It was a pleasure to see the passion in the panel discussions, plenary sessions and round tables on topics which we thought were contemporary but many became a cause for an interesting debate.

4. The participating member states have strengthened their mutual bonding and coordination to a different level, and that Ladies and Gentlemen was the very objective of the ICMM. Liaison during the humanitarian intervention of the various militaries in large scale disasters and the synergy, sincerity of purpose and an honest understanding of mutual concerns was truly heartening.

5. Efforts were also made to focus specifically upon the most challenging concerns about the human body exposed to hostile and unfriendly environmental stressors during military operations namely high altitudes, extreme heat & cold climatic conditions, hyperbaric environments surrounding the divers and submariners and the high accelerations and the acute hypoxia affecting the aviators.

6. Bilateral talks on the sidelines of the Congress between India and many of the member states was a true reflection of the trust and the faith the world medical community reposes in the AFMS, India. We have also witnessed some very fascinating talks from very eminent personalities in their field of specialization which added further to the academic flavor of the Congress.

7. The visit to the Military Medicine facility at Air Force Station Hindan, was organized so that the delegates could experience a first-hand display of organized mass casualty evacuation by air, and also witness an exercise on deployment of a Rapid Action Medical Team. I am sure that the delegates have benefitted from this on-ground reality check, which at times can become a decisive
factor during an unforeseen and overwhelming mass casualty operations. Last but not the least, the round table discussions on the dental sciences, veterinary sciences and nursing & paramedical sciences made the Congress comprehensive and complete. The Scientific Exhibition which showcased the products relevant to Military Medicine from across the globe, enhanced our awareness about the technology and equipment that I am sure will bring cutting edge technology to our doorstep in times to come.

8. Fellow delegates and friends, as the 42nd ICMM World Congress on Military Medicine comes to an end let me say this one last time that it was a delightful experience hosting the ICMM in India for the first time and I am sure that the Congress has provided the optimum platform for all the member states to project themselves. The eventual success of the Congress will depend on how well we apply this knowledge and how well we can modify our tactical doctrines, modulate and do course correction of our strategies as we confront common operational challenges in our day to day lives.

9. I once again express my heartfelt gratitude to the ICMM for giving India the privilege to organize and host the 42nd ICMM World Congress and to me in particular the responsibility of becoming the Chairman of the ICMM. I can humbly assure the ICMM that I will live up to the challenge. I sincerely thank all the dignitaries, guests and delegates, who have made the Congress a success with their august and intellectual presence, and wish all the representatives of the member states the very best for furthering the cause of the Congress in particular, and the ICMM in general.

10. I will like to conclude with a quote from Mother Teresa, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” May the ICMM continue to do many things with great love and cement nations and rejuvenate the health of our great militaries!

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you,

Jai Hind!