## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

# Kick-starting Mission Uday: District Coordinators' Meeting Address of the President, 23 June, 2013, Delhi

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ost Respected Padam Bhushan Dr Maharaj K Bhan Sir, the pride of IAP, our esteemed advisor - and the chief guest of today's program, Sir your charismatic presence has increased the morale – has added glory and grace to our workshop; Prof Satinder Aneja who nurtured and architectured the academics of this project like a mother, my dear friend Dr Lahariya (WHO), the chief architect of Mission Uday - Dr Naveen Thacker, office bearers of CIAP, respected faculty members, Dr Vineet Saxena the magical man behind the success of NRP FGM and the adolescence India man - Dr JS Tuteja, and finally the most important and the true custodians of this Mission - the true sergeants of Mission Army - the true saviors of unnecessary under-5 deaths in India you all district coordinators and special invitees - I welcome you all today - and express my sincerest regards to you for being here.

Esteemed all, Its indeed a historical moment for all of us when we have met to take first step to achieve the targets of Mission Uday- our dream project. We are here to train our chieftains to win a war against evils responsible for unwanted pediatric deaths. You all will go back to your zones "well equipped" to prepare a real army to fight against the causes and win with in no time. As I hope, every pediatrician would be a trained warrior to bring unwanted "Under 5 mortality rate" to desired targets of MDG 4. In 2011, I had promised that I will work for classifying areas of interest for volunteered services; we did it, the result is Mission Uday.

I sometime think – Who is the pioneer of mission Uday?Me? No!My team of IAP-2013?No!

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Friends, I remained engaged in dialogues with different government officials, I met them on various platforms and occasions, persuaded them through our multiple activities and enabled them about our vision and support we are seeking to win the battle. They appreciated our vision, our planning, our dedications; they applauded our commitments, our philanthropic approach, our arduous job, and our penance for a better future of this great nation. But unfortunately they did not provide us any mountable means to ride on, to win the battle field. Not to specify that our most expected help from them was funding which was not fullfilled. But here I quote poetry:

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We never stopped exploring ways and lastly we succeeded.

I am thankful to GSK Vaccine Global who supported us by providing a "Hands off funding" on philanthropic grounds, merely unconditionally – though in reality it is commercial funding. Not only they committed a funding of Rs 7 crores for entire project but also have released Rs 72 lacs of it. They just want us to share the collected surveillance data which we are actually collecting to share only, among us, with government and helping NGOs etc.

There is an adage which suits here and that is "multiple hands make a weight lighter", so no task is impossible if we commit it together. Just put your hands at the left of your chest and ask yourself that it is by virtue of whom, we are leading a prosperous or semi prosperous life? Friends it is the age group that cannot walk to us, cannot understand the meaning of prevention, cannot express them to us and even to their moms and dads! Isn't it a sin if we don't find ourselves concerned with them!

Friends, we are a big force and if we commit we can multiply our strength, you can train our colleagues to work equally and potentially to change current data in your area. It seems that implementation of mission Uday and collecting surveillance data of VPD is a tedious task but friends believe me and you will also note in forthcoming session that under our protocol, not only gathering data will require less than a minute per case but will also provide a liberty to use your own preference for recording it. You can do it at your own, through our software, through our feeder, or through your mobile even! You are not required to walk an extra mile but an extra yard only. The only requirement is an enthusiastic approach. If you are enthusiastic you will find this less energy consuming than moving a finger.

I don't say that government is not sincere about it but they are bound to work under an official guideline with a frame work of their own. Since they have to look after many components of a "5 Year Plan" their approach is slightly lackadaisical about their own projects. Policies are not bad but there is a gap between a scheme and its implementation and we are required not only to bridge this gap but also do something extra which is somehow left unenclosed in policy wordings.

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Jai IAP – Jai Hind!!