

Presidential Address

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आदरणीय उपराष्ट्रपति, श्री कृष्णकांतजी व आदरणीय केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्यमंत्री श्री. सी. पी. ठाकूरजी तथा ओडीसा के मुख्यमंत्री श्रीमान नवीन पटनाईकजी, तथा मंच पर उपस्थित अन्य विशेष अतिथिगणों को मेरा सादर प्रणाम ।

आज मैं आपके समुख F.O.G.S.I. की पैतालीसवी (45th) अध्यक्ष के रूप में उपस्थित हूँ ।

F.O.G.S.I. की सेवा महिलाओं और बच्चों की सेवा है जो संपूर्ण रूप से समाजकी और भारत की ही सेवा कहलाएगी ।

मैं अपने आप को बहुत ही भाग्यशाली समझती हूँ कि आज इस कार्य के द्वारा मैं मानवता और अपने राष्ट्र की सेवा कर पा रही हूँ । मेरी यह पूरी कोशिश रहेगी कि जो विश्वास और सम्मान आप लोगों ने मुझे दिया है उसको मैं पूरी निष्ठा और सेवाभाव से निभा सकूँ ।

और अब मैं चाहूँगी कि आप सब मिलकर मुझे आशिर्वाद दे कि मैं यह विशाल सेवा कार्य सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न कर सकूँ ।

यह वर्ष महिला सशक्तिकरण वर्ष में FOGSI का जो कार्यक्रम है इस बारे में मैं आपको अंग्रेजी भाषा में बताना चाहूँगी

Distinguished members on the dias, respected past presidents, invited international and national guests, chairman and members of the organizing committee and dear colleagues.

The passing of one year when the earth has completed one revolution around the sun is but an insignificant event in the entire cosmic context.

However, it is a very poignant moment for Dr Kamini who has completed her year and for me who is starting my year. According to Greek Mythology, the Guardian of Gateway of time was a two headed god called Janus. As the wheel of the years turned Janus with one head could look backwards into the past and with the other head look forward into the future. Thus he gave humankind the wisdom of hindsight and the adventure of foresight. All the 44 Past presidents of this federation have had the gift of hindsight and foresight enabling them to develop this organization into a vibrant dynamic one. Many of them are here with us today and I thank them for their gracious presence. I hope I can measure up to their stature.

As I take over this prestigious appointment I am aware of my responsibilities. To quote John Rockefeller.

I Believe

**That every right implies a responsibility,
Every opportunity an obligation,
and every possession a duty,
That truth and justice are
Fundamental to an enduring social order.**

I assure all the Members of this Federation that I shall do my best to serve their interest with the full support of my family and friends. I am fortunate to have very dedicated and competent Vice-Presidents,

Secretaries and Treasurer. I know they are all looking forward to this year as much as I am.

Firstly, I would like to pay a rich tribute to all our members. The Federation belongs to them and they are vital to its working. They are hard working professionals with very little time for family or leisure. Yet they do find time for academic pursuits and for social service. Their aim is to give quality medical service to their patients. They are the ones who are taking modern Obstetric care to the grassroots and villages of India to improve the health status of all women.

There are three sectors working towards the upliftment of humanity; the Public Sector, the Private Sector and the voluntary sector. Much is said about the Public and Private Sectors but Peter Drucker, the famous Management expert feels it is the contribution of the voluntary sector which will make a difference ultimately to the lives of our people. It is currently underutilized, untapped and has a large reservoir of abilities and ideas. We belong to that sector. We hope in years to come we will get the opportunity to show our untapped strength and contribute to the welfare of our society. On this platform where all the sectors are well represented I would like to suggest that all of us work in harmony, overcome each others limitations & build a better "tomorrow" for our population. Hon. Minister Sir on behalf of FOGSI & on my personal behalf I assure you of our fullest support in the healthcare of our women & children.

Now, I would like to share with you some of my plans and thoughts for the coming year.

We have been giving a motto or a theme to our years in the last few years. It gives us a sense of direction and perspective. The motto for this year is somewhat philosophical. It will be

"Reaching New Frontiers"

A frontier is a somewhat mythical level. Everytime one crosses it, it lies a little beyond, thereby giving our lives a challenge. I would like this challenge to be an academic achievement or a social service one. I would like each and every member to attempt during this year something more than what he or she has done so far. It is said that a human being utilizes just a small percentage of his or her mental and physical abilities. There is so much untapped ability lying dormant in each one of us. Let us awaken it and try to reach a goal set a little higher this year. This is meant individually and also collectively for each society. I hope all of us will work through our societies for the betterment of humanity. We have set some standards for the performance of societies for the award of Dr. Nadkarni and Dr. D.K. Tank trophies. Some criteria are laid out. It is surprising to note that so many societies do not even attempt to fulfill all the criteria laid out. I hope this year you will go through the forms in details at the beginning

of the year and try to fulfill all the criteria.

On the health project front, I have selected the project "Conquering Anaemia" as our major thrust issue. It is shocking to note that 60% of Indian women suffer from anaemia & that as many as 20% of maternal deaths are due to it. This is even more tragic because both diagnosis & treatment are easy, very effective & inexpensive.

We have prepared a FOGSI Focus on anemia which is being released today & which will be on your desks next week. It will give you a good insight into the problem & also give you ideas of how to conquer anaemia.

The second health problem which we will address is "Control of Cervical Cancer". The Curtain has to fall on late cases. Many new technologies have been introduced recently & you will soon be getting another FOGSI FOCUS on this subject. Meanwhile WHO has extended its project on "Reducing deaths from cervical cancer" to India. It has planned a major meeting in New Delhi in March 2002 and FOGSI will be joining hands with this group. I hope we can achieve atleast clinical down staging by our Members. In this conference we have some International "leading lights" of early detection with us. I hope all of you will interact with them and get motivated.

Besides these new thrust projects, I do wish to continue the projects so ably nurtured by my predecessors. Projects on Safe abortions are still going on, so are the projects on Adolescents Health Care, as also the RCH programme with Govt of India. We have got together a large group of individuals of proven ability who have dedicated their lives to these projects. I assure you that they will all be continued.

That gives us a large canvas on which to paint out dreams and ambitions. We also have our Journal & and ICOG which are the pillars of our academic & scientific environment. There is a lot to be done in the coming year. As has been so rightly said,

"Art is long, time is short"

Before I end, I would like to complement Dr. Kamini Rao and her team for the excellent work done in the last year.

Sophocles said 2000 years ago "We have to wait till evening to know how glorious the day has been".

Well, we have come to that phase now. It has indeed been a glorious year. As we take over from this team, we pledge that "We will plan our work & work our plans with dedication".

The next 3 days that we will be spending

together I hope will bring much happiness, joy and a howsawp to all of us. Let us celebrate the triumph of science the joy of giving relief to illness and gaze into the future with myriad possibilities of alleviation of suffering for all humankind. The organizing committee has worked hard to make all of us comfortable. On behalf of all of you and on my personal behalf, I thank them for their efforts.

So, dear friends, I will end with a favourite quotation of mine from Gurudev Tagore, it begins as

**“Where the mind is without fear
Where knowledge is free
Where the words come out from the depths of truth”**

and ends by saying

“Into that heaven of freedom, my father, let my country awake”

Tagore was a great person & lived in that Nationalist era. I do not aspire for that status. But in our own little world of FOGSI, let us believe in those words & create an atmosphere of love, trust & faith where we can live and work in harmony.

Friends, I thank you all for being here today with me and my family. I know your good wishes and blessings are with me and for that I am truly grateful.

Jai Hind