

*“There can be no keener  
revelation of a society's soul than  
the way in which it treats its  
children”*

**-Nelson Mandela**

Warm greetings to all esteemed colleagues and friends from Sri Lanka and across the globe to this first SAPA Congress, hosted by SLCP!



**Dr Bakul J Parekh**  
General Secretary, 2024

# Inception to Impact: Evolution of SAPA

- 2013: During the Round Table Summit meeting in New Delhi, it was decided to constitute the South Asia Pediatric Association (SAPA).
- 2013: A new constitution was passed, and the Executive Council was elected with Dr. C.P. Bansal as President, Dr. Jyoti R. Dhakhwa as Secretary, and Dr. Ruhul Amin as President-Elect. Dr C.P. Bansal being the Founder President to be invited to all SAPA Executive Council meetings.
- 2014: It was decided to improve e-governance for better communication and linkage among members at Dhaka meeting. Also, a rotational system for the presidential post was established, with the sequence being India, followed by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and then Sri Lanka.
- 2014: First SAPA Symposium was conducted in Sri Lanka

# Delhi Declaration - under the aegis of Dr MK Bhan, a clinician, a scientist, a Padma Bhushan awardee

## South Asia Pediatric Association

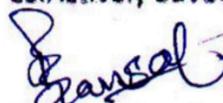
### DELHI DECLARATION

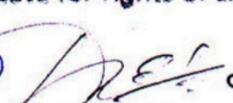
November 17, 2013

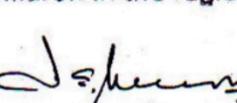
We, the member countries of South Asia Pediatric Association hereby declare on this date November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 on the occasion of the Round Table Summit of South Asia Pediatric Association, as follows:

#### We Will Work Together To:

1. Ensure equity in child health, irrespective of socioeconomic background
2. Reduce gender discrimination and emphasize on care of girl child, from the womb to womanhood
3. Promote and protect exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months of age followed by nutritionally adequate complementary feeding to ensure optimal development of human capital.
4. Strengthen newborn care through promotion of institutional births, and training of health care personnel in Essential Newborn Care and Neonatal resuscitation
5. Promote routine immunization and evidence based introduction of new, safe and efficacious vaccines in National immunization Program
6. Work for improvement of nutritional status of children and early detection of Severe Acute Malnutrition for timely management
7. To implement universal access to appropriate case management of Pneumonia and promote the use of ORS and zinc for management of diarrheal illnesses
8. Promote adolescent health through recognition of problems of adolescents, and provision of timely adolescent friendly services.
9. Measure progress and emerging threats through engagement in disease surveillance, research relevant to the region, and integrated data collection
10. Actively advocate for rights of children in the region

  
Dr. C P Bansal

  
Dr. Jyoti Dhakhwa

  
Dr. Iqbal Memon

  
Dr. Ruhul Amin

  
Dr. S Amarsena

# Inception to Impact: Evolution of SAPA

- 2017: At Khajuraho, Sri Lanka was requested once again to establish financial accounts for SAPA transactions. India was designated as the alternative.
- 2018: At the SAPA Official Meeting in Nagpur, website revamp was planned to be under the guidance of Prof. Ruhul Amin. A group was to be created for Founder Members and other key committees to enhance communication and address issues, like teen suicide.
- 2022: At IAP Noida Pedicon Meeting of SAPA, Dr Jamal Raza and Dr Bakul Parekh were unanimously elected as President-Elect and General Secretary (for second term) respectively.
- 2023: After 7-8 years of repeated but unsuccessful effort by Sri Lanka and Nepal, we finally were able to establish SAPA bank account, tax and compliance registration in India.
- 2024: **First SAPA Congress in Sri Lanka**

# SAPA's Journey Through the Years



# Innovative Programs Underway



## Launch of eSAPA Academic Programs

- Practical Education for Pediatricians
- Case-Based Discussions, Summaries & In-Clinic Distribution



## Vaccination Reminder System for Clinics

- A vaccination record & reminder system at no cost to doctors
- Includes vaccine education for doctors and patients
- Being piloted at 2000 clinics in India

# Future Initiatives/ Projects



Training for Trainers



Collaboration & Partnerships



Thesis Bank



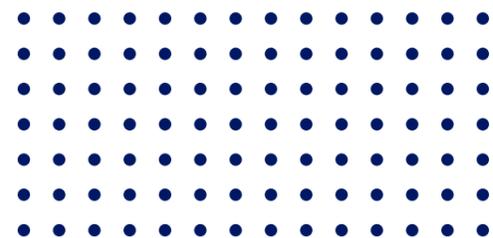
Student Exchange Programs



Resource Mobilisation

# Training Programs

- Online and Physical Training for Trainers
- Empowering healthcare workers
- Enhancing service delivery for children



# Student Exchange Programs

- Cultivating new pediatric specialists
- Fellowship opportunities
- Tackling evolving child health challenges





# Collaboration and Partnerships

- Partnerships with IPA, health agencies, NGOs, and governments
- Community-level initiatives
- Developing SAPA Textbook of Pediatrics



# Resource Mobilization

- **Securing grants and research opportunities**
- **Discounted resources for healthcare initiatives - e.g. UpToDate**

# Future Vision

Officially registering  
SAPA Constitution



Continuation of eSAPA  
academic momentum

Laying the foundation for  
collaborative excellence

# SAPA Congress 2024

- Capacity Building
- Networking
- Innovative Solutions in Child Healthcare

**Best wishes for a fruitful  
collaboration!**

