



# Indian Speech and Hearing Association (ISHA)

Regd. Under the Kamataka Societies Registration Act. Karnataka Act No. 17 Registration No. 25/67-68

## **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

**Presented by**

**DR. T.A. SUBBA RAO**

**2002, DELHI**

Dear fellow Speech & Hearing professionals,

It gives me a great pleasure to be a part of this August body and contribute towards ISHA's growth and development. It has been a learning experience for me personally and professionally. The year began with a wakeup call to ISHA at Delhi conference to take tough decisions. This stand was prompted because the records of ISHA such as, minutes of meetings, accounts, proposed constitutional changes etc, are not reaching the members. It was also felt that the affairs of ISHA including elections have been taken not very seriously by both members as well as as the office bearers. The expectation from ISHA by its members are so high that the current preparations do not permit meeting such demands. During the course of events undertaken to address and ameliorate the situation most of hte office bearers felt that the members of ISHA have become cynical to a large extent towards its affairs.

One of the not so surprising facts is that the records of ISHA are sketchy. A renewed effort has been made to collect various documents. Previously drafted resolutions suggesting changes in the constitution of ISHA have been revived and are included in the agenda for this year's GB. The exemplary efforts of the treasurers of ISHA for the past several years have been streamlined. It must be admitted here that full details are not available in this direction. Both office bearers and the members should assume responsibility so that in the coming years all financial decisions of ISHA are appropriately documented. This is the least we can do for the benefit of future



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generations. The members should also realize that it's easier to blame the office bearers rather than take up the responsibilities and hence all such natural tendencies should be curbed.

Efforts have been made to streamline nominations and selection of awardees for various prestigious awards of ISHA. Search committees have been instituted involving responsible members of ISHA. Mature discussions are held by EC members during entire selection process. Efforts to select ISHA conference paper presentations in a rule bound manner have been initiated. A scientific committee involving members of organizing committee as them in the picture have also been attempted. Our deep appreciation is recorded for the JISHA team who have streamlined the process against all odds. We dream to make JISHA in next year a peer reviewed journal.

During the year it has been a pleasure to work with the present team of office bearers and I do believe that steps have been taken in the right directions to strengthen ISHA. The individual office bearers will present details of their activities. A time has come to work with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the welfare of ISHA. We need to strengthen the financial position of ISHA. This includes registration of new members, contributions by India trained but Non residential professionals and most significantly by the contribution of organizing committees of annual ISHA conferences. I am sure the members of ISHA conference will forego the luxury of their surroundings during the conference for the future financial health of ISHA. We need to further develop ISHA website and make it the information centre. It's heartening to note the efforts by AIISH towards development of internet discussion groups. One could notice intense discussions and desire to clarify many issues confronting the field.

Without doubt the road ahead for ISHA is bright and prosperous. The individual energies of the members is boundless and extremely capable. When we overcome a general Indian weakness of fear to work in teams the efforts will be more fruit full and I am happy to say that glimpses of such efforts are already happening. We should all overcome the negative attitude towards private practice and practitioners in the field. In the past as well as in the future private practice is the extremely important avenue of employment and service. Let me end with the most positive aspect of ISHA i.e. we organize the ISHA annual conferences wonderfully well. To recall



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Dr. Rathna's words "ISHA is a sleeping tiger which wakes up once a year to conduct conference."  
The tiger when walks is a majestic sight to watch."

Let us enjoy the conference and enrich ISHA.

Thank you one and all.