

‘THE TRUE COST OF WAR SHOULD NOT BE MEASURED IN TERRITORY OR POLITICS, BUT IN HUMAN LIVES’



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In a world increasingly defined by conflict and uncertainty, voices of experience often carry the deepest resonance. Among them is

Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed, a distinguished physician and recipient of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2025, who reflects not only on a lifetime of service but also on the urgent need for peace amid escalating tensions between Israel, America, and Iran.

Sitting in quiet contemplation, Dr. Khursheed speaks with a sense of urgency shaped by decades in medicine. “War is not just fought on battlefields,” he says, “it is carried into hospitals, into homes, into the fragile lives of ordinary people.”

Drawing from his long experience in critical care and emergency medicine, he views conflict through a humanitarian lens. For him, war is not a matter of



geopolitics—it is a cascade of human suffering. “Every missile launched translates into lives shattered—children orphaned, families displaced, and futures erased. As doctors, we are trained to save

lives, but war creates wounds faster than humanity can heal them.”

He reflects on how modern conflicts ripple far beyond borders, affecting global stability, healthcare systems, and the mental well-being of millions. Refugee crises, shortages of medical supplies, and the breakdown of essential services are, in his view, some of the most devastating consequences. “In war zones, even the simplest act of healing becomes a challenge. Hospitals lose power, medicines run out, and fear becomes a constant companion.”

Dr. Khursheed also emphasizes the psychological toll of war—an often overlooked dimension. “Trauma does not end when the guns fall silent. It lingers in the minds of those who survive—in children who grow up with fear, in families who carry invisible scars for generations.”

Having served diverse communities in



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Saudi Arabia and assisted people during crises like the pandemic, he understands the importance of stability and cooperation. He believes that the same global solidarity witnessed during health emergencies must extend to preventing conflicts. “If nations can unite to fight a virus, they can certainly unite to prevent war,” he observes.

His message is clear and deeply human: “I hope good sense prevails among the warring factions. Peace is not a sign of weakness; it is the highest form of strength. Humanity must choose dialogue over destruction.”

For Dr. Khursheed, peace is not an abstract ideal but a necessity for progress. He sees it as the foundation upon which education, healthcare, and community development can thrive—values he has dedicated his life to promoting.

As the world watches unfolding

tensions with apprehension, his words serve as both a warning and a hope. In the quiet strength of his voice lies a powerful reminder: “The true cost of war is not measured in territory or politics, but in human lives.”

And in that understanding, perhaps, lies the path to peace.

Armed with determination and a vision for service, Dr Khursheed stepped into medicine with a resolve that would define his life. Over 45 years in Saudi Arabia, he became a pillar of the healthcare community, serving at King Faisal Hospital in Taif. His work earned him not just professional acclaim but also the trust of countless patients across cultural and national boundaries.

His contributions during Hajj—one of the world’s largest human gatherings—are equally remarkable. For over three decades, he has helped design emergency

medical protocols, establish critical care units, and train teams, safeguarding millions of pilgrims.

Beyond healthcare, Dr. Khursheed’s vision extends into education and community building. As the founder of the International Indian School in Taif, he created a platform that nurtures academic excellence while preserving cultural identity. His leadership as Vice President of the Saudi-Indian Healthcare Forum further strengthens bilateral cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.

Through organisations like the Gulbarga Welfare Society and MESCO, he has supported vulnerable sections of the diaspora, embodying his belief in collective upliftment. His promotion of AYUSH medicine in Saudi Arabia further highlights his commitment to integrating traditional knowledge with modern healthcare. ■