

IMA hunts for people offering 'magic remedies'

Campaign launched following a demand from the intelligence wing of the Kerala police

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A senior official in the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau approached a 'nattu-vaideyan' in Thiruvananthapuram a couple of years ago to seek a lasting remedy for back pain. He was given a powder to be administered with liquor, which the 'vaideyan' claimed would "solve his problems forever." The

official passed out soon after he drank the 'medicine.'

Doctors later found that his heart had almost stopped functioning and the blood circulation to the brain had been blocked. It took around a month of treatment to bring him back to normal life.

With incidents of even high-profile people falling prey to unscientific practices

on the rise, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) is compiling the details of those using modern diagnostic tools and prescribing modern medicine without a basic degree in medicine.

Details being collected

A list of people offering 'magical cure' too is being collected. Named 'Operation Magic Hunt,' the launch of the cam-

campaign follows a demand from the intelligence wing of the Kerala Police.

N. Sulphi, secretary, IMA Kerala chapter, told *The Hindu* that they had collected the details of over 500 such people from across the State.

The IMA had asked 30,000 of its members spread across 100 branches in the State to chip in with information.

Members of the public could send in information to operationmagichunt@gmail.com or imaksb@yahoo.com.

"It is illegal even to carry advertisements and features of people offering magic remedies. The police could take action as per the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954," Dr. Sulphi said.