

10th Anniversary of World Pneumonia Day

Investing in a Healthy Childhood:

Reducing Infectious Diseases in Childhood through Immunization and Health Systems
Strengthening**Date:** 12 November 2018**Venue:** Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre**Background**

In India, nearly one million children still die before their fifth birthday. Close to 300,000 of those deaths are caused by pneumonia and diarrhea. Many of these deaths are preventable through simple, effective interventions such as immunization, breastfeeding, handwashing, and access to appropriate treatment. India follows the World Health Organization and Unicef's "protect, prevent, treat" framework to deliver interventions against these two diseases through a coordinated and community-based approach. Despite these efforts, infectious diseases remain a significant proportion of child mortality in India. New challenges have also arisen, including increasing costs and circulation of misinformation on social media.

Objectives

The event brings together leading experts and stakeholders to discuss India's burden of infectious disease among children and strategies to overcome emerging barriers to achieving universal access to life-saving interventions against pneumonia and diarrhea. Objectives of the event include:

- Review India's progress in reducing disease burden and increasing coverage of key interventions to further accelerate progress on under 5 deaths, especially preventing pneumonia and diarrhea
- Discuss emerging challenges to delivery of key interventions, including need to ensure optimum financing for health services and circulation of misinformation on social media
- Propose strategies to overcome barriers to ensure that every child has access to key preventative and therapeutic interventions and health promotion services

Agenda

- **Registration: 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

- **Key Note Address: 3:00 PM – 3:20 PM**

Preventing Infectious Diseases in Childhood: Lessons from around the World

Dr. Mathuram Santosham, Professor, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Santosham will also introduce the International Vaccine Access Center Pneumonia and Diarrhea Report 2018.

- **Panel Discussion: 3:20 PM – 4:00 PM**

Achieving Universal Access to Key Interventions Against Childhood Pneumonia and Diarrhea

- Chair and Moderator: **Dr. V.K. Paul**, Member, NITI Aayog
- **Dr. Narendra Kumar Arora**, Executive Director, International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLIN)
- **Dr. Amir Ullah Khan**, Health Economist and Professor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad
- **Ms. Sanchita Sharma**, Editor (Health), Hindustan Times

- **High Tea: 4:00 PM onwards**

Keynote Speaker Biography

- **Dr. Mathuram Santosham**, Professor, Departments of International Health and Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Santosham is internationally renowned for his work on childhood vaccines and oral rehydration therapy (ORT). He has conducted numerous clinical trials on pediatric vaccines including rotavirus, H. influenzae type b (Hib) and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines. He has received many awards including the 2006 Robert Austrian Research Award for Pneumococcal Vaccinology and the Prince Mahidol Award in 2018 in Thailand for his work in the field of public health.

Panelist Biographies

- **Chair and Moderator: Dr. V.K. Paul**, Member, NITI Aayog

Dr. V.K. Paul is a member of NITI Aayog where he leads the Health, Nutrition and Gender verticals. Dr. Paul has served as Head of the Department of Pediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, since 2008. An eminent neonatologist, Dr. Paul has contributed to several national programmes including reproductive and child health and nutrition.

- **Panelist: Dr. Narendra Kumar Arora**, Executive Director, International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN)

Dr. Arora is Executive Director, International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN), and a former professor of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Haematology, and Nutrition at AIIMS, New Delhi. Dr. Arora has been Chairman, WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) Working Group on Measles-Rubella, and the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). He is also the chairperson of the National Expert Committee on Rota Virus Vaccine and the National Pneumococcal Vaccine Expert Committee.

- **Panelist: Dr. Amir Ullah Khan**, Health Economist and Professor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad

Dr. Khan is a development and trade economist with a Ph.D. in Commerce and Business Studies from Jamia Millia Central University, New Delhi. He is Professor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad and Visiting Professor, Indian School of Business. Previously, he was Deputy Director at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and has worked in various capacities with the EU, the British High Commission, OXFAM, Ashoka Foundation and USAID.

- **Panelist: Ms. Sanchita Sharma**, Editor (Health), The Hindustan Times

Ms. Sanchita Sharma is the health editor of Hindustan Times and heads a national team of health reporters. She has a weekly print and online column called 'HealthWise' that appears every Sunday. Sharma has been reporting and writing on public health policy, healthcare industry and nutrition for close to two decades. Ms. Sharma began her career in India's leading news magazine India Today and later for Indian Express.