

## Indian Medical Association launches Commonwealth Alliance of Medical Professionals on Antimicrobial Resistance

21 November 2024 | News

**To address the escalating threat of AMR, particularly in India**



The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has taken a significant step in the global fight against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) by launching the Commonwealth Alliance of Medical Professionals on Antimicrobial Resistance (CAMP-AMR). This initiative unites leaders from Commonwealth nations to address the escalating threat of AMR, particularly in India, which is recognized as a hotspot for antibiotic-resistant infections.

Dr Narendra Saini, Chairman of IMA, underscored the critical nature of the challenge, stating, "AMR is a formidable threat to public health in India, contributing to 297,000 deaths directly and another 1.04 million associated deaths in 2019 alone. This alliance is a beacon of hope and action, aiming to reverse these alarming trends through unity and coordinated efforts."

He further elaborated, "AMR arises when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines like antibiotics, antibacterials, and antivirals. The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that this resistance renders infections increasingly difficult or impossible to treat, thereby heightening the risk of disease spread, severe illness, disability, and mortality. We must act swiftly and decisively to address this crisis."

Dr J A Jayalal, President of the Commonwealth Medical Association, expressed the collective resolve of the alliance, "The Commonwealth Declaration on AMR symbolises our unified commitment to confronting this silent pandemic. By harnessing

the collective expertise and resources of Commonwealth nations, we aim to significantly curb the threat of AMR and ensure effective healthcare interventions remain available for future generations.”

Dr R V Asokan, IMA National President, highlighted the strategic vision of the initiative, “CAMP-AMR is a strategic imperative in our battle against AMR. It is crucial that we eliminate over-the-counter sales of antibiotics and enhance public awareness about their judicious use. Through this alliance, we are determined to implement robust measures and policies to prevent the further spread of AMR in India.”