



IAPPD Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter of Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

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This Issue's Highlights



Hon'ble Union Law Minister Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal Visits IAPPD, August 23, 2024



IAPPD Standing Committee Meeting on SDGs: Parliamentarians Discuss Strategies to Address Teenage Pregnancies and Malnutrition in India, December 11, 2024



Meeting with Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment on Old Age Care in Rural India March 2, 2025



*7th Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture at JNU
Hon'ble Justice Aravind Kumar Delivers Insightful Lecture on Elderly Care, 18, 2025, New Delhi.*



*9th Sat Paul Mittal National Inter-University Debate Competition 2025
on "The Climate Crisis is Posing a Threat to Human Health"*



Sensitization Workshop for Council Members of KAAC and NCHAC, Diphu, Assam, 22nd March, 2025



Visit to Rural Project on ageing at Rayat-Bahra Group of (Educational) Institutions in Hoshiarpur Punjab, August 22, 2024



My warm greetings to all readers of the IAPPD Newsletter. I am pleased to present a brief overview of our activities over the past year.

As we navigate the complex and evolving demographic landscape of our nation, the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) remains steadfast in its commitment to advocate for inclusive, evidence-

based policies that uplift every segment of our society. The past months have been marked by vibrant engagements, impactful discussions, and strategic collaborations that reflect our growing role as a catalyst for positive change.

One of our most heartfelt initiatives has been “Caring for Our Elders,” exemplified by our recent visits to Rayat-Bahra University and Sanjeevni Sharnam. These engagements reminded us of the pressing need to develop sustainable support systems for India’s ageing population—a demographic trend that demands urgent policy attention. The dignity and well-being of our senior citizens must be at the forefront of national discourse.

In this context, it was an honour to host the Hon’ble Union Law Minister, Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, at the IAPPD. His visit underscored the importance of strengthening public health advocacy through legal frameworks, as we explored the intersection of justice, equity, and healthcare access.

Furthering our legislative engagement, the Standing Committee Meeting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offered a robust platform for parliamentarians to deliberate on critical issues such as teenage pregnancies and malnutrition—two challenges that continue to undermine India’s developmental progress. Constructive strategies and multisectoral approaches emerged, reaffirming our resolve to address these concerns head-on.

The 7th Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture, held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), was a moment of reflection and inspiration. Hon’ble Justice Aravind Kumar delivered a compelling lecture on the responsibilities of state and society in ensuring compassionate elderly care, enriching our understanding of legal and moral obligations towards senior citizens.

Youth engagement continues to be a cornerstone of IAPPD’s mission. We proudly concluded the 9th Sat Paul Mittal National Inter-University Debate Competition 2025, where bright young minds debated the critical theme, “The Climate Crisis is Posing a Threat to Human Health.” Their insights and passion reaffirmed our belief in youth-led advocacy and innovation.

Our dialogue with the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment also reinforced the urgency of creating targeted interventions for old age care in rural India, where resource constraints and social isolation exacerbate vulnerabilities.

On the international front, IAPPD actively engaged with the

South-East Asia Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF), fostering regional collaboration on pressing population and development issues. Our participation throughout 2024 and early 2025 has contributed to a shared vision for sustainable and equitable growth in the region.

Back home, our Sensitization Workshop in Diphu, Assam, brought together members of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) to address critical challenges such as early marriage, malnutrition, malaria, maternal and infant mortality, and their interlinkages with the SDGs. These localized efforts are essential in ensuring that national policy resonates with grassroots realities.

Finally, IAPPD’s voice was heard on the global stage during the 97th Executive Committee Meeting of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Conference on “Addressing Three Pillars and Beyond within the Context of ICPD30” in Bali. Our contributions to shaping regional priorities reflect India’s leadership in upholding the ICPD Programme of Action.

As we reflect on these significant milestones, I reaffirm IAPPD’s commitment to its foundational values: inclusivity, dignity, and sustainable development. We move forward with renewed resolve—driven by data, guided by compassion, and united in purpose.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the IAPPD Technical Experts and staff for their commendable dedication and invaluable contributions to our activities. May they be blessed with continued success and well-being.

Prof. P.J. Kurien
Chairman, IAPPD

Congratulations



The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) congratulates Mr. Deepender Hooda, Member of Parliament (India) and Vice Chair of IAPPD, on his re-election for a second consecutive term as Vice Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD).

Mr. Hooda’s was re-elected during the 15th General Assembly of AFPPD, held on 27 April 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which was attended by 60 delegates representing 23 member countries from the region.

AFPPD, headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is currently chaired by Ms. Kamikawa Yoko, a senior Member of Parliament and former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. The Forum comprises 32 member countries across Asia and the Pacific.

Hon'ble Union Law Minister Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal Visits IAPPD

Strengthening Public Health Advocacy through Legal Perspectives

On August 23, 2024, IAPPD) had the honor of hosting Hon'ble Union Law Minister Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal. His visit was facilitated by Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna, underscoring the growing recognition of IAPPD's efforts in addressing critical population and development issues.

During his visit to the IAPPD, Hon'ble Union Law Minister Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal expressed deep appreciation for the organization's impactful initiatives and its sustained commitment to advocacy on critical public health and development issues. He particularly acknowledged IAPPD's role in raising awareness among policymakers, stakeholders, and communities on subjects ranging from population dynamics to healthcare access and social justice.



Union Law Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal; Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, Vice-Chair, IAPPD and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD

Mr. Meghwal emphasized the growing relevance of integrating legal perspectives into IAPPD's sensitization workshops, especially those focused on public health. He noted that by incorporating discussions on legal frameworks, constitutional rights, entitlements, and policy instruments, these workshops could offer a more holistic and empowering experience to participants. Such integration would not only help individuals understand the structural and legal underpinnings of health-related challenges but also equip them with the knowledge to demand and uphold their rights effectively.

He further highlighted that this interdisciplinary approach—merging legal insight with health education—would significantly enhance public awareness, promote accountability, and bolster advocacy efforts at both local and national levels. By aligning public health interventions with legal and policy discourse, IAPPD can play a pivotal role in driving systemic change and improving the implementation of healthcare policies across diverse communities. IAPPD welcomes this valuable recommendation and looks forward to incorporating legal insights into its programs. Such an initiative will empower stakeholders, including policymakers and community leaders, to navigate the legal aspects of public health more effectively, ensuring better access to healthcare rights and services for all.

The visit marks a significant step toward a more holistic approach to public health advocacy, reinforcing IAPPD's commitment to fostering informed and impactful policy dialogues in India.

In Remembrance of Late Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, MP Founder Chairman of IAPPD

For the contribution of Late Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, MP, to the work of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) by undertaking a series of successful activities, aimed at promoting better awareness and understanding of population and development issue around the world, Mr. Mittal was awarded the United Nations Peace Medal from UN Secretary-General Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar at UN Headquarters, New York on June 1, 1987.



Meeting with Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment on Old Age Care in Rural India

A meeting was held between Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, and representatives from IAPPD, including Shri Avinash Rai Khanna and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, on 2nd March, 2025. The discussion focused on the project proposal titled *'Building an Organic Eco-System for Old Age Care and Support in Rural India.'*

The proposal aims to strengthen elderly care in rural areas by integrating healthcare, social support, and livelihood opportunities into a sustainable ecosystem. Key components include:

- Establishing community-driven elderly care centers emphasizing nutrition, mental well-being, and social inclusion.
- Encouraging public-private partnerships and government support for financial sustainability and resource mobilization.
- Implementing capacity-building programs for caregivers and promoting intergenerational bonding initiatives.

During the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister acknowledged the significance and feasibility of the proposal. He assured consideration for support and collaboration through relevant government schemes and initiatives.

Following this, a facilitated meeting was held with the Secretary of the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment to further deliberate on the execution of the proposed initiative. The discussions marked a positive step towards enhancing structured old age care in rural India, ensuring dignity and quality of life for the elderly population.



Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar receives the project proposal from Shri Avinash Rai Khanna and Mr. Manmohan Sharma.

AGEING

Age is just a number when you're learning new skills and staying active — wisdom meets wellness in every click and stretch!

With the inspiring initiative of Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna, Ex-MP & Vice Chairman, IAPPD, elderly individuals are breaking stereotypes by embracing both technology and fitness with enthusiasm. Whether they're exploring the digital world through computer lessons or finding balance and strength in yoga, their commitment to growth proves that it's never too late to learn or stay healthy. This beautiful blend of mental and physical activity highlights the timeless spirit of curiosity and resilience.



IAPPD Standing Committee Meeting on SDGs Parliamentarians Discuss Strategies to Address Teenage Pregnancies and Malnutrition in India

IAPPD convened its Standing Committee Meeting in New Delhi, focusing on "The Role of Parliamentarians in Accelerating the Achievement of SDGs: Addressing Teenage Pregnancies and Malnutrition among Children in India" in New Delhi on 11th December, 2024.

Presided over by Mr. Harivansh Narain Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the meeting featured Mr. Bhubaneswar Kalita, Vice Chairman of IAPPD and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, as Guest of Honour. Prof. P.J. Kurien, former Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Chairman of IAPPD, chaired the session, with participation from Parliamentarians and experts.



Key Discussions and Recommendations

Teenage Pregnancies & Malnutrition:

- Prof. P.J. Kurien stressed that teenage pregnancies contribute to maternal and infant mortality, while malnutrition affects millions, causing stunting and wasting. He urged policy interventions to combat these issues.
- Mr. Harivansh Narain Singh highlighted socio-economic and cultural influences, calling for enhanced education, health awareness, and legal measures.
- Mr. Bhubaneswar Kalita advocated for stronger policies and legislative reforms to support young girls and children.

Parliamentarians' Recommendations:

- **Gender Equality Advocacy:** Promote policies empowering girls through education, healthcare, and employment.
- **Stronger Child Marriage Laws:** Enforce the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and advocate for raising the legal marriage age for women.
- **Comprehensive Sexuality Education:** Introduce age-appropriate reproductive health education in schools.



- **Improved Healthcare Access:** Expand reproductive health services, particularly in underserved areas.
- **Enhanced Nutrition Programs:** Strengthen ICDS, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- **Socioeconomic Support:** Implement financial incentives for families to delay marriage and pregnancy.
- **Community Engagement:** Partner with NGOs to challenge societal norms around early marriage and teenage pregnancies.



Expert Insights

- **Dr. S.K. Singh (IIPS Mumbai)** shared NFHS-5 findings, emphasizing education and family planning to prevent early pregnancies.
- **Dr. Sanjay Kumar (UNFPA)** highlighted how early marriage disrupts education and perpetuates poverty, urging integrated solutions.



Tackling Malnutrition

- **Food Security:** Strengthen PDS and promote nutrient-rich food production.
- **Maternal Health:** Improve antenatal care, iron supplementation, and breastfeeding support.
- **WASH Initiatives:** Advocate for better sanitation to prevent nutrition-linked infections.
- **Tech & Data:** Leverage data-driven policymaking to track and combat malnutrition.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Focus on education and economic opportunities to improve child nutrition.



Conclusion

The meeting underscored the importance of a multi-sectoral approach, combining legislative action, grassroots advocacy, and policy reform. Parliamentarians pledged to drive initiatives addressing teenage pregnancies and child malnutrition, reinforcing their commitment to achieving India's SDG targets. The session concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming the collective vision for a healthier future.



7th Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture at JNU Hon'ble Justice Aravind Kumar Delivers Insightful Lecture on Elderly Care

The 7th Sat Paul Mittal Memorial Lecture, organized by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Regional Development (CSRD), School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), took place on February 18, 2025, in New Delhi. Hon'ble Justice Aravind Kumar of the Supreme Court of India delivered a compelling lecture titled **"Parental Care, Obligation, and Rights of Elderly Parents: Moral and Legal Perspectives."**

The event was presided over by Prof. P.J. Kurien, Chairman, IAPPD, with Prof. Dipendra Nath Das, Rector, JNU, as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished attendees included Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma, Dean, School of Social Sciences, JNU, and Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Technical Expert, IAPPD. The session was moderated by Dr. Bhaswati Das, CSRD, JNU.

Key Highlights

Justice Aravind Kumar emphasized the moral and legal responsibilities of society in ensuring dignity, security, and care for the elderly. In his thought-provoking address, he stated, *"The elderly have dedicated their lives to shaping society and nurturing families. True justice for them goes beyond legal frameworks; it calls for compassion, love, and a collective commitment to their well-being."*

Prof. P.J. Kurien, in his presidential address, paid tribute to Late Shri Sat Paul Mittal, the founding Chairman of IAPPD, acknowledging his contributions to population and development issues. Prof. Dipendra Nath Das expressed gratitude to Justice Kumar for shedding light on such a crucial subject, while Prof. Kaushal Kumar Sharma extended the Vote of Thanks. Prof. Sudesh Nangia and Mr. Manmohan Sharma further elaborated on the legacy of IAPPD and the significance of the Memorial Lecture.



Audience and Engagement

The lecture drew an audience of over **200 students, senior faculty members, and dignitaries**, making it a significant platform for dialogue on elderly welfare. Attendees engaged in discussions on the importance of reinforcing legal and moral frameworks to safeguard the rights and dignity of senior citizens.

The event reaffirmed IAPPD's commitment to raising awareness on population and development issues, encouraging ongoing discourse on elderly welfare policies and social responsibilities.



9th Sat Paul Mittal National Inter-University Debate Competition 2025 on "The Climate Crisis is Posing a Threat to Human Health"

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) successfully hosted the 9th Sat Paul Mittal National Inter-University Debate Competition 2025 from February 28 to March 1 at the IAPPD Auditorium, New Delhi. The event brought together students from 14 universities across India, fostering dynamic exchanges on the crucial topic: "The Climate Crisis is Posing a Threat to Human Health."



This thought-provoking debate highlighted the extensive impact of climate change on human health, covering critical issues such as rising temperatures, air pollution, and the spread of infectious diseases. The participants presented well-researched arguments, offering diverse perspectives on the intersection of environmental and public health concerns.

Inaugural Session

The event commenced with an inspiring inaugural session featuring Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Country Head, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the Chief Guest. Prof. P.J. Kurien, former Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Chairman of IAPPD, presided over the session. Mr. Bhubaneswar Kalita, MP and Vice Chair of the IAPPD Standing Committee, graced the occasion as the Special Guest. The debate was successfully convened by Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Technical Expert at IAPPD.

Prof. P.J. Kurien played a pivotal role in ensuring the event's success with his strategic leadership and unwavering commitment. Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary of IAPPD, was instrumental in the seamless execution of the debate competition.



Valedictory Session and Award Ceremony

The competition concluded on March 1, 2025, with a grand valedictory session. Dr. Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, graced the event as the Chief Guest. Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna, former MP and Vice Chair of IAPPD, addressed the participants and congratulated them on their insightful contributions.

The event concluded with the felicitation of winners, recognizing the most impactful debaters and teams for their outstanding performances.



Winners and Awards

The University of Kashmir secured the first prize in the university category, while Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, emerged as the runners-up. In the individual category, Mr. Gopesh from DAV University, Jalandhar, claimed the first prize, followed by Ms. Kasis Mukesh from Kannur University, Kerala, in second place, and Ms. Shreejita Ghosh from Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, in third. Additionally, consolation prizes were awarded to Ms. Palak Rajput from Barkatullah University, Bhopal; Mr. Toniho Kharsati from NEHU, Shillong; and Ms. Muskan Thakur from the University of Jammu.

The debate provided a national platform for students to engage in critical thinking and policy-oriented discussions. A distinguished panel of experts evaluated the participants, ensuring a robust and insightful competition.

Key Recommendations from the Debate

- The discussions during the debate underscored several urgent health concerns arising from climate change. Key recommendations included:
- Health Impacts of Rising Temperatures: Addressing increased cases of heatstroke, dehydration, and higher mortality rates due to extreme weather events.
- Spread of Infectious Diseases: Tackling climate-induced spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue, as well as waterborne diseases due to floods.
- Air Pollution & Respiratory Diseases: Mitigating air pollution to reduce asthma, lung diseases, and cardiovascular ailments.
- Food & Water Insecurity: Ensuring food security by stabilizing agriculture against climate disruptions and improving access to clean water.
- Mental Health Crisis: Addressing the psychological impacts of climate-related disasters, including anxiety, PTSD, and "eco-anxiety" among youth and vulnerable populations.

The debate competition reaffirmed the significance of addressing climate change as a major public health concern and highlighted the role of youth in shaping climate-conscious policies. IAPPD remains committed to fostering critical discussions on pressing global challenges and empowering young minds to contribute to sustainable solutions.



A Challenge Met by IAPPD:

Sensitization Workshop for KAAC & NCHAC on Health & Development

Diphu, Assam | 22nd March, 2025

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) successfully organized a Sensitization Workshop for the Council Members of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) in Diphu, Assam. The workshop focused on key issues such as early marriage, malnutrition, malaria, maternal and infant mortality, and their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The workshop was presided over by Mr. Bhubaneswar Kalita, MP and Vice Chair of IAPPD, alongside Mr. Amarsing Tisso, MP, Diphu, Assam. The event witnessed the participation of important dignitaries and 61 Council Members from KAAC and NCHAC, with a total attendance of approximately 100 members from the two autonomous councils.

Objectives and Focus Areas

The primary aim of the workshop was to sensitize legislators and council members on critical health and development challenges in the region. Key areas of discussion included:

- **Strengthening Policies & Governance:** Encouraging local policies to prevent early marriage, improve maternal-child health, and combat malnutrition and malaria while integrating SDGs into district planning.
- **Enhancing Community Engagement:** Conducting outreach programs and involving local influencers to drive awareness and behavioral change.
- **Improving Healthcare Access:** Strengthening primary healthcare centers and ensuring adequate nutrition, immunization, and malaria prevention programs in remote areas.
- **Promoting Capacity Building:** Training council members, healthcare workers, and community leaders on health and development best practices.
- **Fostering Collaboration:** Strengthening partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and global organizations to adopt a holistic approach.
- **Utilizing Data for Decision-Making:** Establishing monitoring systems to track progress and guide policy decisions using evidence-based insights.

Key Outcomes

The workshop highlighted the urgency of addressing these health and social issues and emphasized the role of council members in advocating for sustainable solutions. The discussions underscored the importance of integrating SDGs into local governance to ensure holistic and long-term improvements in community health and well-being. This initiative by IAPPD reflects its ongoing commitment to empowering policymakers with knowledge and resources to drive impactful change, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for the people of Assam.



Caring for Our Elders:

IAPPD's Visit to Rayat-Bahra University and Sanjeevni Sharnam, a day-care centre for elders, Hoshiarpur (Punjab)

Addressing an Emerging Concern: Ageing Population in India

India's elderly population is growing rapidly, presenting unique challenges in healthcare, economic security, and social inclusion. Many seniors, especially women, face financial dependency, loneliness, and limited access to healthcare. Addressing these concerns requires collective action from the government, civil society, and local communities.

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) has been at the forefront of raising awareness and engaging policymakers in elderly welfare initiatives. On August 22, 2024, an IAPPD delegation visited two impactful elderly care initiatives in Hoshiarpur, Punjab: the Rayat-Bahra University's Rural Project on Ageing and Sanjeevni Sharnam, an urban ageing initiative. These visits provided valuable insights into successful models that could be expanded and replicated across India.

Bridging Generations: Rayat-Bahra Rural Project on Ageing

The Rayat-Bahra Group of Institutions, under the leadership of former MP Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, has initiated a project aimed at supporting elderly individuals living alone in rural areas. The project operates on the philosophy: *"Saanb lao Maape—Rab Mil Jai Ape"* (Take care of your parents, and you will find God). Female students from Baba Auragh Fatehmah Girls College visit elderly residents every Sunday, offering companionship and practical assistance, alleviating loneliness, and fostering intergenerational bonds.

During their visit, the IAPPD delegation interacted with elderly beneficiaries who expressed deep gratitude for the support and emotional warmth provided by the students. Additionally, the team explored Rayat-Bahra's medical facilities, where nursing students guided seniors through health check-ups and wellness education, easing fears about healthcare access.

A Model for Urban Elderly Care: Sanjeevni Sharnam

Sanjeevni Sharnam, a CSR initiative by Sonalika Tractors, was established in 2014 to provide a structured and engaging environment for urban seniors. Led by Ms. Sangeeta Mittal, the center offers a mix of paid specialized care (including therapy services) and free community activities for over 500 registered members, known as "Sharnamites."

Daily activities range from meditation and yoga to social games and cultural discussions, fostering mental and physical well-being. The center also organizes periodic events such as movie



screenings, festival celebrations, and an annual sports day. The visiting IAPPD team observed how these activities significantly enhanced the seniors' quality of life, promoting active and joyful ageing.

Recommendations for Scaling and Strengthening Elderly Care Initiatives

Both projects demonstrate effective approaches to elderly support, but there is room for expansion and improvement. The IAPPD team proposed several recommendations:

- **Expanding Coverage:** Conduct surveys to identify and prioritize vulnerable elderly individuals in both urban and rural settings.
- **Incentivizing Volunteers:** Recognizing student volunteers through appreciation certificates and potential honorariums.
- **Leveraging Government Schemes:** Ensuring elderly individuals benefit from available pension and welfare programs.
- **Replicating the Model:** Encouraging other educational institutions and organizations to adopt similar initiatives under an "Educational Social Responsibility" (ESR) framework.
- **Integrating Health Services:** Collaborating with ASHAs and Anganwadi workers to extend outreach and healthcare accessibility.
- **Engaging Youth Organizations:** Partnering with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs to institutionalize elderly support within community service programs.

A Call to Action

The visits to Rayat-Bahra and Sanjeevni Sharnam reaffirmed the power of community-driven initiatives in addressing the challenges of an ageing population. The commitment of student volunteers and institutional support has created sustainable models that can be adapted nationwide.

IAPPD urges policymakers, educational institutions, and civil society organizations to take inspiration from these initiatives and work collectively toward ensuring dignity, care, and an improved quality of life for India's elderly. By fostering a culture of respect and support, we can make ageing a dignified and fulfilling phase of life.



97th Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD and Conference on Addressing Three Pillars and Beyond within the Context of ICPD30

Bali, Indonesia | October 6-9, 2024

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) successfully convened its 97th Executive Committee Meeting and Conference on "Addressing Three Pillars and Beyond within the Context of ICPD30" in Bali, Indonesia, from October 6-9, 2024. The event saw the participation of key stakeholders, including Mr. M.K. Raghvan, MP, and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, representing India's delegation.



Key Discussions and Outcomes

Implementation of Events

- **Active Aging (Tokyo, Japan):** Examined policies supporting social inclusion, economic participation, and healthcare for the elderly.
- **Investing in Youth:** Highlighted the importance of education, skill development, and employment opportunities to maximize the demographic dividend.
- **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** Explored strategies to strengthen legislative frameworks, economic participation, and leadership roles for women.
- **AFPPD's Calendar of Activities for 2025:** Discussed upcoming initiatives and regional collaboration efforts aligned with member countries' priorities.

Strategic Policy Recommendations:

- **Promoting Active Aging:** Develop sustainable policies that ensure dignity, active participation, and healthcare access for the aging population.
- **Investing in Youth:** Strengthen educational and employment policies to harness the potential of young people in economic growth.
- **Advancing Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment:** Foster inclusive policies that support women's rights, leadership opportunities, and economic empowerment.
- **Enhancing Regional Collaboration:** Facilitate knowledge-sharing and best practices through South-South cooperation for tackling demographic and social challenges.
- **Addressing Population Dynamics:** Support initiatives focused on fertility decline, demographic transition, and the socioeconomic impact of an aging population.
- **Responding to Climate Change:** Acknowledge the impact of climate change on population dynamics and advocate for policies integrating climate resilience into national development plans.

Commitments from Parliamentarians:

- Advocate for legislative frameworks that prioritize aging populations, youth empowerment, and gender equality.
- Promote policies addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation, especially for vulnerable regions.
- Enhance international cooperation through South-South initiatives to develop effective strategies for demographic and development challenges.



The discussions at the AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting reaffirmed the commitment of Parliamentarians to address key population and development challenges while aligning with ICPD30 objectives. The conference set the foundation for future collaborations, ensuring that national policies and regional strategies remain responsive to evolving demographic trends and global challenges.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration: IAPPD's Engagement with South-East Asia Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF)

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) actively engaged with the South-East Asia Regional Coordination Mechanism Forum (SRCMF) in 2024–25, focusing on cross-border health challenges under the SDG 2030 Agenda—particularly the elimination of Malaria, Tuberculosis, and HIV.

Key Priorities

- Strengthening regional collaboration through joint initiatives and knowledge-sharing.
- Advocating policy and political commitment for disease elimination.
- Securing sustainable financing for long-term programs.
- Preventing disease reintroduction via cross-border surveillance.
- Building community capacity and resilient health systems.

Impact

This partnership has:

- Reinforced political commitment across the region.
- Mobilized funding and technical support.
- Strengthened cross-border cooperation and surveillance.
- Supported sustainable health interventions.



Together, IAPPD and SRCMF are advancing regional health security and accelerating progress toward SDG targets, with disease elimination as a shared priority for South-East Asia.

"IAPPD Technical Expert Committee in Deliberation on Future Programmes"



Seen in the photos: Prof. P.P. Talwar; Prof. Sudesh Nangia; Prof. Bhaswati Das, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, JNU; Prof. Anuradha Banerjee, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, JNU; Prof. Sanghamitra Sheel Acharya, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, JNU; Prof. Praveen K Pathak, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, JNU; and Prof. Subhakanta Mohapatra, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi.



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