

OUR SPEAKERS



Shri Mangal Pandey
Minister, Health
Government of Bihar

Shri Panday oversees major initiatives in public health, medical education, and insurance programmes. His tenure has included expansion of infrastructure and schemes aligned with national health missions.



Shri Pratyaya Amrit
Chief Secretary
Government of Bihar

Shri Amrit is a senior IAS officer serving as Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar. Over his career he has led major infrastructure, power, and health sector reforms in the state, with a reputation for administrative innovation and emphasis on public service delivery.



Shri Shashank Shekhar Sinha
CEO
**PMJAY-Bihar,
Government of Bihar**

Shri Sinha is Chief Executive Officer of the State Health Agency implementing Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY in Bihar. He oversees health insurance operations, empanelment of hospitals, and claims management aimed at financial protection for poor households under the state's SHA.



Smt Tshering Y Bhutia
Additional Secretary-Health,
Government of Bihar

Smt Bhutia is Additional Secretary in the Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Bihar. Her work focuses on health policy, implementation of national health programmes, and coordination between state directorates, development partners, and district health leadership.



Shri Suharsha Bhagat
Executive Director-
NHM
Government of Bihar

Shri Bhagat leads state-wide implementation of National Health Mission initiatives. His responsibilities include programme planning, resource allocation, and institutionalising data-driven management across primary and secondary care facilities.



Prof (Brig.) Dr Raju Agarwal
Director,
AIIMS Patna

Prof. Agarwal a retired senior surgeon in armed forces with decades of academic experience. oversees clinical services, teaching, and research at the AIIMS Patna, and has been involved in strengthening trauma, emergency, and specialty care for eastern India.



Dr. Himanshu Chauhan
Additional Director
NCDC

Dr. Chauhan's work at the National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India centers on strengthening surveillance systems, outbreak response, and digital platforms such as IHIP across states.



Dr. Bindey Kumar
Director
IGIMS

Dr. Kumar is Director of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS), Patna, and a senior clinician-administrator. He has led the institute's expansion in tertiary care, medical education, and public health outreach in Bihar, with particular attention to affordable specialised services.



Dr. Ayanava Basu
Focal Person for
Applied Epidemiology
Program
**World Health
Organization**

Dr. Basu is Focal Person for the Applied Epidemiology Program at the WHO Country Office for India, with training in health administration and field epidemiology. His work includes outbreak investigations, surveillance strengthening, and building applied epidemiology capacity through FETP platforms.



Dr Giridhar R Babu
Professor
Qatar University

Dr. Babu is an epidemiologist known for work on non-communicable diseases, environmental health, and primary care. Previously at PHFI, he has contributed extensively to Indian public health research and training.



Dr Ravi Shankar Singh
Medical Director
**JayPrabha Medanta
Super-Specialty
Hospital**

Dr. Singh is a practicing clinician and administrator, he is involved in building high-end tertiary care in Bihar and integrating advanced diagnostic, surgical, and critical care services with regional referral networks.



Ms Pallavi Jain
Programme Lead
PATH INDIA

Ms. Jain has worked on digital health and data-for-decision-making initiatives, including the Yo.DH (Youth for Digital Health) efforts. Her interests lie in human-centred design, partner coordination, and scale-up of technology-enabled health solutions.



Dr Krishna D Rao
Professor
**John Hopkins
University**

Dr. Rao is Professor of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. A health economist, he works on health financing, human resources for health, quality of care, and primary healthcare, with research spanning South Asia and Latin America.



Dr. Abhinav Akhilesh
Partner and Leader
Grant Thornton

Dr. Akhilesh is a Partner at Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, shaping health policy and service-delivery reforms. A Harvard Kennedy School-trained medical doctor, he is known for his governance-focused, analytic approach.



Dr. Tanmay Mahapatra
Director-Data and Learning
Piramal Swasthya

Dr. Mahapatra is a seasoned public health specialist with extensive experience in epidemiology, operational research, and program implementation. He is known for his strengths in measurement, data analysis, and training diverse health professionals in research methodology.



Dr. Sean Sylvia
Associate Professor
UNC-Chapel Hills

Dr. Sylvia is a health and development economist at UNC-Chapel Hill whose research advances data-driven improvements in health service delivery. He directs the Digital Health Economics and Policy Lab and has held prior roles at Stanford, Renmin University of China, and the World Bank.



Dr. Weiming Tang
Research Associate Professor,
UNC Chapel Hills

Dr. Tang is a global health researcher at UNC and Co-Director of UNC Project-China, with strong foundations in epidemiology and program evaluation. His UCLA and UNC training underpins his leadership of a highly active and innovative research team in Asia.



Dr. Abhay Kudale
HOD, Health Sciences
Savitribai Phule University

Dr. Kudale heads Health Sciences at Savitribai Phule Pune University, with 26 years of experience in public health research on TB, HIV, TB-Diabetes, Tribal Health, Antibiotic Resistance, Mental Health, and One Health.



Ye Zhang
Professor
Nanjing Medical University

Prof. Zhang work spans public health projects in China and Australia, focusing on sexual health, equity, and community-driven, stigma-free services for marginalised populations. Trained in mixed-methods research, she has led people-centred campaigns and a pay-it-forward clinical trial on hepatitis testing whose findings were published in *Nature Medicine*.



Dr Ragini Mishra
State Epidemiologist
State Health Society, GOB

Dr. Mishra is State Epidemiologist with the State Health Society, Bihar, overseeing Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme in the state. She has been central to roll-out of IHIP, training of field staff, and improving surveillance data quality.



Shri Ajay Kumar Singh
Senior Journalist

Shri Singh is a senior journalist and former Press Secretary to the President of India. He brings deep experience in media, public communication, and the interface between governance, citizens, and national institutions.



Dr. Soumitra Ghosh
Associate Professor
Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Dr. Ghosh is Associate Professor at the School of Health Systems Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. His research covers health systems, social protection, ageing, and inequalities in access to care, with numerous publications on India's health financing and policy.



Mr Wejuli Simon Sonny
Health Systems Specialist
Uganda

Mr. Wejuli is an HRH policy and health systems specialist from Uganda with long experience in workforce planning and governance. He has supported ministries and partners on staffing analysis, HRH information systems, and evidence-based policies, contributing to reforms in recruitment, performance management, and capacity building across national and sub-national levels.



Dr. Harsh Shah
Assistant Professor
IIPH Gandhinagar

Dr. Shah is Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar. His research and teaching engage with health systems, epidemiology, and programme evaluation, including work on urban health, digital tools, and public health training in Gujarat.



Dr. Santosh Kumar Pandey
CEO
Tata Steel Medica Hospital

Dr. Pandey is Chief Executive Officer of Tata Steel Medica Hospital in Kalinganagar. He is a clinician-administrator with experience in running multispecialty hospitals, focusing on quality, patient safety, and integrated occupational and community health services around industrial townships.



Prof (Dr.) M Sivakami
Professor
Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Prof. M Sivakami she leads work on gender, reproductive health, and population studies at TISS. Her research addresses social determinants, family planning, and health policy, and she is widely engaged in teaching and mentoring public health professionals.



Dr. Nishant Sagar
Associate Vice President
Rodig Consultants

Dr. Sagar is Associate Vice President for Healthcare at Rodic Consultants Pvt Ltd, where he works on healthcare infrastructure, hospital projects, and advisory services. Public information highlights his involvement in health-sector consulting and strategy for large-scale projects across India.



Dr Indroneel Sen
Managing Director
Sen Diagnostics

Dr. Sen is Managing Director of Sen Diagnostics, Patna, and a pathologist by training. He has been involved in developing quality-assured diagnostic services in Bihar and contributing to expansion of private laboratory networks supporting clinical care and public health programmes.



Mr. Sudhakar Reddy
WASH Officer
UNICEF

Mr. Reddy with over 17 years of experience in climate-resilient WASH programming is UNICEF Bihar's WASH Officer, he has led key initiatives in ODF sustainability, menstrual hygiene, piped water supply, and WASH in schools and health facilities. His work emphasizes evidence-based design, system strengthening, and equity-focused outcomes.



Ms. Rekha Raj
Health Officer
UNICEF

Ms. Raj with over 18 years of experience in RMNCH+A programmes. She has led major digital initiatives including RCH 2.0, the U-Mentor platform, Chatbot tools, and the digital RI micro-plan, along with key evidence systems such as the Equity and Aspirational District Dashboards. Her work strengthens data-driven planning and accountability across immunization, maternal-newborn health, and public health emergencies.



Dr Preetha G S
Professor
IIHMR-Delhi

Dr. Preetha is Professor and Dean (Research) at IIHMR Delhi. A medical doctor with an MD in Community Health Administration, she has over two decades of experience in public health research, evaluation, and training for national and international agencies



Prof (Dr) Chung Ying Lin
Professor
National Cheng Kung University

Prof. Lin is Professor at the Institute of Allied Health Sciences and in Public Health at NCKU Taiwan. A prolific psychometrician, he works on health-related quality of life, digital addiction, stigma, and patient-reported outcome measures across global populations.



Dr Brijesh K G Rao
Associate Director
PCI India

Dr. Rao leads works on public health and nutrition, gender equity, and behaviour-change interventions at PCI India. He heads the Behavioural Outcomes and Decision Heuristics (BODH) vertical, focusing on behavioural science, human-centred design, and social and digital innovations.



Dr. Aritra Das
Epidemiologist and
Consultant
Piramal Swasthya

Dr. Aritra Das is an epidemiologist and consultant with Piramal Swasthya Management and Research Institute, serving as a core team member on health systems initiatives. Trained as a physician with a PhD from UCLA, he has worked with CARE India and other organisations on programme evaluation, nutrition, and health systems research in Bihar and beyond.



Dr. Veena Singh
Professor
AIIMS Patna

Dr. Singh is Professor of Plastic Surgery at AIIMS Patna and a practising plastic and reconstructive surgeon. Her work covers burns, reconstructive procedures, and public awareness on plastic surgery, along with teaching responsibilities at the institute.



Mr. Dhiraj Kumar Rai
Senior Vice President and Circle Head
Axis Bank

Mr. Rai is Senior Vice President and Circle Head for Bihar at Axis Bank, overseeing statewide business and credit growth. His tenure in Bihar has strengthened Axis Bank's performance with steady credit expansion and a CD ratio nearing seventy five percent.



Shri Mukesh Kumar
Economic Advisor
Government of India

Shri Kumar is an Indian Economic Service officer (2007 batch) serving as Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India. His career spans roles in economic analysis and policy across several central ministries and departments.



Dr. Arunava Dhar
Clinical Entrepreneurship Fellow
NHS England

Dr. Dhar is a consultant paediatrician and neonatologist based at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and a Clinical Entrepreneurship Fellow with NHS England. He co-develops digital innovations such as remote neonatal care platforms and is involved in health-tech ventures and medical education.



Dr Debkishore Gupta
Director and Head of Medical Affairs
BioMérieux (South Asia)

Dr. Gupta, trained in India, the USA and the Netherlands, led medical affairs at major diagnostics firms and held senior hospital roles. He is a NABL lead assessor, a global fellow, a government advisor and a widely published voice in infectious diseases.



Dr Suvalagna Chatterjee
Clinical Research Fellow
West Midlands Deanery

Dr. Chatterjee is a consultant obstetrician and urogynaecologist in the UK, involved in complex pelvic floor and urogynaecology services. She was awarded clinical excellence award as a team leader in women's health.



Mavis Motshegwa
ICT Specialist
Botswana

Ms. Motshegwa is a digital health and ICT specialist from Botswana with over ten years of experience in national system strengthening. She has led iHRIS implementation, HRH data improvements, and digital governance under major public health programmes. She now works as a Consulting Project Manager, guiding organisations in designing and implementing digital health solutions..



Dr. Ashmita Gupta
Member Secretary
ADRI

Dr. A Gupta is an economist and Member-Secretary at ADRI, focused on empirical microeconomics, labour, development, gender, public finance and international trade. A PhD holder from the University of Houston and former visiting researcher at European and Indian institutions, she leads ADRI's research and policy outreach from its Patna base.



Dr. Mousumi Gupta
Senior Research
Lead
ADRI

Dr. M Gupta is Research Lead – Data & Learning at ADRI. Formerly Professor in Computer Applications at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, she brings strong expertise in data science, machine learning, image processing and GIS. At ADRI she works on research, data analysis, and learning-system development for social science and development projects.



**Dr Sanchita
Mahapatra**
Senior
Epidemiologist
ADRI

Dr. S Mahapatra is an epidemiologist and Senior Researcher at ADRI, working with its Centre for Health Policy in Patna. She holds a PhD in Epidemiology and has contributed to studies on public health, disease surveillance and health-system research. Her work at ADRI supports data-driven public health interventions and policy research in Bihar and beyond.



Dr. Arpan Sharma
Geospatial Scientist
ADRI

Dr. Sharma is an environmental and geospatial scientist specializing in climate science, land-use change and spatial analytics. His academic interests focus on applying geospatial evidence to ecological and public health research, as well as development planning. His work has been featured in reputed academic and non-academic outlets, including Nature, the Indian Express and the American Physical Society.

ABOUT ADRI



The Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), established in 1991, is a leading multidisciplinary policy research think-tank known for its work in social sciences and its strong partnerships with policymakers, academics, civil society, and the media. ADRI hosts key thematic centers such as the Centre for Health Policy and the Centre for Studies on Environment and Climate, and has collaborated with sub-national, national, and international organizations, including the International Growth Center of the London School of Economics. With a global network of 250 researchers, ADRI has earned recognition from ICSSR and has welcomed Nobel Laureates like Amartya Sen, Joseph Stiglitz, Abhijit Banerjee, and Esther Duflo. Its grassroots initiatives in Bihar and Jharkhand, especially in literacy and vocational training, have shaped influential policy discourse. ADRI's State Resource Center received a special award from President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, and its founder, Dr. Shaibal Gupta, was posthumously honored with the Padma Shri for contributions to literature and education.