National Stroke Summit 2026
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Welcome Address- Dr Harsh Mahajan

Dr Anil Bonde, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairperson, Indian Medical Parliamentarians' Forum (IMPF)

Dr C N Manjunath, Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Dr Sanghamitra Pati, Addl. DG-ICMR

Dr Jeyaraj Pandian, President, World Stroke Organisation

Dr Prashant Mathur,

Mrs Signe Haughton,

Mr Salai Udyovanan,

Honourable Members of Parliament, distinguished representatives from the Government of India, dear colleagues from the medical fraternity, industry partners, and esteemed guests,

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to all of you to the **3rd National Stroke Summit 2026**, organized by FICCI in collaboration with the **World Stroke Organization** and the **Indian Medical Parliamentarians' Forum**.

It is truly encouraging to see such a diverse and distinguished group of stakeholders gathered here today, policymakers, clinicians, researchers, public health experts, and leaders from the healthcare industry all united by a shared goal: strengthening stroke care in India.

Stroke continues to be one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability in our country with nearly **1.5 million incidents annually** and a cumulative incidence of **105-172 per 100,000 population**, surpassing rates in high-income countries. **One in seven patients is under 45 years old,** driven by hypertension and lifestyle risks, while stroke

death rates have climbed to **55 per 100,000 population by 2021 per GBD data**-with persistent rises in states like Goa and Kerala despite age-adjusted improvements; nearly 40% of patients delay hospital arrival beyond 24 hours, worsening outcomes.

Despite the availability of life-saving therapies and advancing medical technologies, timely access to treatment remains a challenge for many patients.

Too often, patients reach hospitals late or facilities unequipped for advanced stroke care. Yet many stroke deaths and disabilities are preventable with timely diagnosis and treatment- requiring strong systems from awareness and early recognition to rapid response, specialized care, and rehabilitation.

Over the past few years, the National Stroke Summit has grown into an important national platform for advancing this agenda. The earlier editions of the Summit led to several **significant milestones**- including the launch of the **WSO-NABH Stroke Centre Certification Program, the release of the National Stroke Action Plan for India, and the presentation of the PRAAN Registry, India's first multicentric registry on mechanical thrombectomy**.

These initiatives have helped lay the foundation for a more coordinated and structured national approach to stroke prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

The focus of this year's Summit continues that journey. Our discussions will look at how we can **expand access, improve affordability, and strengthen the quality of stroke services** across the country.

At FICCI, **we strongly believe that addressing complex health challenges like stroke** requires **collaboration** across sectors - government, academia, healthcare providers, and industry working together to strengthen healthcare delivery systems.

We are honoured to have with us today several distinguished leaders who will share their valuable insights over the course of the day.

I would like to express my **sincere appreciation to Dr Anil Bonde ji and the Indian Medical Parliamentarians' Forum** as well as **World Stroke Organization**, along with our **industry partners**, and all participating experts for their continued support in making this Summit possible.

I am confident that the discussions today will generate meaningful ideas and actionable recommendations to strengthen stroke care in India.

Thank you all for joining us today, and I wish the Summit engaging discussions and productive deliberations.

Thank you.