

India Country Chapter

Background and Rationale

Avoidable deaths—arising from preventable injuries, disasters, infections, non-communicable diseases, and system failures—remain a critical public health challenge in India. Despite advances in clinical care and policy frameworks, gaps persist in prevention, preparedness, accountability, and translation of evidence into action, particularly across disaster-prone and resource-constrained settings.

The Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) is a global, transdisciplinary initiative that brings together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and civil society to reduce avoidable mortality through evidence, advocacy, and collaboration. Establishing the ADN India Country Chapter aligns with India's demographic scale, disaster vulnerability, and the urgent need to integrate avoidable deaths into development, health systems, and disaster risk reduction agendas.

The KIIT School of Public Health (KSPH), with its strengths in public health education, research, policy engagement, and community outreach, hosts and anchors the ADN India Country Chapter as a national knowledge and action hub.

Launching Date

The ADN India Chapter was launched on 19 March 2026.

Vision, Goal, and Objectives

Vision: To reduce avoidable deaths in India through research and evidence-informed policy, cross-sectoral collaboration, and capacity building.

Goal: To establish a nationally relevant, globally connected ADN India Chapter that advances research, advocacy, and practice on avoidable deaths.

Objectives:

1. Generate and synthesise evidence on avoidable deaths in India.
2. Strengthen research-to-policy and research-to-practice translation.
3. Mark the International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths (IAD4AD)
4. Build a multidisciplinary knowledge network spanning academia, government, civil society, and development partners.
5. Promote future leadership in avoidable deaths through student and early-career engagement.
6. Increase public and policy awareness of avoidable deaths as a development and health systems issue.

Governance and Organisational Structure

Hosting Institution- The ADN India Country Chapter is hosted at KIIT School of Public Health (KSPH), KIIT Deemed to be University, Odisha.

Host and Convenor - Dr Pratap Kumar Jena, Associate Professor and Dr Ramya Pinnamaneni, Director, provide overall leadership, coordination, and liaison with ADN Presidents and the ADN Secretariat.

All Indian Regional Coordinators are part of the Chapter.

Advisory Board- A gender-balanced Advisory Board consists of:

- Senior public health and disaster researchers- Dr Anil Gupta, IIT Roorkee
- Retired bureaucrats and policymakers- Dr Kamal Lochan, OSDMA
- Representatives from CSOs, INGOs, UN agencies, and CSR- Dr Satya S. Tripathi- Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet
- Media and communication experts- Ms Smruti Chowdhary, Public Relations, KIIT-DU/ KIMS and Kalinga TV and Radio- in-house channel
- Two ADN Advisors: Director of All India Disaster Management Institute, Mr Mihir Bhatt and former ICMR scientist, Dr Amarendro Mohapatra.

Activities

The ADN India Chapter undertakes three priority activities

International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths	✓
Research and Development	✓
Knowledge sharing and raising awareness on avoidable deaths	✓