Press Release

Unidentified hearing loss—the most significant cause of disabling auditory impairment

An individual is said to have a disabling auditory loss if he or she has a hearing loss of greater than 40 decibels or greater than 30 dB in the better hearing ear of an adult or a child, respectively.

New Delhi, March 03, 2017: According to World Health Organisation (WHO), around the globe 360 million people (five percent of the world’s population) suffer from disabling hearing impairment. Various surveys suggest that a large proportion of population with disabling hearing loss lives in third world or developing countries like Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Padma Shri Awardee Dr K K Aggarwal, National President, Indian Medical Association (IMA) and President Heart Care Foundation of India (HCFI) and Dr RN Tandon – Honorary Secretary General IMA in a joint statement said that “As per WHO statistics, about 6.3% of Indian population is suffering from significant auditory loss. Out of every 1000 live birth, 2 neonates are congenitally deaf. The primary causes of disabling hearing loss are infection, Ototoxicity and noise pollution. Keeping this in mind, IMA is holding a workshop on Safe sound on 12th March, 2017 at New Delhi wherein experts from all over India will deliberate on sound pollution and its ill-effects.”

Dr A K Agarwal ENT Specialist said that “In India, people are usually unaware of the causes and ill-effects of disabling hearing loss. Unidentified hearing loss is the most significant cause of hearing loss, especially in children. But the good news is that more than 50% causes of deafness are preventable. Proper screening for ear diseases and immunisation can significantly reduce the prevalence of hearing loss in children,”

Following are some tips to manage and prevent disabling hearing loss:

- By means of public health measures like maternal and child health programmes
- By immunizing children against diseases like mumps, rubella, meningitis, measles cytomegalovirus infections, and chronic otitis media
- By prescribing ototoxic medicines in pregnant women and babies
- By reducing exposure to loud noises
- By proper screening for ear diseases and hearing loss at schools and offices
- Following healthy ear care practices
- Maintaining good hygiene

-Ends-
About IMA: Indian Medical Association is the only representative, national voluntary organization of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well being of the community at large. It has its Headquarter in Delhi and State / Terr. Branches in 30 States and Union Territories. It has over 2, 60,000 doctors as its members through more than 1765 active local branches spread across the country.

For further information please contact:
Sanjeev Khanna - 9871079105
Md Adib Ahmad – 9873716235
Mediaimah2@gmail.com

IMA Public & Media Advocacy Cell