

# GLOBAL ALCOHOL POLICY CONFERENCE OCTOBER

*The Global Alcohol Policy Conference (GAPC2023), "Investing in People before Profits: Building Momentum towards the Framework Convention on Alcohol Control," will be held from 24 - 26 October 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.*

## PLENARY SPEAKER

Dr Rajesh Pandav

World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav assumed the role of the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in September 2020. He had previously held the position of WHO Representative to Timor-Leste from April 2015 to September 2020.

Dr. Pandav's association with WHO dates back to 2004 when he joined the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Unit in the WHO Regional Office for the South-East Asia Region. Throughout his career, he has held various roles within WHO, including Medical Officer (Public Health) at the WHO Country Office for Maldives (2009-2011) and Health Policy Advisor at the WHO Country Office for Timor-Leste (2011-March 2015).

Dr. Rajesh's remarkable contributions have earned recognition within WHO, including the WHO Director General's Excellence Award in 2016. His leadership led to the WHO Country Office Timor-Leste receiving the 2018-2019 WHO Director-General's Award for Excellence for their efforts in promoting the Walk the Talk initiative to encourage physical activity.

With a wealth of expertise, Dr. Pandav has authored numerous scientific publications. Prior to joining WHO, he served as a Senior Research Associate at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, USA. He holds an MBBS degree from Grant Medical College, Mumbai, India, and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh, USA.

