



INDIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

[Founder Member, World Federation of Public Health Associations, Geneva]

IPHA Newsletter

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Dear members,

*Greetings from the Indian Public
Health Association!*



First of all, we would like to thank all our members for electing us for the second term. We are deeply humbled and honoured by your trust and support. Born in 1956, by the doyens of public health in the country, IPHA is now 70 years old with more than eleven thousand members on rolls. However, the importance of Public Health in the country is increasing day by day and more so, in the post COVID time.

In the last three years, Indian Public Health Association has reached great heights. Six new branches came into existence in last three years: Bhubaneswar, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu & Jharkhand. We had three annual conferences with delegate registrations beyond our expectations. The orations were delivered by some of the greatest orators and public health experts of the country.

Our face, Indian Journal of Public Health has shown remarkable improvement. Number of pages have been increased and newer sections being introduced. Ahead of Print has been introduced, which will definitely encourage our authors and readers.

We have also re-introduced this IPHA Newsletter. All the public health activities of the headquarters, state and local branches and members under the banner of IPHA are featured in this newsletter. This newsletter has

new and dynamic features for our junior members, faculties, fellows and all those who are working in field of public health.

We have collaborated with other professional organizations for working on some of the burning issues on public health like Antimicrobial Resistance, Adolescent Health, Adult Vaccination, Triple elimination of HIV, Hepatitis B & Syphilis etc. IPHA has always raised her voice against all the injustice in the field of public health. IPHA has introduced “Go Green Policy” in 2023. Under this policy, the Indian Journal of Public Health (IJPH) and the IPHA newsletter are published predominantly in digital formats, with only limited print copies distributed to institutional members.

Public health is vital for the country's socio-economic development. By prioritizing disease prevention, sanitation, and primary care, India can significantly boost workforce productivity, reduce out-of-pocket medical expenses, and build community resilience against outbreaks and epidemics in the forthcoming years. IPHA is committed to this. IPHA is an organization which will protect and promote the health of the people of India by facilitating the exchange of ideas and information, experience and research, and by advocating for policies, programmes and practices so as to improve the public health of our country. Long live IPHA! Jai Hind!!

✚ Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh
✚ Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra



World Health Day 2026: Together for Health – Stand with Science

A Call for Evidence-Based Public Health Action in an Era of Global Interdependence

Dr. Prasad Waingankar

Professor & Head, Community Medicine, MGM Medical College, Kamothe, Navi Mumbai

Every year on April 7, the global public health community comes together to commemorate World Health Day, marking the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948. This annual observance serves as a strategic platform to highlight priority health issues and mobilize action at global, national, and community levels. In 2026, the WHO has articulated a powerful and timely theme:

“Together for health. Stand with science.”

This theme underscores a fundamental truth: that science, collaboration, and evidence-based policy are indispensable pillars for protecting and promoting health in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. It also launches a year-long global campaign emphasizing the importance of scientific cooperation across sectors - human, animal, plant, and environmental health - through the One Health approach. In the wake of global crises such as pandemics, climate change, antimicrobial resistance, and widening health inequities, World Health Day 2026 is not merely commemorative—it is a clarion call to reaffirm trust in science and strengthen collective action.

World Health Day has evolved significantly since its inception in 1950. Each year's theme reflects emerging global health priorities—from communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases, mental health, environmental health, and universal health coverage. Over the decades, themes such as “Health for All,” “Universal Health Coverage,” and “Our Planet, Our Health” have progressively emphasized the equity, sustainability, and system strengthening. The 2026 theme builds upon this trajectory by placing science and collaboration at the centre of global health action, recognizing that:

- ✚ Scientific evidence drives effective interventions
- ✚ Multilateral cooperation enhances health system resilience

- ✚ Interdisciplinary approaches are essential for addressing modern health challenges

Thus, World Health Day 2026 represents a convergence of science, solidarity, and systems thinking.

Understanding the Theme

The 2026 theme emphasizes two interlinked dimensions:

1. Together for Health

This component highlights the need for collective responsibility and global solidarity. Health is no longer confined within national boundaries; it is shaped by global determinants such as:

- Climate change
- Migration
- Urbanization
- Trade and globalization
- Emerging infectious diseases

The COVID-19 pandemic vividly demonstrated that no country can achieve health security in isolation.

2. Stand with Science

This dimension emphasizes the centrality of evidence-based decision-making. Science informs:

- Disease surveillance and outbreak response
- Vaccine development & strategies for immunization
- Public health interventions
- Health system strengthening
- Policy formulation

WHO emphasizes that scientific collaboration and evidence translation into policy are essential for improving population health outcomes.

The One Health Approach: A Cornerstone of the 2026 Campaign

A defining feature of World Health Day 2026 is its focus on the One Health approach, which recognizes the interconnectedness of:

- Human health
- Animal health
- Plant health
- Environmental health

This integrated framework is crucial for addressing contemporary challenges such as:

- Zoonotic diseases
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- Food safety and security
- Environmental degradation

The WHO and partner organizations emphasize that protecting ecosystems and ensuring sustainable interactions between humans and animals are essential for long-term health security.

Why Science Matters More Than Ever in Public Health

1. **Combating Misinformation & Infodemics:** One of the major challenges in recent years has been the spread of misinformation, particularly during health emergencies.

The 2026 theme calls for-

- a. Strengthening scientific communication
- b. Promoting health literacy
- c. Building public trust in institutions

2. **Driving Innovations through Scientific research:** It has led to breakthroughs such as-

- a. Rapid vaccine development
- b. Genomic surveillance
- c. Digital health technologies
- d. Artificial intelligence in healthcare

These innovations have transformed public health practice and improved outcomes.

3. **Evidence-based policies:** These ensure-
 - a. Efficient allocation of resources
 - b. Effective program implementation
 - c. Measurable health outcomes

Without science, public health risks becoming reactionary rather than proactive.

Global Health Challenges in 2026: A Scientific Perspective

1. **Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases:** The world continues to face threats from infectious diseases due to:
 - a. Climate change
 - b. Urban crowding
 - c. Increased human-animal interaction

Scientific surveillance systems are critical for early detection and response.

2. **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs):** NCDs such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases account for the majority of

global mortality. Scientific research informs:

- a. Risk factor identification
- b. Preventive strategies
- c. Health promotion interventions

3. **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):** AMR is a silent pandemic threatening modern medicine. The One Health approach is essential for tackling AMR across:

- a. Human healthcare
- b. Veterinary practices
- c. Agriculture

4. **Climate Change and Health:** Climate change is increasingly recognized as a health crisis. Its impacts include:

- a. Heat-related illnesses
- b. Vector-borne diseases
- c. Food insecurity
- d. Air pollution-related morbidity

Scientific evidence is critical for designing adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Implications for India: A Public Health Perspective

India, with its vast population and diverse health challenges, stands at a critical juncture in aligning with the 2026 theme.

1. **Strengthening Primary Health Care in Urban area and Secondary Health Care in Rural area:** India's commitment to Ayushman Bharat and Health and Wellness Centres reflects progress toward universal health coverage. However, challenges remain in:

- Accessibility
- Quality of care
- Workforce shortages

2. **Promoting Evidence-Based National Health Programs of Priority:** Programs such as:

- National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of NCDs (NP-NCD)

require continuous integration of scientific evidence for effectiveness.

3. **Addressing Health Inequities:** Despite progress, disparities persist across:

- Rural vs urban populations
- Socioeconomic groups
- Gender & marginalized communities

Science-driven policy can help bridge these gaps.

4. **Leveraging Digital Health:** India's digital health initiatives, including:

- Telemedicine

- Health data platforms offer opportunities for scaling evidence-based interventions.

Role of Public Health Professionals

World Health Day should not remain symbolic. It must translate into Policy reforms, Programmatic interventions, Community mobilization, Sustainable investments. The 2026 campaign calls for a year-long engagement, ensuring that the momentum extends beyond a single day. Public health professionals play a pivotal role in operationalizing the 2026 theme:

- Translating Evidence into Action:** Bridging the gap between research and implementation.
- Strengthening Surveillance Systems:** Enhancing data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Community Engagement:** Building trust and promoting health literacy.
- Policy Advocacy:** Ensuring that policies are grounded in scientific evidence.

“Health is not achieved in isolation. It is built through science, sustained through collaboration, and secured through collective action.”

Community Participation and Civil Society Responsibility

World Health Day 2026 emphasizes that health is a shared responsibility. Citizens can contribute by:

- Following scientifically validated health practices
- Avoiding misinformation
- Participating in community health initiatives
- Supporting vaccination and preventive programs

Community engagement is essential for achieving sustainable health outcomes.

Intersectoral Collaboration: The Way Forward

The complexity of modern health challenges necessitates collaboration across sectors:

- Health
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Education
- Technology

The One Health approach exemplifies this integration, emphasizing that health

outcomes are shaped by policies beyond the health sector.

Policy Recommendations for Strengthening Science-Based Health Systems

- Invest in Health Research:** Strengthening national and global research capacities
- Enhance Data Systems:** Real-time data for informed decision-making
- Promote Health Literacy:** Countering misinformation
- Strengthen Global Collaboration:** Sharing knowledge and resources
- Integrate One Health into Policy:** Addressing cross-sectoral health challenges

To conclude, World Health Day 2026, with its theme **“Together for health. Stand with science,”** serves as a powerful reminder that the future of global health depends on our collective commitment to science, collaboration, and equity. In an era marked by unprecedented challenges — pandemics, climate change, and health inequities — science offers both a compass and a solution. However, science alone is not enough; it must be accompanied by political will, community engagement, and global solidarity.

For India and the world, the message is loud and clear:

- Trust science
- Act collectively
- Prioritize equity
- Strengthen systems

As public health professionals, policymakers, and citizens, we must move beyond rhetoric to evidence-based action. Only then can we realize the vision of health for all, ensuring that every individual, regardless of geography or socioeconomic status, has the opportunity to live a healthy and dignified life.

[Ref: WHO Website]

Dr. Prasad Waingankar

Disclaimer

Views expressed by the Authors in this Newsletter are their own and not official views or stand of Indian Public Health Association.

IPHA – Headquarters, Kolkata: Activities

Webinar : Medical Writing

The fourth webinar in the Workshop on Medical Writing and Publishing series was



Invitation to attend webinar on
**What is Global Health:
the Priorities of BMJ Global Health**

WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY
7:00PM to 7:30PM IST 2026

Speaker
Mark G. Shrimme
MD, MPH, PhD, FACS

Editor-in-Chief, BMJ Global Health Founder, Global Surgery Advisors

Registration mandatory (complimentary)

[Click here to register](#)

Certificate of attendance by BMJ and IPHA
Exclusive for IPHA members

held online on 11th February 2026 from 7 PM onwards on the Zoom platform. The topic of the session was **“What is Global Health: the Priorities of BMJ Global Health.”** The session was conducted by

Mark G. Shrimme (Editor-in-Chief, BMJ Global Health; Founder, Global Surgery Advisors). Life members of IPHA participated in the event and received participation certificates at the end of the session.

World Immunization Week



World Immunization Week, 2026 (24th to 30th April, 2026) has been celebrated in Malda Medical College and Hospital by Department of Community Medicine, and

Nursing Training School, Malda Medical College in collaboration with Indian Public Health Association. The program was consisted of 3 outreach programmes at different places within Malda Medical College and Hospital and 1 CME program on a topic "Strengthening Immunization Practices: Bridging knowledge to clinical application".



The celebration commenced on 25 April 2026 with an outreach programme at the Health and Wellness Clinic of the Gynecology & Obstetrics Outpatient Department, Malda Medical College and Hospital. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Malda District, and the Principal Nursing Officer of the Nursing Training School. Dr. Rajesh De, Central Council Member (East Zone), IPHA, and Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, served as the Organizing Secretary.



The event featured health talks by faculty members, role plays on the importance of immunization, and a puppet show on adverse events following vaccination, performed by students of the Nursing Training School. Parents and community members attending the clinic

actively participated. The programme concluded with closing remarks by the Principal Nursing Officer.

On 27 April 2026, as the part of the celebration and continuation of the celebration program, a CME program was arranged in the lecture theatre of Malda Medical College. The title of the CME was "Strengthening Immunization Practices: Bridging knowledge to clinical application". The CME program was graced by the esteemed presence of the Principal, Malda Medical College as the Chief Guest; MSVP of Malda Medical College and Hospital; Dean of Students affairs; HOD, Department of Community Medicine and Pediatrics of Malda Medical College, CMOH of Malda District and Nursing Superintendent as the Guest of Honor. The CME program was inaugurated by the lamp lighting by all guests and Organizing Chairman - Principal Nursing Officer, Nursing Training School and Organizing secretary - Dr. Rajesh De, CC Member (East) of IPHA followed by inaugural speech by the Principal, MSVP, Dean of Malda Medical College and CMOH of Malda District.



The CME program also highly enriched by the gracious presence of the National President of IPHA, Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh and the Secretary General of IPHA, Prof. Dr. Kaushik Mitra through Online platform. The participants of the CME program were the faculties of different departments of Malda Medical College and Hospital, faculties of Nursing Training Schools, Staff nurses, both UG & PG students of Malda Medical College, Nursing students. The CME program was highly appreciated by all for its organization and contents of the topics discussed by the speakers. The CME was concluded by the organizing chairperson and secretary together with a vote of thanks.

On 28 April 2026, another outreach programme was organized in the Department of Pediatrics, Malda Medical College, as part

of the World Immunization Week celebration. The programme was attended by the Principal Nursing Officer of the Nursing Training School, Dr. Rajesh De, faculty members from the Department of Pediatrics, and faculty members of the Nursing Training School. The session focused on promoting awareness regarding the importance of immunization among patients and their caregivers.

The celebration concluded on 30 April 2026 with an outreach programme at the Immunization Clinic of Malda Medical College. The event was graced by the Principal and Head of the Department of General Surgery, along with the Organizing Chairperson, Organizing Secretary, faculty members of the Nursing Training School, and staff of the Immunization Clinic.



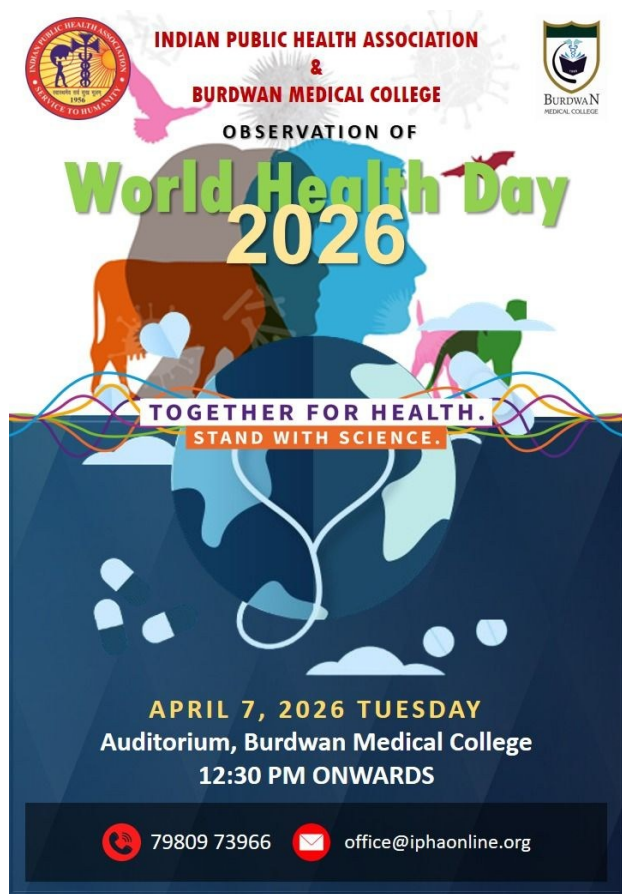
Through health talks, role plays, and puppet shows, parents and caregivers were educated about the importance of immunization and its possible adverse events. The week-long celebration was formally declared successful by the Principal, the Organizing Chairperson, and Dr. Rajesh De, who also expressed gratitude to the Indian Public Health Association, participants, and all stakeholders for their valuable support and cooperation.

World Health Day

IPHA HQ in collaboration with Burdwan Medical College successfully observed World Health Day 2026 at the Pediatric Seminar Room, Burdwan Medical College, on April 7, 2026.

The event focused on the WHO's theme for this year: "Together for health. Stand with science.". The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Mousumi Bandyopadhyay (Principal, BMC), Dr. Tapas Ghosh (MSVP, BMC), Dr. Kaushik Mitra (Secretary General, IPHA; Professor, Community Medicine, BMC), Dr. Jayram Hembram (CMOH, Purba

Bardhaman), Dr. Moyaraf Ali (DTO, Purba Bardhaman) and Dr. Pranita Taraphdar (Professor & Head, Community Medicine, BMC).



A panel discussion on the theme featured eminent panelists Dr. Pranita Taraphdar, Dr. Arunima Chaudhuri (Dean & HoD, Physiology, BMC), Dr. Saumik Datta (Professor and HoD, General Medicine, BMC),



Dr. Arindam Dasgupta (Assistant Professor, Microbiology, BMC), and Dr. Uma Rani Adhikari (Principal, College of Nursing, BMC), and was moderated by Dr. Chinmay Nandi (Assistant Professor, Community Medicine, BMC).

Additionally, two expert talks were delivered by Dr. Sunetra Majumdar (Deputy

CMOH 4, Purba Bardhaman) and Dr. Pritam Roy (WHO India Coordinator & Managing Editor, IJPH).

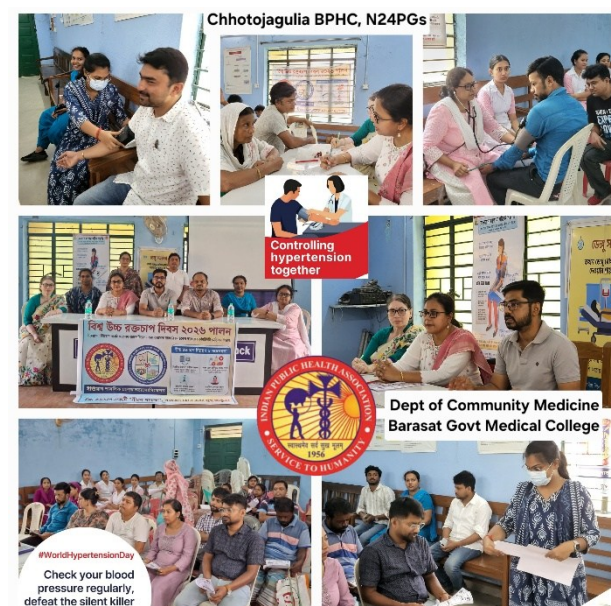


The programme was convened by Dr. Kaushik Mitra and Dr. Sanjib Bandyopadhyay (Joint Secretary - HQs and Assistant Professor, Community Medicine, BMC). The event was attended by more than 100 participants, including PGTs, nursing students, and faculty members, and concluded successfully.



World Hypertension Day

World Hypertension Day 2026 was observed by Dept of Community Medicine, Barasat Govt Medical College under the aegis of IPHA HQ & State at Chhotojagulia BPHC, N24 PGs



Key Highlights of the program:

- Hands-on demonstration of validated digital and aneroid BP apparatus for ASHA workers and nursing staff.
- Focus on “Know Your Numbers” – every attendee was given a BP record card.
- Emphasis on DASH diet, reduction of dietary salt, and regular physical activity.
- Active involvement of BPHC staff ensured community participation
- Distribution of Awareness materials among all patients and caregivers attending the hospital

The observance of World Hypertension Day 2026 at Chhotojagulia BPHC successfully sensitized the rural population about prevention, early detection, and control of hypertension. The program strengthened the link between Barasat Govt. Medical College, IPHA, and the peripheral health system in NCD control.

Community Geriatrics

COMMUNITY GERIATRIC SERIES
Dept. of Community Medicine, GMCH - 32, Chandigarh
In collaboration with
Indian Public Health Association (IPHA)
Presents
Polypharmacy and Deprescribing in Elderly
Enhancing Senior Care Through Better Medication Management
Practical Strategies for Safer Prescribing Practices
2nd June, 2026
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
SCAN TO WATCH LIVE
Speaker: **Dr. Arunansu Talukdar**
Professor & Head, Geriatric Medicine Department, Medical College Kolkata, India
Nodal Officer, Regional Geriatric Centre Kolkata Medical College Kolkata
Organized by:
Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, President, IPHA
Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra, Secretary General, IPHA
Prof. J.S. Thakur, President, IPHA Chandigarh Branch
Dr. Sonia Puri, Professor & Head, Community Medicine, GMCH - 32 Chandigarh

The Indian Public Health Association, in collaboration with the Department of Community Medicine, GMCH-32, Chandigarh, conducted a webinar on "Polypharmacy & Deprescribing in the Elderly" on 2 June, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. The webinar was streamed live on Zoom and YouTube.

Dr. Arunansu Talukdar, Professor and Head, Department of Geriatric Medicine, Medical College Kolkata, and Nodal Officer, Regional Geriatric Centre, Medical College Kolkata, was the main speaker for the webinar and delivered an insightful talk on the topic.

The webinar was graced by Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, President, IPHA; Prof.

(Dr.) Kaushik Mitra, Secretary General, IPHA; and Dr. J. S. Thakur, President, IPHA Chandigarh Branch, who delivered the inaugural addresses.



The session was attended by more than 100 participants and moderated by Dr. Sonia Puri, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, GMCH-32, Chandigarh.

Indian Public Health Association
Founded 1956
HEAD QUARTERS SECRETARIAT
110, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata – 700 073
The following members have been elected for the Fellowship of Indian Public Health Association for 2025-26.
• **Dr. Shaili Vyas**
Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine, HIMS, SRHU Dehradun
• **Dr. Medha Mathur**
Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine, GMCH, Udaipur
• **Dr. Bhavesh V. Modi**
Director and Scientist-G, ICMR–National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad
• **Dr. Neeti Rustagi**
Professor, Dept. of Community and Family Medicine, AIIMS Jodhpur
• **Dr. Dewesh Kumar**
Additional Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine and Associate Dean (Research), RIMS, Ranchi
• **Dr. Kondagunta Nagaraj**
Vice Principal, Professor, and Head, Dept. of Community Medicine, SVIMS-SPMCW
• **Dr. Aditi Aikat**
HOD and Dean, Dept. of Community Medicine, JIMSH, Kolkata
*Subject to payment of fellowship fees
Fellowship will be awarded at the inaugural ceremony of IPHACON 2026 to be held at Katuri Medical College and Hospital, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, from 13th March to 15th March 2026.
Sd/-
Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, President, Indian Public Health Association
Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra, Secretary General, Indian Public Health Association
Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu, Chairperson, Fellowship Credential Committee (2025-26)

Members interested in contributing articles are requested to email their submissions as a Word document with minimal formatting to ipha.newsletter@gmail.com

Activities of IPHA – West Bengal State Branch

Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination

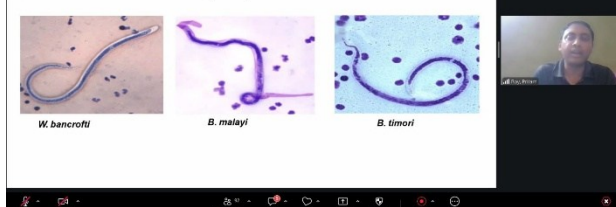


IPHA

IPHA West Bengal State Branch, organized an Online Sensitization Programme on 13th June 2026, Saturday on 7:00 PM to create awareness among its members regarding the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) 2026 campaign under the Guidance of Dept of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of WB. The Government of West Bengal has been implementing the MDA programme from 15th June 2026 in 10 districts as part of its efforts to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2030.

What is lymphatic filariasis (LF)?

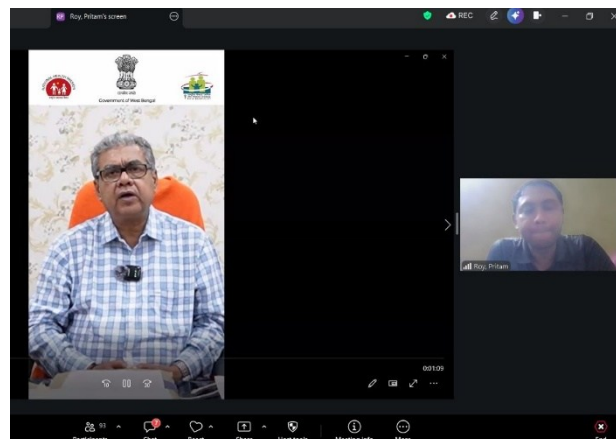
- LF is caused by infection with three species of parasitic worm: *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia malayi* and *B. timori*
- LF is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes



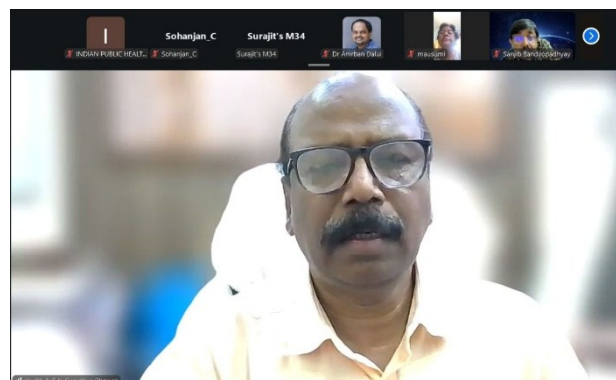
The programme highlighted the key aspects of the MDA campaign, including the administration of a single dose of Albendazole and Diethylcarbamazine to all eligible individuals above two years of age, while excluding children below two years, pregnant women, and seriously ill persons.



The session also emphasized the availability of PCEM kits with drug administrators for the management of adverse events.



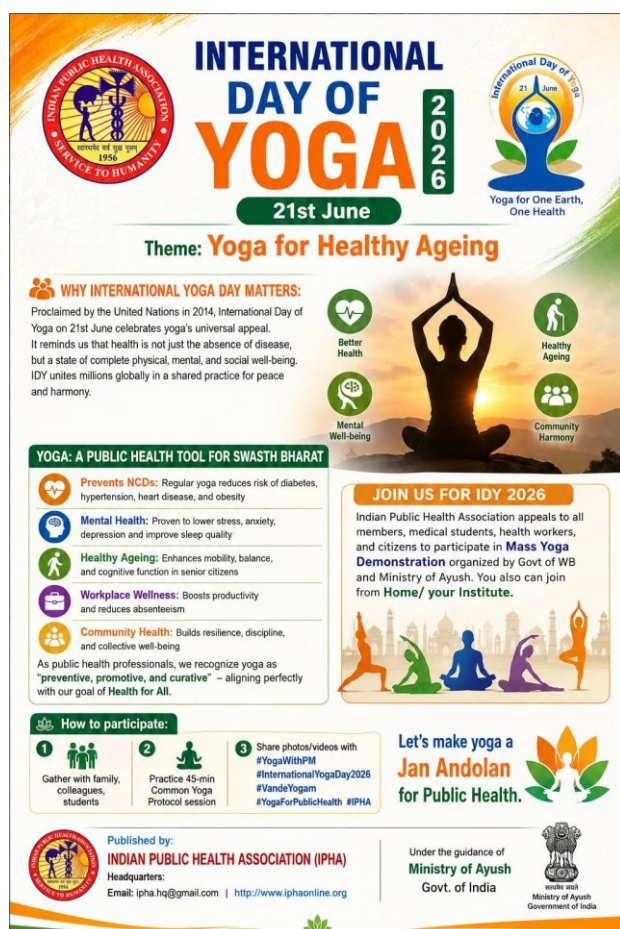
The session was officially inaugurated by Dr Swapan Saren, Hon'ble DHS, Govt of WB. Introductory addresses were delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra, Secretary General of IPHA, Dr Surajit Ghosh, State President, IPHA WB state Branch, Prof Dr Mausumi Basu, Secretary, IPHA WB state Branch and Dr Tapas Roy, Program Officer, DoH&FW.



The keynote speaker, Dr. Pritam Roy, WHO Coordinator, delivered an informative presentation on the importance of MDA in achieving the elimination of lymphatic filariasis.

The session was coordinated by Dr Rama Bhunia, IPHA CC Member and moderated by Dr. Anirban Dalui, Joint Secretary, IPHA HQ (East). More than 160 participants joined the live online session and actively engaged in the discussion, making the programme a successful platform for strengthening awareness and preparedness among public health professionals.

International Yoga Day - 2026



The Indian Public Health Association (IPHA) West Bengal State Branch, commemoratively observed International Yoga Day – 2026 by organizing a 30-minute offline yoga session on 27th June 2026 at IPHA



Bhaban, Salt Lake. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Banchbo Healing Touch Foundation, with the support of the Asian Yoga Research Institute & VTC, to promote awareness of the importance of yoga and to highlight its potential benefits for healthy ageing and overall well-being.

The programme was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra, Secretary General of

IPHA; Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu, Hony. Secretary of the IPHA West Bengal State Branch; and Dr. Dhires Kumar Chowdhury, Founder Director & CEO of the Banchbo Healing Touch Foundation.



Mr. Swarup Goswami, Regional Coordinator, Healthcare Sector Skill Council - Eastern Region (Skill India) graced the occasion as Hon'ble Guest.



A total of 40 participants from IPHA and the Banchbo Healing Touch Foundation attended the session. Dr. Ujjwal Ghosh, Executive Member, West Bengal Naturopathy and Yoga Council, Govt of West Bengal and Director, Asian Yoga Research Institute and VTC was the trainer. Under the guidance of him, the participants actively performed a series of basic yoga postures, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques.

The session was conducted enthusiastically, and participants appreciated the opportunity to experience the physical and mental health benefits of regular yoga practice.



Activities of IPHA – Andhra Pradesh Branch

Cancer Awareness

On 2nd February 2026, IPHA Andhra participated in Cancer awareness rally conducted by Mahatma Gandhi Cancer Hospital and Research Institute along with members of Indian Public Health Association.

In the meeting Sri. Satya Kumar Yadav Honorable minister for Medical and Health, Sri. Vishnu Kumar Raju MLA North, Sri. Vamsi Krishna Yadav MLA south, Dr. Sandhya Devi Principal Andhra Medical College Dr. Vani Superintendent KGH and Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan President Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch along with members of Indian Public Health Association have participated. Various associations like walkers, various Colleges like Andhra Medical College, GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, NRI Medical College and Gayatri Medical College also have participated.



In the meeting Honorable minister Sri Satya Kumar Yadav have said that government have taken steps for treatment of Cancers by establishing Cancer Institute at Kurnool, Kadapa and radiation oncology unit in King George Hospital Visakhapatnam. He also said that awareness to diagnose at the earliest possible time will improve longevity of life. He also stressed the importance of HPV Vaccination in prevention of Cervical Cancer.

Doctors group have sung a song about prevention of Cancers. The rally was attended by more than 5000 participants.

Anaemia Mukht Bharat

On 20th February 2026 Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch have conducted awareness on Anemia Mukht Bharat at KDPM High School, Peda Waltair. In the program adolescent girls aged between 10 years and 15 years were screened for anemia. The students were



taught about iron rich foods like red meat, liver and sea food. They were explained that if iron rich foods are taken along with citrus fruits the iron absorption will be more. It is also explained that leafy vegetables, jaggery and sesame seeds are also rich in iron content. They were advised not to consume tea or coffee during meals as it interrupts with iron absorption. The children found with anemia were dispensed with hematinic syrups. In the program Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan President Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch along with members of Indian Public Health Association and staff of KDPM High School Peda Waltair participated.

World Obesity Day

On 8th March observed World Obesity Day (4th March) at Urban Health Training Center, Peda Jalaripeta. In the meeting Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan President Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch gave information regarding Obesity.

He also said that factors responsible for Obesity are behavioral and lifestyle factors, diseases like thyroid problems, mental illness or genetic causes. Health consequences of Obesity are Hypertension,

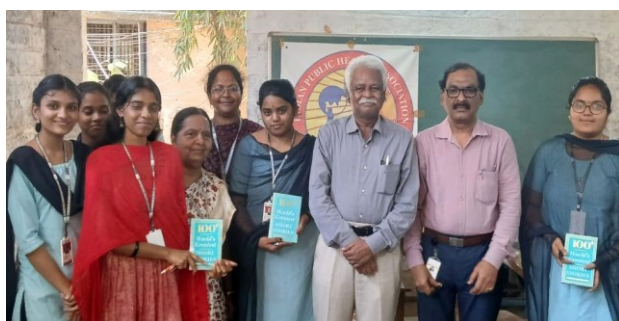


dyslipidemia, Type 2 diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, sleep apnea and Obesity related Asthma. To prevent Obesity, one has to change lifestyle, do more physical activity and exercise and follow appropriate eating pattern and diet. In the meeting Dr.

Ravindra member of IPHA have checked for Obesity in the attendees. In the meeting members of Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch and staff of Urban Health Training Center Peda Jalaripeta have participated.

World TB Day

On the eve of World TB day Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch in association with Alwardas Degree College have conducted essay writing competition to degree 1st year students on the topic "TB can be controlled or eliminated/ eradicated". Three students were selected on basis of merit and prizes were distributed to the winners.



World TB day was observed at Urban Health Training Center, Peda Jalaripeta. In the meeting Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan President Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch gave information about signs and symptoms of TB and said that Tuberculosis can be cured if diagnosed early and proper treatment was taken. In the meeting Dr. Goutham from Respiratory medicine department have participated.

Health Camp

Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch and Jai Bheem sena have conducted medical camp at social welfare hostel, Madhavadhara. In the camp Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan President Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch and Dr. M. P. Jagadeesh Vice President IMA Visakhapatnam branch have conducted health checkup for boarders and distributed medicines to the needy students. The camp was inaugurated by Sri. Mamidi Ravi Siddhartha. The hostel welfare officer Sri. Mamidi Ramaraju have done necessary arrangements. In the camp staff nurse Tulasi and para medical staff have participated. The medicines are sponsored by Dr. M. P. Jagadeesh.



Poshan Pakhwada

In April Poshan Pakhwada was observed at Urban Health Training Center Peda Jalaripeta. In the meeting Anganwadi teachers of Jalaripeta, pregnant and lactating mothers, care takers have attended. In the meeting Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan President Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch have said that pregnant women should take proper diet like foods rich in iron content like ragi flour, dates, sesame seeds, green leavy vegetables and meat.



Dr. Mohan advised that the pregnant women should take at least one egg per day. After delivery the mother should give breastmilk exclusively for 6 months. After that supplementary feeding should be started. The advantages of Breastfeeding are the child will have proper nutrition, easily digestible, helps in development of brain, allergies can be reduced and it helps in increasing immunity. The advantages of Breastfeeding to the mother are recovery will be fast after delivery, can reduce weight early, bonding between mother and child will be more, the risk of diabetes and cancer will be reduced.

World Malaria Day

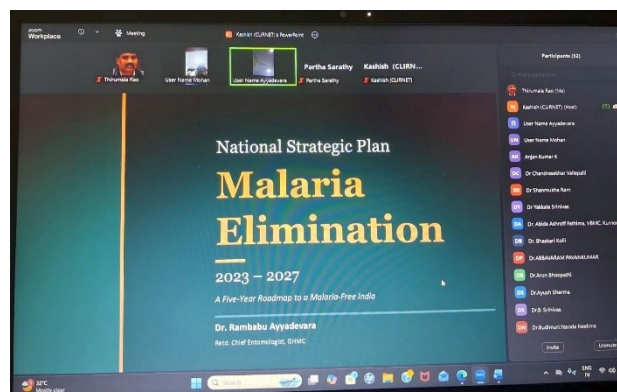
Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch in association with Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation conducted awareness exhibition as a part of World Malaria day at Urban Health Training Center Peda Jalaripeta.



In the exhibition un broken coconut which harboring larvae, un used plastic waste, water stagnation in old tyres which are habitats for Malaria larvae were shown. They were also shown anopheles and aedes larvae. Gambusia fish were also shown. They were educated to follow weekly dry day to cut transmission. The knapsack sprayer, Green kraft heavy duty thermal fogging machine were kept in the exhibition and explained the usage. In the exhibition members of Indian Public Health Association, President Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan, staff of Urban Health

Training Center and staff of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation have participated.

On 25th April evening at 6 pm Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch conducted an online panel discussion on the eve of World Malaria day. The panel discussion was started after opening remarks by Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan President Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch. The session was moderated by Dr. P. J. Srinivas.



In the panel discussion Dr. Cynthia Subhadrada have spoken on Epidemiological aspects of Urban and Tribal Malaria and preventive measures, Dr. A. Rambabu have spoken on Status of National anti-Malaria program and progress on National strategic plan for Malaria elimination by 2023-2027. Dr. Parthasarathy have highlighted clinical approach, diagnosis and management at primary health care level, Dr. G. Krishna Babu have deliberated on theme of World Malaria day: Driven to end- Now we can Now we must. The program was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. B. Tirumala Rao Secretary IPHA AP State branch. The panel discussion was attended by good number of delegates. The technical support for the Online Event was provided by CLIRNET.

World No Tobacco Day

Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch has observed World no tobacco day on 31st May and created awareness on ill effects of tobacco use and advantages of quitting tobacco.

In the meeting Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan President Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch explained the history of World no tobacco

day to the audience. It was explained that people start smoking when they are teenagers and by the influence of friends, parents and cinemas. It was told to them that about 70 hazardous components like nicotine, benzene, aromatic amines, acetaldehyde and polyromantic amines are there in tobacco smoke which have confirmed carcinogenic activity. The audience were taught that 90% of lung cancers can be avoided by controlling tobacco use. The tobacco related deaths are double the deaths of road accidents and under 5 deaths due to diarrhea.



Benefits of not taking tobacco like good health, prevent different types of diseases, better family life, long survival, lower risk of infections and better quality of life were explained.

At the end pledge was made saying that we will never use tobacco and motivate family members and friends to quit tobacco and then by protect the environment.

World Environment Day

Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh branch observed World Environment Day, 5th June, at Urban Health Training Center, Peda Jalaripeta. In the meeting Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan explained importance of World Environment Day.



After the sensitization program Dr. V. Sarada Associate Professor of Community Medicine GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research and senior member of Indian Public Health Association have planted a sapling.



Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch had called upon citizens to prepare and distribute seed balls as a simple yet effective measure to promote environmental conservation and public health. Speaking at a seed ball preparation programme organized at the residence of J V Ratnam, Founder Secretary of Green Climate Team NGO, in MVP Colony, Dr Murali Mohan stressed the importance of using indigenous seeds in the initiative. He said environmental protection is a collective responsibility of humanity and urged people to ecological preservation. Among those present were Action Aid representative I. Krishna Kumari, Green Climate Team coordinators J Rajeswari and J Raviteja, social worker S. Kumar and others.

Pulse Polio

On Sunday 28th June 2026 members of Indian Public Health Association Andhra Pradesh state branch have participated in Pulse Polio Program and immunized about 100 children in Peda Jalaripeta area.



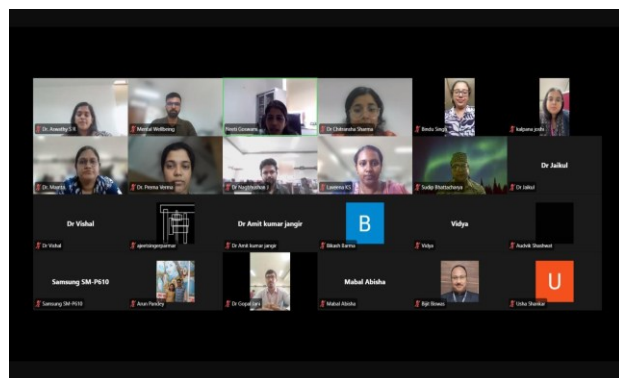
Activities of IPHA – Rajasthan State Branch

World No Tobacco Day

World No Tobacco Day 2026 was observed with the global theme, “Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products.” In alignment with this theme, the Department of Community Medicine and Family Medicine, AIIMS Jodhpur, in collaboration with the Rajasthan State Branch of the Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), organized a webinar on 29 May 2026 to commemorate World No Tobacco Day. The theme of the webinar was “From Awareness to Action: Advancing Towards Tobacco-Free Communities.”



During the session, experts from PGIMER Chandigarh, AIIMS Deoghar, and AIIMS Jodhpur shared experiences and strategies on tobacco control, emphasizing stakeholder engagement, policy advocacy, tobacco-free institutions, and integrated cessation approaches. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Neeti Rustagi with guidance from Prof. Dr. Pankaja Raghav, the webinar was attended by over 80 participants from across the country and concluded with a pledge to promote tobacco-free communities.



During the session, Prof. Dr. Sonu Goel, Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, shared insights on the leadership role of medical institutions in tobacco control. Dr. Sudip Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine, AIIMS Deoghar, presented his experiences in transforming religious places into tobacco-free environments in Jharkhand. Dr. Navratan Suthar, Additional Professor, Department of Psychiatry, AIIMS Jodhpur, highlighted the effectiveness of an integrated approach to tobacco cessation through pharmacological treatment, family involvement, and community support systems. Dr. Ashwathy S. R., Senior Resident, AIIMS Jodhpur, shared field experiences from departmental initiatives aimed at tobacco control in rural school



The webinar received coverage in local print media, thereby extending the reach of its key messages beyond the immediate audience of participants.

Activities of IPHA – Maharashtra State Branch

World Malaria Day

A webinar was conducted by IPHA, Maharashtra State Branch and Department of Community Medicine, Dr. N. Y. Tasgaonkar Institute of Medical Sciences (NYTIMS) on 25th April 2026 in observance of World Malaria Day through the CLIRNET platform. The program aimed to create awareness regarding malaria prevention, control measures, early diagnosis, and effective management, while emphasizing the global commitment towards eliminating malaria and reducing its burden on public health.

**Indian Public Health Association
Maharashtra State Branch**
With
Dr. N. Y. Tasgaonkar Institute of Medical Science
Webinar on

WORLD MALARIA DAY 2026
April 25th 2026, Saturday
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must

Patrons

Dr. N. Y. Tasgaonkar
Chairman, NYTIMS

Dr. Vinayak Sabnis
Dean, NYTIMS

Dr. Prasad Waingankar
President, IPHA, Maharashtra Branch

Dr. Pradeep Pawar
Deputy Dean, NYTIMS

Dr. Ashish Banginwar
Medical Superintendent, NYTIMS

Organising Team

Dr. Deepak S Khismatrao
Professor, Community Medicine, NYTIMS

Dr. Ashima Bhaumik
Associate Professor, Community Medicine, NYTIMS

Speakers

Dr. Pritam Roy
Public Health Specialist, WHO NTD Coordinator & Managing Editor, IJPH

Dr. Karbhari Kharat
Senior Consultant, UNICEF, Maharashtra.

Dr. Pankaj D. Bachhao
Assistant Professor of General Medicine

Dr. Swati Hande
Consulting Paediatrician

Dr. Neelesh Risbud
MD, DCO, DNB, FRCOG (UK) Prof. & HOD Dept of Obst-Gyn.

Dr. Shrinivasa B M
Scientist-D (Medical)

The webinar featured an enriching series of expert talks by distinguished faculty members

and public health professionals. Dr. Prasad Waingankar, President of IPHA Maharashtra, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in malaria elimination. Dr. Vinayak Sabnis, Dean, NYTIMS, delivered his keynote address stressing on the importance of need for eradication of Malaria and other vector borne diseases.

Dr. Pritam Roy spoke on **“India’s Progress in Malaria Elimination”** and discussed the milestones achieved by the country in reducing malaria burden. Dr. Karbhari Kharat delivered an informative session on **“Prevention and Control of Malaria: Integrated Vector Control Measures,”** emphasizing the significance of vector management strategies. Dr. Pankaj D. Bachhao addressed the topic **“Adult Malaria Management,”** focusing on diagnosis and treatment protocols in adult patients. Dr. Swati Hande spoke on **“Treatment of Malaria in Pediatrics: Special Considerations,”** highlighting the challenges and precautions in pediatric malaria care. Dr. Neelesh Risbud discussed the **“Management of Malaria in Pregnancy,”** emphasizing maternal and fetal health concerns associated with malaria infection. Dr. Shrinivasa B. M. presented insights on **“Current Research in India’s Journey Towards Elimination of Malaria,”** discussing recent developments and future prospects in malaria research and public health initiatives.

The session concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Deepak S Khismatrao, who appreciated the efforts of all speakers and participants and reinforced the importance of continued awareness and academic engagement in malaria control. The webinar was highly interactive and informative, providing participants with valuable academic and clinical insights into various aspects of malaria prevention and management. Doctors, Residents, Interns and Medical students actively participated in the session, contributing to meaningful professional discourse.

Special thanks extended to Dr. Vinayak Sabnis, Dean and Dr. Pradeep Pawar, Deputy Dean, NYTIMS for gracing the event with their esteemed presence and encouraging such academic initiatives. IPHA Maharashtra also expressed its sincere gratitude to all the respected speakers, organizers, and participants for their valuable contributions towards the success of the webinar which was attended by more than 100 public health experts.

AI Tools in Medical Research: A Hybrid Workshop

Overview

The Institute of Naval Medicine, INHS Asvini, in collaboration with the Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), Maharashtra State Branch, successfully hosted a half-day AI-augmented hands-on workshop titled **"AI Tools in Medical Research"** on 26 April 2026. The



workshop was held at Atreya, INHS Asvini, from 0900h to 1200h and attracted a combined participation of over 180 researchers — 20 attending in person and 164 joining online — including specialists from Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Radiology, Orthopedics, and Pediatrics.

Facilitators

The workshop was co-facilitated by Surg Cmde (Dr) Sougat Ray, Institute of Naval Medicine, and Maj (Retd) Dr Ashlesha Tawade-Kelkar, Associate Professor in Community Medicine, Strategic Consultant in Digital Health at CHAKRA, Nashik. Both facilitators brought complementary expertise in clinical research methodology, digital health, and AI applications to the programme.



Programme Design and Learning Objectives

The workshop was conceptualized as an end-to-end immersion in AI-assisted clinical

research methodology, designed to span the complete research pipeline — from question formulation to manuscript submission. It was structured around four thematic modules:

- ✚ Research Question Formulation using PICO/PECOT frameworks
- ✚ Study Design and Protocol Development
- ✚ Statistical Analysis with AI-assisted tools
- ✚ Literature Search and Academic Writing

The programme directly addressed a widely acknowledged gap in how clinicians and postgraduate students engage with modern AI tools — emphasizing methodological rigour and ethical, responsible use alongside practical skill-building.

Key Learning Outcomes

Participants were equipped to:

- ✚ Use AI tools for systematic literature search and evidence synthesis
- ✚ Apply AI-assisted biostatistics and data interpretation
- ✚ Leverage AI for research manuscript and scientific writing
- ✚ Understand ethical, responsible, and safe use of AI in medical research

Participation and Reach

Total Participants were 184. Faculty and Postgraduate Students in clinical and health sciences, Internal Medicine, OBG, Radiology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics. Participation Certificates Issued to all attendees.

Significance

The workshop exemplified a successful model of inter-institutional collaboration between the armed forces medical establishment and a national public health body. By combining the academic strength of IPHA with the operational research culture of the Indian Navy, the programme bridged an important gap in AI literacy for the medical research community. The hybrid format ensured broad geographic reach, with participants joining from multiple centres across India.



MHIAPSMIPHACON 2026: 27th Joint State Conference

The Department of Community Medicine, Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai successfully organized the 27th Joint Maharashtra State Conference of the Indian Association of Preventive & Social Medicine (IAPSM) Maharashtra Chapter and Indian Public Health Association (IPHA) Maharashtra Branch - MHIAPSMIPHACON 2026 on 6th and 7th February 2026, with a pre-conference workshop on 5th February 2026.



The theme of the Joint conference was **“Universal Health Care: Bridging Gaps in Rural and Urban Health,”** focusing on identifying and addressing gaps in healthcare delivery within rural and urban areas, aiming to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India. UHC means that all people can access the health services they need- preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care, without facing financial hardship. It is not only about building hospitals or providing insurance. It is about creating a health system that is fair, inclusive, affordable, accessible and responsive to the need so that all people are involved.

The conference was organized as a part of the Centenary Year Celebration of Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, adding prestige and historical importance to the event. Dr. Sangeeta Ravat, Dean of Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital served as the Patron of the conference. The organizing committee was headed by Dr. Vijaykumar S. Singh, Professor & Head of Dept. of Community Medicine who served as the Organizing Chairperson and Dr. Yuvaraj B Chavan served as the Organizing Secretary.

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP

A pre-conference workshop titled **“AI in Medical Research”** was organized on 5th February. The session titled “Introduction to AI in Medical Research” delivered by Dr. Amit Bhondve. The session on “Effective literature review using AI tools” was conducted by Dr. Ashlesha Tawde.

PATHNATYA SPARDHA

The Pathnatya Spardha (Street play competition) by IPHA Maharashtra branch was conducted on 5th February 2026, wherein a total of 6 teams participated from various medical institutes in Mumbai.



This competition helps enhance communication, leadership, and teamwork. The teams had prepared the Pathnatya on various themes like deaddiction, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, Hurdles in immunization, breastfeeding, adolescent health, geriatric health, women empowerment, etc.

The 1st prize was shared by MGM Medical College, Kamothe, who presented a Pathnatya on Healthy Ageing, and School of Nursing, KEM Hospital, who presented a Pathnatya on Deaddiction. The runner-up was the team from the School of Nursing, Sion hospital with topic of breastfeeding.

Day 01: 06 February 2026

The day 1 commenced with the Padmashri Dr. D.N. Pai Memorial Oration,



delivered by Dr. Muralidhar Tambe under the chairpersonship of Dr. Harshal Pandve, with co-chairpersons Dr. Dipak Patil and Dr. Roshni Miranda. The oration focused on assessing unmet needs for assistive technologies using a digital rapid Assistive Technology Assessment (rATA) tool among the general population. The speaker emphasized inclusivity within public

health and highlighted the importance of technology-driven assessment approaches for identifying disabilities, functional limitations, and access gaps.

The second session, titled Pathways to Cervical Cancer Elimination, was delivered by Dr. Rajesh Dikshit and Dr. Gauravi Mishra, chaired by Dr. Y.B. Chavan, with co-chairpersons Dr. Madhavi Mankar and Dr. Yogita Bavaskar.

The Padma Bhushan Dr. Banoo Jehangir Coyaji Oration, delivered by Dr. Jayashree



Gothankar and chaired by Dr. Prasad Waingankar with co-chairpersons Dr. Abhiram Kasbe and Dr. Padmavathi Dyavarasetty, addressed the mapping of COPD and asthma within the NCD control program of India. The speaker discussed epidemiological trends, environmental determinants, and challenges related to early diagnosis and management.

The quarterly issue of IPHA MH Newsletter was released by past presidents of IPHA Maharashtra, Dr Muralidhar Tambe & Dr. Gajanan Velhal.



INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The Inaugural was conducted with academic solemnity and institutional dignity. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. Sharad Ughade, Deputy Municipal Commissioner. The Guests of Honor included Dr. Shashank Dalvi, Vice Chancellor of MGM University; Dr. Nitin Ambadekar, Director of Health Services; and Dr. Shailesh Mohite, Director of Medical Education and Major Hospitals. Their presence underscored the collaborative interface between academia, administration, and public health governance. The inaugural function was graced by Dr. Sangeeta Rawat, Dean; Dr. Vijaykumar Singh, Head of the Department and Organizing

Chairperson; Dr. Harish Pathak, Academic Dean; and Dr. Daksha Shah, Executive Health Officer. Representatives of professional bodies included Dr. Purushottam Giri, President of the IAPSM State Chapter; Dr. Prasad Waingankar, President of the IPHA State Branch; Dr. Harshal Pandve, Secretary of the IAPSM State Chapter; and Dr. Deepak Kismatrao, Secretary of the IPHA. Eminent dignitaries such as Dr. Sachin Mumbare, Dr. Sanjay Zodpey, Dr. R. C. Goyal, Dr. Murlidhar Tambe, Dr. Mohan Desai, and Dr. Upal also



graced the occasion.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Sanjay Zodpey and chaired by Dr. Vijaykumar Singh along with co-chairpersons Dr. R.C. Goyal and Dr. Abhay Saraf. The keynote focused on the future trajectory of Community Medicine in achieving the vision of "Viksit Bharat." Key themes included strengthening academic and



public health integration, leadership development, digital transformation, and strategic policy engagement.

The Dr. D. K. Ramadwar Memorial Oration was delivered by Dr. Hrishikesh Khadilkar who highlighted real-world health system barriers and

discussed the need for coordinated, patient-centered models to improve outcomes and continuity of care.

The HPV Screening and Vaccination Panel Session, moderated by Dr. Sharmila Pimple with panel faculty including Dr. Hitt Sharma and Dr. Muralidhar Tambe. The session on Epidemiology of Obesity – Updates, delivered by Dr. Virendra Patil, Dr. Rohit Barnabas, and Dr. Aditya Phadte.

The Dr. Mrunalini Pathak Memorial Oration, delivered by Dr. Prashant Bagdey and chaired by Dr. Rujuta Hadaye with co-chairpersons Dr. Sujata Pol and Dr. Dharampal Dambare, highlighted climate change as an emerging determinant of health.



The final plenary of Day 1, India's Robust Defense Against Yellow Fever, was delivered by Dr. Vivekanand Giri. It was followed by the Annual General Body Meetings of both the associations and the conference banquet.

Day 02: 7 February 2026

Day 2 began with the Dr. P.S.N. Reddy (IAPSM) Oration, delivered by Dr. Ashish Mishra. The oration presented occupational health as an emerging domain for public health specialists.

This was followed by a session on Recent Advances in Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, delivered by Dr. Ravish H.S., chaired by Dr. Lalit Sankhe with co-chairpersons Dr. Swati Deshpande and Dr. Sandeep Mishra.



The Thalassemia @100th Year session was delivered by Dr. Ratna Sharma. Session on Metadichol – Connecting Ancient Wisdom to Modern Science, delivered by Dr. Raghavan.

A panel discussion titled From Act to Implementation: MTP, PCPNDT, ART and Surrogacy Act featured panelists Dr. Vijay Kandewad, Dr. Daksha Shah, Dr. Padmaja

Samant, Dr. Purnima Satoskar, and Dr. Nitin Chaubal. The session was moderated by Dr. Vaishali Chandanshive, chaired by Dr. Geeta Pardeshi, with Dr. Rakesh Waghmare as the co-chairperson. The panel examined legal frameworks, ethical considerations, and implementation challenges related to reproductive health legislation, emphasizing compliance & effective regulatory enforcement.

A panel discussion on Addressing Non-Communicable Diseases in Urban Health featured panelists Ms. Videhi Klazunkar, Dr. Bhargav Gaikwad, Dr. Daksha Shah, Dr. Nitin Ambadekar, Dr. Vijayakumar Singh, Dr. Anagha Palekar, Dr. Shailendra Hegde, and Dr. Neeta Rao. The session was moderated by Dr. Vaishali Chandanshive, chaired by Dr. J. V. Dixit, with Dr. Deepali Kadam and Dr. Priya Kulkarni serving as co-chairpersons. The discussion focused on governance models addressing urban NCD challenges, including regulatory levers in food systems, financing innovations, and multisectoral partnerships aimed at scalable interventions.

A session on Veterinary Innovations in One Health: Diagnostics, Technology and Policy; One Health & Disease Prevention – Current Global Scenario; and One Health Perspective in Preventive and Social Medicine featured Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. P. R. Venkatesh, PVSM, SM; Dr. Uday Kakroo; and Dr. Smita Chavan as speakers.

The session on Occupational Health as Preventive Medicine in Action, delivered by Dr. Ashish Mishra, Dr. Amruta Desai, and Dr. Neetika Chauhan, chaired by Dr. Harshad Thakur with co-chairpersons Dr. Subita Patil and Dr. Chaitali Borgaonkar, highlighted workplace wellness models and preventive strategies for reducing NCD risk among working populations.

A session on National Response for Ending AIDS Epidemic by 2030 – Challenges and Way Forward featured Dr. Shrikala Acharya as the speaker. The session was chaired by Dr. Mridula Solanki, with Dr. Ashlesha Tawade and Dr. Padmaja Kanchi serving as co-chairpersons.

In the session titled Childhood NCDs – The Next Frontier, speakers Dr. Akanksha Jambusaria, Dr. Simin Irani, Dr. Ravindra Bagal, and Dr. Aakash Bang, under the chairpersonship of Dr. Shrikala Acharya and co-chairpersons Dr. Pallavi Shelke and Dr. Aftab Siddiqui, emphasized early-life determinants of chronic disease and highlighted pediatric preventive interventions and policy innovations.

Session The First 1,000 Days and Beyond, delivered by Dr. Abhishek Raut and Dr. Mridula Phadke & chaired by Dr. Sachin Mumbare with co-chairpersons Mr. Pratap & Dr. Deepika focused on maternal nutrition, developmental programming, and early-life interventions.

(Continued on Page 23.....)

14th IPHA Gujarat Conference - IPHAGSBCON

Theme of the Conference:

Towards Healthy Beginnings & Hopeful Futures

Category:

Conclave on Public Health

Date:

28/11/2025

Venue:

Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPHG) Gandhinagar

Invited speaker(s)/ Expert(s): 17

Total no. of participants: 434

Credit Points: 2 (Gujarat Medical Council)

The inaugural ceremony marked the formal commencement of the event with distinguished leaders from national and state public health institutions gracing the occasion. The session set an inspiring tone for the day, emphasizing India's growing momentum in public health leadership, system strengthening, and collaborative action. The program began with a warm welcome to all dignitaries. The gathering reflected a convergence of expertise, policy leadership, and academic excellence—symbolizing a collective commitment to advancing public health in India. The traditional lamp-lighting ceremony was conducted to signify wisdom, knowledge, and the beginning of meaningful deliberations. All dignitaries were felicitated as a gesture of respect and appreciation for their contributions



to the field of public health.

Dr. Deepak B. Saxena, Director, IIPHG inaugurated the academic proceedings by highlighting IIPHG's vision to strengthen public health capacity and drive evidence-based decision-making across India. He emphasized the role of interdisciplinary training and research in shaping the next generation of public health professionals. Patron, IIPHG - Dr. Nitin Sumant Shah shared insights on strengthening academic excellence and nurturing public health professionals through platforms like ACIES. Prof. Sanjay Zodpey (Guest of Honor) President, Public Health Foundation of India

(PHFI) addressed the audience with insights on India's emerging public health priorities and the need for competency-driven education. He underscored the importance of partnerships between academia, government, and global health actors.



Dr. Sanghmitra Ghosh (Chief Guest) National President, Indian Public Health Association (IPHA)

emphasized the critical role of professional bodies like IPHA in advocating for stronger systems, ethical practice, and community-responsive interventions. She encouraged students to take leadership roles in shaping the future of health governance. Dr. P.S. Ganguly President, IPHA-GSB & Director, PIPH shared his perspectives on strengthening state-level public health institutions, capacity building, and the value of public health networks like IPHA-GSB in driving collective action. Dr. Anish Sinha Registrar, IIPHG concluded the inaugural address series with reflections on academic excellence, the role of structured training, and IIPHG's commitment to nurturing public health leaders who can influence policy and practice.

The Oration Session was one of the most anticipated events of the day, featuring a profound and inspiring address by one of India's foremost public health leaders, Dr. Dileep V. Mavlankar.

The session beautifully captured his extraordinary journey to his remarkable contributions that shaped public health research, practice, and institutions in India.

Plenary session–Role of Public Health Professionals in Achieving SDGs focused on the vital contribution of public health professionals toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With expert speakers covering maternal



health, NCDs, RMNCHA, nutrition, and health system strengthening, the session highlighted the interconnected nature of public health and global development targets. Session was chaired by Dr. Sanghmitra Ghosh, National President, IPHA & Dr. P. S. Ganguly, President IPHA-GSB. The



speakers were Dr. Vasuki Venugopal OSD, SHSRC (Role of Maternal Health in Achieving SDGs)

Dr. Bhavesh Modi, Director, NIOH & Vice President, IPHA-GSB (Role of NCDs in Achieving SDGs), Dr. Narayan Gaonkar, Health Specialist, UNICEF Gujarat (Role of RMNCHA in Achieving SDGs), Dr. Harsh Bakshi Team Lead, SHSRC (Role of Health System Strengthening in Achieving SDGs) Dr. Sheetal Chhaya Professor, Dept. of Nutrition & Dietetics, Parul University (Role of Nutrition in Achieving SDGs)

Next Plenary Session, Advancing Integrated Disease Surveillance for a Safer Tomorrow, Supported by World Bank was chaired by Dr Nidhi Sood, Prof & Head, Dept of Microbiology, GMERS Sola & Dr JM Katira, Deputy Director, Epidemic, GoG. The



speakers were Dr Fenil Patel, Medical Officer, Class 1 (Urban Family Welfare Center), Dr Guru Rajesh Jammy,

Senior Health Specialist, World Bank, Dr Dinesh Rathod, Lab Director, Greencross Genetic Lab Pvt. Ltd, Dr Masum Bhavsar, Consultant Pathologist, KD Hospital, Ahmedabad. The topics covered were Global Scenario of Integrated Disease Surveillance: Perspectives from developmental partners, Local innovations in Integrated Disease Surveillance: Learnings from Surat, LMIS and disease notification: Perspectives from Private Diagnostic Labs, HMIS and disease notification: Perspectives from Private Hospital.

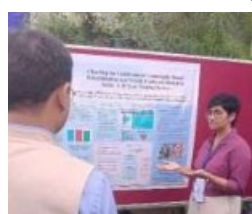


The interactive session titled “Champions from the Field” moderated by Dr. Harsh Shah brought together eminent public health leaders who shared rich insights drawn from decades of experience in governance, health systems strengthening, digital innovation, and global health challenges. The session was highly engaging, allowing students and participants to interact directly with senior experts shaping India’s health landscape.

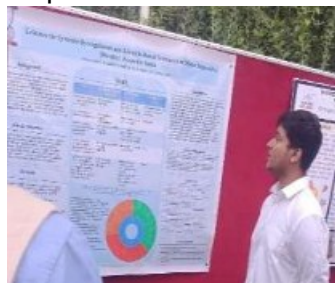
Dr. J.M. Katira Dr. Katira emphasized the importance of a bottom-up approach in public health decision- making, especially during pandemics. Dr. Meeta Parikh stressed the value of a multidisciplinary approach, particularly the importance of collaborating with professionals beyond the health sector—such as architects and builders—to develop stronger healthcare infrastructure. Dr. Raj Sutraiya focused on the expanding role of Information Technology in public health, especially within tribal health systems. Dr. G.B. Gadhvi encouraged the audience to adopt personalized and innovative solutions, advocating for approaches tailored to specific population needs rather than one-size-fits-all models. Dr. Mahaveer Golecha highlighted a pressing global health challenge—chronic lack of funding. He discussed how major funding flows are heavily concentrated and often controlled by a few global powers, particularly the U.S., contributing to geopolitical tensions and imbalances in global cooperation.

Poster Presentation Judges were Dr. Somen Saha and Dr. Apurva Pandya. The Poster Presentation Competition showcased diverse research themes in public health, digital health, climate health, rehabilitation systems, and health systems strengthening.

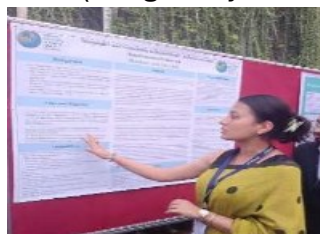
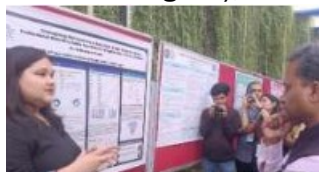
Eight presenters displayed their academic and field-based work, engaging with judges and audience members, and demonstrating clarity, analytical rigour, and innovative thinking viz. Ayush Ashok (Facility-level Implementation Assessment of ABDM in Urban Public Health Facilities: Evidence from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh), Shreya Singh (Charting them Landscape of Rehabilitation and Family- Centered Models in India: A 10-Year Scoping Review), Pratham Sharma



(Evidence for Systemic Dysregulation and Lifestyle-Based Treatment in Major Depressive Disorder: A Case for India), Pauravi Mehta (Barriers and Enablers to Digital Inclusion Among ASHAs in Low-Resource Settings: A Qualitative Study in Palghar), Dr.



Subhashree Panda (Reimagining RCH Systems in India from Global Evidence: What a Professional Midwifery Cadre Can Deliver – A Scoping Review), Khushboo Joshi & Anay Naik (Marginality and Vulnerability in Digital Health: India's Personal Data Protection Framework), Sanket Kumar (Climate Health Vulnerability Index), Dr. Eyazhini R. (Not So Cool – A Content Analysis of Social Media on Cool Lip)



The competition successfully highlighted emerging research directions and practical field insights across diverse domains of public health. The presenters demonstrated strong analytical skills, creativity, and commitment to improving health systems, digital governance, and community health outcomes.

Quiz Final Round: The final round of the Road Safety Quiz was conducted using Kahoot as the interactive platform, enabling real-time participation, instant scoring, and an engaging learning environment. Four finalist teams competed in the grand finale: i.e. MPH Junior Batch, MPH Senior Batch, MHA Junior Batch, MHA Senior Batch. Each team consisted of two participants. The quiz comprised two competitive rounds, each designed to test quick thinking, conceptual clarity, and practical



understanding of road safety rules. The 1st Position was one by Dr. Sanjeev Dangi and Dr. Rukhsar Qureshi, MPH Senior Batch. On 2nd & 3rd Position were MHA Junior Batch & MPH Junior Batch respectively. The session concluded with enthusiastic participation, reinforcing key principles of road safety in an engaging, competitive format.



MHIAPSMIPHACON 2026

(.....Continued from Page 20)

The Padmashree Dr. Suhaschandra V. Mapuskar Oration, delivered by Dr. Karbhari Kharat and chaired by Dr. Varsha Vaidya with co-chairpersons Dr. Yasmin Kazi and Dr. Prasad



Dhikale. Topic was Zero Dose Implementation Plan (ZIP), highlighting strategies to improve immunization equity by identifying missed populations and strengthening outreach systems.

ORAL & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

In total, the conference featured 202 scientific presentations, comprising 159 oral presentations and 43 poster presentations across various themes. Prize announcements were done during the valedictory.



Activities of IPHA – Tamil Nadu State Branch

CME on Immunization

TAGORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
(Affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University)
Vandalur - Kelambakkam Road, Rathnamangalam, Chennai - 600127.

DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS & COMMUNITY MEDICINE
Cordially Invites to the

CME ON "PROTECTING TOMORROW – THE SCIENCE BEHIND CHILDHOOD VACCINATION"

Date : 18th March -2026
Time : 9.00 AM To 2.00 PM
Venue : Lecture hall-1 A Third Floor, College block, TMCH.

National Immunization Day

GUEST SPEAKER
Dr. BALAJI CHINNASAMI,
MD (Pediatrics), MRCPCH, MRCP (Edinburgh)
Professor of Pediatrics,
SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Institute.

CHIEF PATRONS
Prof. Dr.M. MALA,
M.A., MPhil, Ph.D.
Chairperson & Managing Trustee,
Tagore Educational Trust
Mr.G. MANIKANDAN,
MBA,
Secretary,
Tagore Educational Trust
Selvi, RAKSHANA
Trustee,
Tagore Educational Trust
CEO - JEC

PATRONS
Prof.Dr.RAVICHANDRAN,
M.D., (Anat.), PGDHS, DABRM
Dean, TMCH
Prof. Dr.S.HABEEB MOHAMMED,
MS, FIAGES FIAS FBS DIP. LAP
Medical Superintendent, TMCH
Prof. Dr. D.H. GOPALAN, M.S., Ph.D., ACME
IQAC Co-ordinator,
Vice Principal, TMCH

ORGANIZING CHAIRPERSON
Dr. Prabakaran J.MBBS, MD(Com. Med), PhD,
Prof & HOD
Department of Community Medicine, TMCH
Dr. Ramya Rajendiran, MD, DCH
Prof & HOD
Department of Paediatrics, TMCH

General Secretary followed by the inauguration with the lamp lighting ceremony by Dean Dr. Ravindran, Vice principal Dr. Gopalan, Medical superintendent Dr. Habeeb Mohammed, Dr. Prabakaran, Dr. Ramya Professor and Head, Department Of Pediatrics, Guest speaker Dr. Balaji Chinnasami Professor, Department of Pediatrics, SRM.



The event begun with pretest Followed by the first session on Immunization schedule by Dr. Ashmitha Rajan, MD, Senior Resident Department Of Community Medicine, TMCH. The session was insightful and commendable. After tea break Dr. Balaji Chinnasami Professor, Department of Pediatrics, SRM delivered his session on The Science Behind Childhood Vaccination. The session was enlightening. The last session on vaccination in special situations was delivered by Dr. Kiruthiga, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, TMCH. The session was commendable. The programme concluded by post-test.

On the occasion of Immunization Day – 2026, The Department of Community medicine in collaboration with the Department of Pediatrics organized a CME – **PROTECTING TOMORROW – THE SCIENCE BEHIND CHILDHOOD VACCINATION** on 18.03.2026 under the aegis of IPHA-Tamil Nadu.



The programme commenced by welcome speech by Dr. Prabakaran Professor and head, Department Of Community Medicine, TMCH & IPHA-TN

World TB DAY

Unmasking Tuberculosis: Break the silence, Stop the spread” organized by Department of Microbiology & IPHA-TN which was held on 24.03.2026 (half day) from 9.00 am



to 1pm (4hrs) at Lecture hall-3 of Tagore Medical College & Hospital, Chennai. Total number of participants were 180.



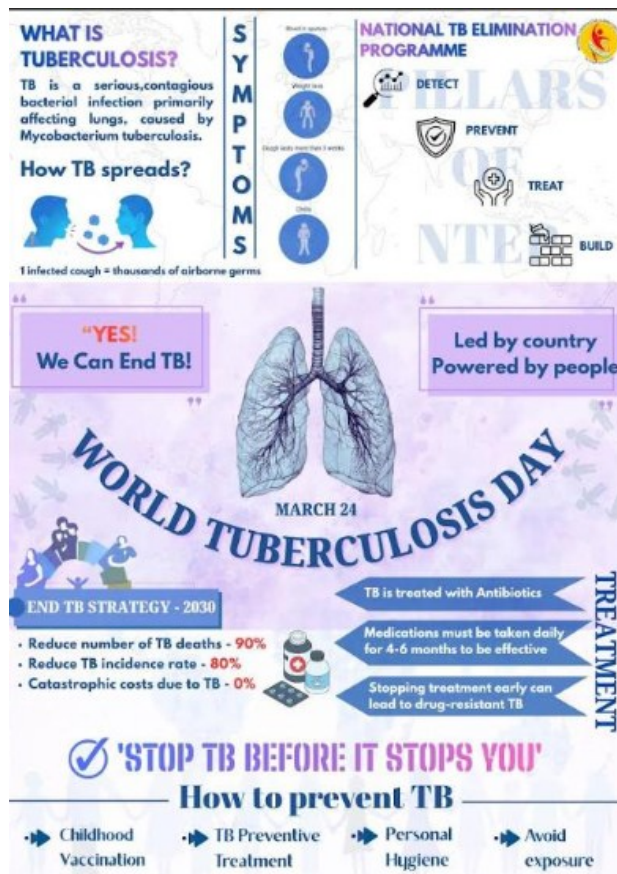
BREATHE BEYOND TB 2026

(World Tuberculosis Day Observation activities)

Conducted by the Department of Community Medicine and Department of Respiratory Medicine, ESIC Medical College

and Hospital, K.K. Nagar, Chennai, under the aegis of Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), in March 2026 as a comprehensive academic and awareness programme focusing on tuberculosis awareness, prevention and treatment. The event was organized in a blended format, comprising both offline and online activities spread over multiple days.

The programme included online events—Essay Writing, E-Poster Design, and Slogan competitions—held on 16 March 2026, and an offline quiz conducted in preliminary and final rounds on 13 and 16 March 2026, respectively. Overall, the event received over 120 registrations, reflecting strong student participation and engagement.



The organizing leadership comprised Dr. Rajnish Shital Borkar (Organizing Chairman), HOD Department of Community Medicine, Dr. Mohammad Waseem Faraz Ansari (Organizing Chairperson), Secretary, IPHA-TN chapter, and Organizing Secretary Dr. Venmathi E, and all faculty members and post-graduate students of Department of Community Medicine. The quiz competition was a major highlight of the event, with 29 teams participating in the preliminary round and seven qualifying for the grand finale. The

final comprised four structured rounds—Pictionary, 90 Seconds, Multiple Choice Questions, and Rapid Fire—assessing clinical knowledge, public health concepts, and recent developments in tuberculosis.

The valedictory function was conducted on 23 March 2026 from 2:00 PM onwards. A guest lecture on “Recent Updates in Programmatic Management of Tuberculosis” was delivered by Dr. Nikkin Thiliban, Medical Consultant (GOI-WHO),



and was moderated by Dr. A. Mahilmaran, Head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine. The Dean, Medical Superintendent, Registrar and Vice Principal of ESIC Medical College and Hospital graced the occasion and distributed prizes to the winners.

Health awareness sessions were conducted on 24 March 2026 by the faculty, postgraduate students, and interns of the Department of Community Medicine at Pallavaram UHTC and Avadi RHTC. In addition, faculty from the Department of Respiratory Medicine, along with BSc Respiratory Technician students, accompanied the Community Medicine team to Kollumedu PHC, where a skit was organized and an awareness session was conducted. The event concluded



successfully, achieving its objectives of academic enrichment, awareness generation, and active student involvement.



IPHA-TN has taken World TB Day Oath.

As an Indian citizen, I solemnly pledge to help tuberculosis patients with love and warmth, without rejecting or alienating them, and to send anyone with symptoms of tuberculosis to the nearest government hospital for treatment. I will fully cooperate in creating a tuberculosis-free India by 2027.



IPHA TN General Secretary had taken pledge with his department staff and students at Tagore Medical College.

TB pledge was taken at AIIMS Madurai at National Academy school, Ramanthapuram by IPHA TN Honourable President on behalf of AIIMS Maduari.



World Health DAY

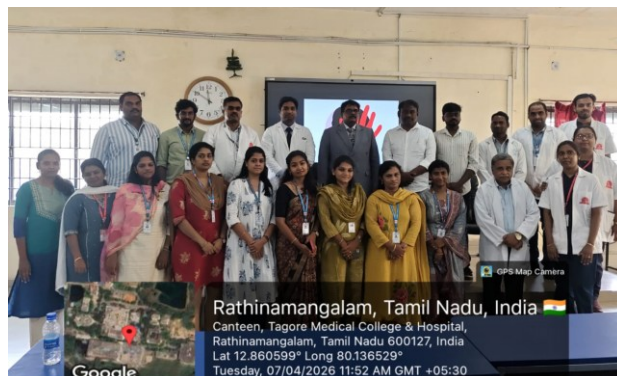
Under the guidance of Dr. J. Prabhakaran, MD, PHD, (HoD Department of Community medicine), on 07 April 2026, the Department of Community Medicine & IPHA-TN organized World Health Day Programme at TMCH, Chennai with Dr. D. N SATHISH KUMAR, MD, District Health Officer, Chengalpattu as the Chief Guest.



Dean and Vice Principal graced the program and Dean talked importance of the day. The Head of the Department Dr. J. Prabhakaran delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Sharmila, and Dr. Anbu explained the theme of this year. Dr. D. Nsathish Kumar addressed the gathering about equity and health.



The winner of elocution competition narrated his speech. The winners of IAPSM Quiz, Elocution competition, IPHA AI image competition were felicitated. An interactive session between the students and the Chief Guest was conducted. Vote of thanks was orated by Dr. Jagdeep Ramesh. The event was organized by Dr. Divya Parvathy (Asst Prof), Dr. Jagdeep Ramesh (Asst Prof).



IPHATNCON26

(.....Continued from Page 40)

The proceedings ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by the organizing Secretary, Dr. Phanindra Dulipala, Professor and Head, Department of



Community Medicine, Katuri Medical College. The conference received wide appreciation for its rich academic content, seamless organization, and its inclusive approach, particularly in engaging postgraduate participants.



Tamil Nadu State Conference – IPHATNCON26



Conference Theme
Reimagining public health for the future: Primary care & Digital innovation

ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE
IPHA-TN-CON26
19th & 20th June 2026
@ Tagore Medical College & Hospital
19th June Workshop
20th June Main conference

Message from Conference Organising Team
Join us for IPHATNCON 2026, the flagship conference of the Indian Public Health Association, hosted by Tagore Medical College and Hospital. Bringing together public health professionals, academicians, researchers, postgraduates, and students from across the various region, this conference promises an enriching platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation in public health. With engaging scientific sessions, keynote lectures, workshops, quiz competitions, paper and poster presentations, and dedicated postgraduate activities, IPHA-TN-CON26 is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and enhance your professional expertise. Experience insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and the vibrant academic atmosphere at Tagore Medical College and Hospital. Explore the brochure for complete conference details and register now to be part of this inspiring academic gathering!

Special segment:
Conference Workshops
Expert Panel Discussion
Post Graduate- Quiz
Oral & Poster Presentations

Organised by
Department of
Community Medicine
Tagore Medical
College and Hospital
In association with
Indian Public Health
Association- TN
Branch

Submit Abstract
by 6th June

Reach us
+91 94428 63728
iphatn26@gmail.com

THINK CREDIT POINTS
TMC CREDIT HOURS AVAILABLE.

Annual State Conference of IPHA Tamil Nadu State Branch was conducted on 19 & 20 June 2026 at Tagore Medical College & Hospital, Chennai.



Conference Workshops: 19 June 26 IPHA-TN-CON26

AI Hands-on workshop SUPRABHAT
First Time in Tamil Nadu
Exclusive AI equipment hands-on

Action for Health(A4H) Operational Research
Planning and conducting Operational Research using real time examples

Dr. Balu P.S.
Director - Center for AI Research E- Health & Prof & Head of Department - Community Medicine, Subbaiah Institute of Medical Sciences - Shivamogga.

Dr. Hemant Deepak Shewade
Scientist E, Division of Health Systems Research, ICMR-NIE, Chennai

Conference Workshop:

AI Hands-on Workshop SUPRABHAT
(Supporting Universal access to healthcare by Providing Rural areas Access and Bridging Healthcare gaps using AI Tools)

Resource person

- Prof. Dr. Balu P.S. HoD, Community Medicine, Subbaiah Institute of Medical Sciences - Shivamogga

Objective

The AI Hands-on Workshop, Suprabhat, was conducted to provide participants with practical exposure to the rapidly evolving applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare and sustainable development.

The workshop brought together healthcare professionals, researchers, academicians and public health practitioners to explore how AI-driven technologies can strengthen healthcare delivery, improve screening and diagnostic services and contribute to evidence-based

decision-making. The resource persons highlighted the importance of implementation research, pilot testing, validation studies, and impact assessment in establishing the effectiveness and feasibility of AI-based interventions. Subsequent sessions focused on the practical applications of AI in clinical assessment and disease screening. Participants were introduced to AI-enabled tools for cardiac assessment that support early risk identification and clinical decision-making.



Demonstrations were also conducted on AI-powered solutions for breast health screening, eye and ear screening, diabetic foot assessment, lung health evaluation, and oral health screening. These technologies showcased the potential of AI to enhance early detection, improve diagnostic accuracy, and expand access to quality healthcare services, particularly at the primary healthcare level. The concluding session explored the role of AI in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants gained insights into how AI can be leveraged for health system strengthening, disease surveillance, resource optimization, and evidence-based planning to improve population health outcomes.

Operational Research (OR)

Resource persons:

- Dr P Manickam, Scientist F and Head, Division of Health Systems Research.
- Dr Hemant D Shewade, Scientist E, Division of Health Systems Research.
- Mr. A Jeyakumar, Technical Officer-C, Division of ICMR School of Public Health.

Objective

The workshop aimed to provide participants with an understanding of the concepts and applications of Operational Research in

public health and to enhance their skills in formulating research questions and translating research findings into policy and practice. It also sought to promote evidence-based decision-making and strengthen research capacity among public health professionals.

Following registration and inauguration, the first session on “Operational Research – What, Why and How?” was conducted by the faculty from ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE), Chennai. The session introduced participants to the concept, scope, and importance of operational research in strengthening health systems and improving programme implementation. The next session on “Translating Operational Research into Policy and Practice” highlighted the importance of converting research findings into evidence-based interventions and policies. The faculty emphasized the role of operational research in improving programme performance and bridging the gap between research and practice. This was followed by a session on



“Example of a Statewide Operational Research Project from Tamil Nadu (#TNKET)”, which illustrated the planning, implementation, and outcomes of a successful operational research initiative. In the afternoon, a session on “Research Question, Aim and Objectives” focused on the essential characteristics of a good research question and the formulation of clear and measurable aims and objectives. Subsequently, interactive group work sessions on formulating operational research questions were facilitated by Dr. Hemant D. Shewade and Mr. A. Jeyakumar. Participants worked collaboratively to identify public health problems and develop research questions based on real-world scenarios. The groups presented their proposed research questions and received

valuable feedback from the faculty regarding clarity, feasibility, and applicability. The workshop concluded with a feedback session and closing remarks.

CHIEF GUEST		GUEST OF HONOR		SPECIAL GUEST	
 DR. SANGHAMITRA GHOSH PRESIDENT, IPHA		 PROF. DR. J. KAUSHIK MITRA SECRETARY GENERAL, IPHA		 DR. SURAJIT GHOSH PRESIDENT, IPHA-W STATE BRANCH	
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS: 26.JUNE.26					
09:00AM - 09:30AM PLENARY SESSION - 1	09:30AM - 10:00AM PLENARY SESSION - 2	10:00AM - 10:45AM	10:45AM - 11:00AM		
 DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	 DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	CONFERENCE INAUGURATION		TEA BREAK	
11:00AM-11:30AM PLENARY SESSION - 3	11:30AM-12:00PM PLENARY SESSION - 4	12:00PM - 12:30PM PLENARY SESSION - 5	12:30PM - 1:00PM PLENARY SESSION - 6		
 DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	 DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	POPULATION AGING AND ITS FAMILIAR CHALLENGES AND OUTLOOKS DR. K. SUDARSHINI DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE, IMAH		IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATION, NETWORKING PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT IN INDIA DR. SUDARSHINI SUDARSHAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE, GOVT VEDLINE PG	
01:45AM - 2:30PM PAPER-POSTER PRESENTATION	02:30PM - 03:00PM	03:00PM - 03:30PM	03:30PM - 04:00PM		
01:45AM - 2:30PM DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	PANEL DISCUSSION- ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN AMBITION AND ACTION		PG QUIZ		
04:00PM - 04:30PM PLENARY SESSION - 7	 DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	 DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	 DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	 DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA	04:00PM - 04:30PM VALUETOOL
DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA					
DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA					
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DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA					
DR. S. VANDANA CHIEF, KARNATAKA CORPORATION, GOVT. OF KARNATAKA					

Plenary Session 1: Implementation is the Intervention – Rethinking Public Health Impact in India-Dr. Sudharshini Subramanian

This session emphasizes that effective implementation is the cornerstone of impactful public health practice. While policies and programs are essential, their success ultimately depends on how well they are executed at the grassroots level. The session was moderated by two chairpersons Prof. Dr. Selvaraj and Dr. Vishalini.

Plenary Session 2: How We Tried and Could Prevent Millions of Lives in India? -Dr. Ganesh Kumar. P

This session explores India's journey in reducing mortality through large-scale



public health interventions. It reflects on successful strategies, including immunization programs, maternal and child health initiatives, and disease control measures that have saved millions of lives. The session was moderated by two chairperson Dr. Kokila and Dr. Ezhilvannan.

Inauguration ceremony:

The Inaugural Ceremony of the Indian Public Health Association Tamil Nadu Conference 2026 was conducted with great dignity and enthusiasm at Tagore Medical College and Hospital under the guidance of

the chairman Prof Dr. Mala, The secretary Mr. Manikandan, The trustee, Ms. Rakshana.

The ceremony began with the assembling of dignitaries on the dais, followed by the Tamil Thai Vazhthu, invoking cultural pride. The traditional kuthuvilakku (lamp lighting) was performed by the Chief Guest Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, Guest of Honor Prof. Dr. Kaushik Mitra, Special Guest Dr. Surajit Ghosh, Joint secretary Dr. Anirban Dauli, Dr. Johnson Cherian Tamil Nadu state IPHA president along with institutional distinguished persons including the Dean Prof. Dr. Ravichandran, Prof Vice Principal Dr. Gopalan H, Medical Superintendent Dr. T. Ravichandran, and Prof. Dr. Prabakaran J. Head of the Department of Community Medicine.



The Welcome Address by Dr. J. Prabhakaran highlighted the significance of the conference theme, “Reimagining Public Health for the Future: Strengthening Primary Care and Digital Innovation.” This was followed by the felicitation of dignitaries by the Dean and Chairperson. The inaugural addresses by the Dean, Vice Principal,



Medical Superintendent, and the Chief Guest emphasized strengthening primary care and embracing digital innovation. Special addresses were delivered by the Guest of Honor, Special Guest, and Joint Secretary Dr. Anirban Dalui. The ceremony also featured the release of the conference souvenir and presentation of the Award of Excellence in Public Health was awarded to Dr. Surendiren, the World Health Organization consultant for his dedication and commitment towards public health especially for the intensive coverage of

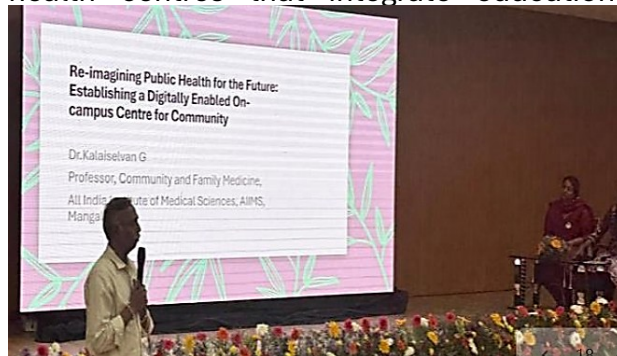
vaccination across the community. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Johnson Cherian, marking a graceful and inspiring beginning to the conference.

Plenary Session 3: Lifestyle Medicine – The Evidence-Based Foundation for Healthy Living - Dr. Nisha B.

This session focuses on lifestyle medicine as a powerful, evidence-based approach to preventing and managing non-communicable diseases. It highlights the role of nutrition, physical activity, stress management, sleep, and behavioral changes in promoting overall health. The session was moderated by two chairperson Dr. Sindhuri and Dr. Prathyusha kadiyala.

Plenary Session 4: Re-imagining Public Health for the Future – Digitally Enabled Community Centres-Dr. G. Kalaiselvan

This session discusses the transformative role of digital technology in strengthening public health systems. It highlights the concept of establishing digitally enabled on-campus community health centres that integrate education,



research, and service delivery. The focus is on improving accessibility, efficiency, and real-time data utilization for better decision-making. The session was moderated by two chairpersons Dr. Shymala and Dr. Vanmathi.

Plenary Session 5: Population Ageing – Are We Prepared? Challenges and Solutions-Dr. Logaraj M.



This session addresses the growing challenge of population ageing and its implications for healthcare systems. It explores the increasing burden of chronic diseases, dependency, and the need for geriatric care services. The session was moderated by two chairpersons Dr. Prabakaran J. and Dr. Rathibala A.

Panel Discussion: One World, One Health – Bridging the Gap Between Ambition and Action:

Panelist: Dr. Johnson Cherian, Dr. Arun Murugan. S, Dr. Rajesh. J, Dr. Swetha. N. B
Moderated by Dr. Monisha Chandran

This panel discussion explores the One Health approach, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. Experts will deliberate on the challenges in translating this concept into practical action, including policy integration, intersectoral collaboration, and



resource allocation. The discussion aims to identify feasible solutions to bridge gaps between vision and implementation. It emphasizes the importance of a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to address global health threats such as pandemics, zoonotic diseases, and climate change. The session was moderated by two chairpersons Dr. Hariharan Suresh and Dr. Kirubakaran.

Oral and poster presentation:

Totally 13 faculties did oral presentation and first prize was won by Dr. Josphine. Among 33 Postgraduates oral and poster presentation the winners were Dr. Oveya from Sree Balaji Medical college, Dr. Kency Venilla from Chengalpattu medical college, Dr. Srinivasan from Saveetha medical college.

Postgraduate Quiz

The quiz fosters a spirit of healthy competition while reinforcing key concepts in community medicine. Total 4 teams participated in Quiz from the following medical colleges - SRM, Saveetha, Tagore

and Chettinad. Total 4 rounds were conducted after the rounds the winners were Dr. Rakshana, Dr. Devashree and Dr. Shakthipriya from SRM Medical College. The runners up prize was bagged by the Tagore medical college team -Dr. Vishalini, Dr. Sharmila, & Dr. Ramya.

Valedictory Function

The valedictory function marked the formal conclusion of the conference, celebrating its success and key outcomes. Prizes to oral and poster presentation and quiz winners were awarded. Felicitation of IPHA Office bearers



was done. As a token of gratitude all the members in Organizing Committee were honored by Dr. Prabakaran, Organizing Secretary and Dr. Selvaraj Organizing chairperson. Post National anthem the conference was concluded.





Indian Public Health Association

Final list of the eligible candidates for the posts of Office Bearers and Central Council Members of IPHA (2026-2028)

Post	No. of post/s	Name of the candidates
President	1	Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh
Vice Presidents	East - 1	Dr. Suman Kanungo
	West - 1	Dr. Muralidhar Tambe
	North - 1	Dr. Najam Khalique
	South - 1	Dr. Pentakota Jagath Srinivas
Secretary General	1	Dr. Kaushik Mitra
Treasurer	1	Dr. Mausumi Basu
Joint Secretaries	HQ - 1	Dr. Sanjib Bandyopadhyay
	East = 1	Dr. Anirban Dalui
	West = 1	Dr. (Maj.) Ashlesha Tawde Kelkar
	North = 1	Dr. Manish Kumar Singh
	South = 1	Dr. M. V. V. Murali Mohan
	Defence = 1	Dr. Arun Kumar Yadav
Central Council Members	HQ = 2	1. Dr. Rama Bhunia
		2. Dr. Arup Chakraborty
	East = 2	1. Dr. Aditi Aikat
		2. Dr. Rajesh De
	West = 2	1. Dr. Parthasarathi Ganguly
		2. Dr. Neeti Rustagi
	North = 2	1. Dr. Kapil Goel
		2. Dr. Dewesh Kumar
	South = 2	1. Dr. Mohammad Waseem Faraz Ansari
		2. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Debnath

- The Election Committee of IPHA did not receive any withdrawal requests from the eligible candidates who applied for the posts of Office Bearers and Central Council Members of IPHA (2026-2028).
- All the eligible candidates mentioned above are unopposed for the various posts of Office Bearers and Central Council Members of IPHA (2026-2028).** Thus, there will be no online voting process for the election.

20.02.2026

Chairperson

Election Committee 2025-26

Indian Public Health Association

Chairperson

IPHA Election Committee (2025-26)

20.02.2026

Convener

Election Committee 2025-26

Indian Public Health Association

Convener

IPHA Election Committee (2025-26)



Indian Public Health Association

Final list of the eligible candidates for the posts of Editorial Board of IJPH (2026-2028)

Post	No. of post/s	Name of the candidates
Editor	1	Dr. Prasad J. Waingankar
Associate Editors	2	Dr. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar
Joint Editors	East = 1	Dr. Abhishek De
	West = 1	Dr. Niraj Pandit
	North = 1	Dr. Pradeep Aggarwal
	South = 1	Dr. Mubashir Angolkar
Assistant Editors	2	1. Dr. Sonali Kar
		2. Dr. Somnath Naskar
Managing Editor	1	Dr. Pritam Roy
Asst. Managing Editor	1	Dr. Rivu Basu
Editorial Board Members	10	1. Dr. Pentapati Siva Santosh Kumar
		2. Dr. Sujata Kapil Murarkar
		3. Dr. Anupam Parashar
		4. Dr. Shaili Vyas
		5. Dr. Khan Amir Maroof
		6. Dr. Tapasvi Puwar
		7. Dr. Chaitanya Gujjarlapudi
		8. Dr. Arnab Sarkar

- The Election Committee of IPHA did not receive any withdrawal requests from the eligible candidates who applied for the posts of Editorial Board of IJPH (2026-2028).
- **All the eligible candidates mentioned above are unopposed for the various posts of Editorial Board of IJPH (2026-2028).** Thus, there will be no online voting process for the election.

20.02.2026
Chairperson
Election Committee 2025-26
Indian Public Health Association

Chairperson
IPHA Election Committee (2025-26)

20.02.2026
Convener
Election Committee 2025-26
Indian Public Health Association

Convener
IPHA Election Committee (2025-26)

70th Annual National Conference of Indian Public Health Association - IPHACON2026



Inauguration Ceremony

Dignitaries at the Inauguration

The inauguration of the 70th Annual National Conference of the Indian Public Health Association (IPHACON2026) was an esteemed gathering, marked by the presence of distinguished leaders in the fields of public health and medical education on 13th March 2026, first day of the conference. The ceremony was honored by the Chief Guest, Dr. T Sai Sudheer, Registrar of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada, whose attendance underscored the significance of this event. Joining him on stage were Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, President of the Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), and Dr. Kaushik Mitra, Secretary General of IPHA, both representing the national leadership of the Association. The Andhra Pradesh State Branch of IPHA was notably represented by Dr. MVV Murali Mohan, President, and Dr. B Thirumala Rao, Secretary, whose participation highlighted the regional importance and collaborative spirit of the conference.



The successful organization of the 70th Annual National Conference of the Indian Public Health Association (IPHACON2026) was made possible through the dedicated efforts of several key individuals. Dr. G Chaitanya, who was the organizing Chairperson of IPHA and holds the

Conference Overview

The 70th Annual National Conference of the Indian Public Health Association (IPHACON2026) marked a significant milestone in the field of public health. This prestigious event was successfully organized by the Andhra Pradesh State Branch of the Indian Public Health Association, in collaboration with the Department of Community Medicine at Katuri Medical College and Hospital from March 12th to March 15th, 2026, at Katuri Medical College and Hospital, Guntur.

The central theme of the conference was **"Equity, Resilience and Integration: Reimagining Public Health for a Sustainable Future."** This theme emphasized the importance of ensuring equal access to health resources for all segments of society, strengthening the capacity of communities and health systems to withstand challenges, and fostering a collaborative approach across sectors to address complex health issues. Through this focus, the conference aimed to inspire innovative strategies and collective action to build a more inclusive and sustainable future for public health.



position of Principal at Katuri Medical College and Hospital, Guntur, provided crucial leadership and oversight, ensuring that all arrangements met the highest standards. Additionally, Dr. D Phanindra, the Organizing



Secretary and Head of the Department of Community Medicine at Katuri Medical College and Hospital, Guntur, was instrumental in managing the operational aspects and facilitating smooth collaboration among the organizing teams. The

ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the dispelling of darkness and the pursuit of knowledge. This was followed by a warm welcome address that set the tone for the event. During the inaugural function, the conference souvenir containing the proceedings was officially released, marking the formal commencement of IPHACON2026.



Scientific Programs

The scientific deliberations at IPHACON2026 extended over three days, offering a diverse and comprehensive platform for learning and knowledge exchange. The program featured keynote addresses by our Organizing Chairperson, Dr. Chaitanya Gujjarlupudi, and plenary sessions delivered by distinguished

public health experts from across India, providing valuable insights into the conference theme. In addition, participants had the opportunity to present their research in free paper sessions and poster presentations, which included contributions from faculty members, postgraduates and undergraduate students. These sessions encouraged academic engagement and highlighted innovative approaches in public health. To further foster active participation among postgraduates, special sessions such as the Public Health Hackathon were organized. An early bird registration drive was also implemented to motivate and facilitate greater involvement in these enriching activities.

12th March 2026

The conference was preceded by pre-conference workshops organized by various reputable associations and experts in the field of public health nationwide. These workshops provided a diverse array of practical sessions for faculty, postgraduate, and undergraduate students, thereby enhancing their research capabilities.

✚ A Multidisciplinary Workshop on Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Approaches in Public Health, Clinical, and Behavioral Sciences:

This workshop is coordinated by Dr. Kalaiselvan G, Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh, along with Dr. Rajeev Aravindakashan, Professor and Head, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh; Dr. Limalemla



Jamir, Associate Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Guwahati; Dr. Mahalakshmy T, Additional Professor, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER), Puducherry; and Dr. Reenaa Mohan, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Sri Manakula Vinayagar Medical College and Hospital, Puducherry.

By the conclusion of this workshop, participants were able to:

- Employ qualitative methodologies (participatory rural appraisal, focus group discussions, in-depth interviews) to understand tobacco use and cessation behaviours.
- Analyze qualitative data using manual techniques and ATLAS.ti software.
- Implement mixed-methods approaches by synthesizing qualitative and quantitative data to enhance tobacco cessation programmes.

Spatial Epidemiology Using R:

This workshop was organized in collaboration with AFMS, Pune. The resource persons included Dr. Gurpreet Singh, Associate Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at AFMC Pune, and Dr. Arun Mitra, Assistant Professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine at AIIMS Bibinagar.



Participants gained knowledge of the basics of R software and its application in epidemiology, particularly for analyzing the geographic distribution and determinants of health outcomes. They learned to assess how factors such as environment, socioeconomic status, and demographics influence disease risk.

Sift, Sort, Synthesize: Workshop on Fundamentals of Systematic Reviews & Meta-Analysis:

Workshop on Systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted in coordination with ICMR-NIRT by Dr. I. Leeberk Raja Scientist-E & Deputy Director, ICMR-NIRT; Dr. S. Vignes



Anand, Scientist-C (Medical), ICMR-NIRT; Dr. Adhin Bhaskar, Scientist – C, Dept. of Statistics, ICMR-NIRT. This workshop introduced participants to the significance of systematic reviews and meta-analyses (SRMA) in evidence-based medicine. It covered the key steps in conducting SRMAs, provided an overview of the process, and helped participants understand and interpret forest plots and meta-analysis results.

13th March 2026

The first day of the conference commenced with the registration of all delegates and was followed by multiple scientific sessions led by pioneers in public health.

SD GAUR AWARD PAPER PRESENTATION

The day started with SD Gaur Award paper presentation which marked an important part of the conference. Dr. Neeti Rustagi, Professor, Department of Community & Family Medicine, AIIMS Jodhpur presented under this category.

Andhra Pradesh Sanjeevani Project: The way forward for Proactive, Continuous, and Connected care through Tata MD DiNC

Dr. Sudha Rani, DMHO, Chittoor District; Dr. Shrikant Kalaskar from Tata MD presented a pilot project initiated in some districts of Andhra Pradesh. They provided an overview of the Digital Nerve Centers (DiNC), which integrate patient medical histories from primary health centres to major hospitals in the Chittoor district. Through



this plenary session, delegates gained knowledge of the progress and use of digitalization in patient care for better disease management and increased public awareness of various diseases.

Dr. BC Dasgupta Memorial Oration 2026 - Dr. CP Mishra

The Dr. BC Dasgupta Memorial Oration 2026 was given by Dr. CP Mishra, former Senior Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and currently



Professor & Head at Heritage Institute of Medical Sciences (HIMS), Varanasi.

✚ **Panel Discussion on Anti-Microbial Resistance - Dr. Sulagna Basu Dr. Debjit Chakraborty Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra Dr. Sanjib Bandyopadhyay Moderator: Prof. (Dr.) Arup Chakraborty Co-moderator: Dr. Anirban Dalui**

An engaging panel discussion on the crucial topic of antimicrobial resistance featuring Dr. Sulagna Basu, Dr. Debjit Chakraborty, Prof.



(Dr.) Kaushik Mitra, and Dr. Sanjib Bandyopadhyay. The session was moderated by Prof. (Dr.) Arup Chakraborty, with Dr. Anirban Dalui as co-moderator. This panel discussion captured the audience's interest by explaining the role of antimicrobial resistance, which has developed due to the improper use of antibiotics, and measures that can be taken to prevent it, ultimately helping to achieve One Health.

✚ **Dixit Lifestyle for weight loss and Diabetes remission - Dr. JV Dixit**



The plenary session on the Dixit Lifestyle for weight loss and Diabetes remission was led by Dr. JV Dixit, MD(PSM), PGDHA, PGDHRM, FISCD, FIAPSM, FIPHA. It allowed delegates to engage with Dr. Dixit regarding the impact of nutritional components on weight loss and the importance of nutrition in managing and preventing non-communicable diseases, especially in controlling glycemic levels in diabetes and achieving remission.

✚ **Colonial Sanitation to Contemporary Solutions: Tracing Public Health's Transformative Journey**

This session was led by Dr Shamima Yasmin, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Medical College Kolkata; Prof (Dr.) Aditi Aikat, Professor and Dean, Student Affairs, Jimsh; Prof (Dr.) Dipta Kanti

Mukhopadhyay, Professor and HOD, College of Medicine and Sagore Dutta Hospital, Kamarhati, Kolkata; Prof (Dr.) Sharmistha Bhattacharjee, Professor, Community Medicine, North Bengal Medical College; and Dr Maumita De, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital.



The session highlighted changes in India's healthcare delivery systems. It mainly focused on the evolution of sanitation from the colonial era to modern times, illustrating a shift from exclusion, segregation, and manual labor to decentralized, inclusive, and technology-driven public health systems.

✚ **Climate Change and Human health: Proposed Actions to Tackle Heat Waves**



Dr. B Thirumala Rao, Associate Professor of the Department of Community Medicine at Rangaraya Medical College, delivered the session on climate change and its impact on human health. The talk highlighted the ongoing effects of global warming on public health and discussed preventive measures to reduce and stop further deterioration.

✚ **DR. DEOKI NANDAN MEMORIAL PUBLIC HEALTH QUIZ 2026 - PRELIMINARY ROUND**

On the first day of the conference, the preliminary round of the Dr. Deoki Nandan Memorial Public Health Quiz 2026 was held in collaboration with Quiz Master Dr. Abhishek De. Following it, four teams advanced to the final.

✚ **ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING & Fellowship awarding ceremony.**

The conference's first day ended with an Annual General Body Meeting chaired by Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, National President of IPHA; Dr. Kaushik Mitra, Secretary General of IPHA; and

Dr. Mausumi Basu, Treasurer of IPHA, along with the executive members of the Indian Public Health Association.



Following the Annual General Body Meeting, Fellowship awards were presented to members across the nation in various categories.



14th March 2026

✚ The Analog Anchor in a Digital Sea: A Human Factors Analysis of Healthcare User Experience and the Path to Hybrid Clinical Workflows

This session was delivered by Dr. Usha Manjunath, Director and Professor at IIHMR, and Dr. Akash, Associate Professor at IIHMR Bangalore. The presentation emphasized the transition of healthcare systems from traditional methodologies to digitalization. Furthermore, it provided insights into the evolution of the health system over the years, culminating in the adoption of hybrid models.

✚ PUBLIC HEALTH HACKATHON - Dr. Y VIJAYA KRISHNA & TEAM

In collaboration with Dr. Vijaya Krishna from the Department of Community Medicine at Sri Pingali Venkaiah Government Medical



College; Dr. Vignesh M at IGMCM Puducherry; Dr. Achyuth, SPV GMC; Dr. B Jyotsna Kiran from GEMS Srikakulam; and Dr. KM Susmitha, SPV GMC, a public health hackathon was held during IPHACON2026. This competition targeted postgraduate students and aimed to foster innovation and creative thinking in programming health events or emergencies.



✚ Dr. K N Rao Memorial Oration 2026

The prestigious Dr. KN Rao Memorial Oration 2026 was delivered by Dr. Subhash R Salunke, Member of the Advisory Board on Health System Development, Ministry of Public Health, Government of Maharashtra.



✚ Understanding Health Inequities in India: Trends, Transitions, and Challenges

This session was delivered by the Health Equity Action Learning (HEAL) Foundation, with Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Former Dean (Academic) & Head of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGIMER, Chandigarh; Senior Consultant, ICMR, New Delhi; Director, HEAL Foundation, Chandigarh; and Adjunct Faculty, University Institute of Public Health Sciences, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak; Dr. Manmeet Kaur, Adjunct Faculty, University Institute of Public Health Sciences,



Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, & Chief

Executive Officer, HEAL Foundation, Chandigarh; Dr. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar, Professor, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, & Coordinator, International School of Public Health, JIPMER, Pondicherry; and Dr. Prashanth NS, Director, Institute of Public Health, Bangalore, as the resource persons. This session highlighted the inequalities that persists still in the community despite of many reforms and the suggestive measures that can be implemented to overcome them to achieve equitable health for all the people.

✦ **Mentorship as a Public Health Intervention: Building People Before Programs**

This was an interesting session in medical education, delivered by Dr. Kirubakaran S, Senior Assistant Professor, Government Omandurar Medical College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Executive



Committee Member, IPHA Tamil Nadu Chapter; and Dr. Sindhuri, Associate Professor, PSP Medical College, Chennai, Joint Secretary, IPHA Tamil Nadu Chapter. This session enlightened the delegates on the importance of a mentorship programme that helps to gain more knowledge about the problems and interventions that can be provided to the public through this.

✦ **Bridging Gap: Implementation Research for Strengthening Mental Health Systems in India**



The plenary session on implementation research to strengthen mental health delivery systems in India was delivered by Dr Neeti Rustagi, Professor, Department of Community & Family Medicine, AIIMS Jodhpur; Dr Ashoo Grower, Scientist G, Head - Delivery Research, ICMR, HQ, New Delhi; Dr Neha Dahiya, Scientist D, ICMR, HQ, New Delhi; and Dr Pulkit Verma, Scientist D, Informatics & Data Centre, ICMR,

HQ, New Delhi. The session helped delegates understand the importance of adapting and piloting policies to improve mental healthcare systems through implementation research, which supports the attainment of holistic health.

✦ **DR. DEOKI NANDAN MEMORIAL PUBLIC HEALTH QUIZ 2026**

The final round of the Dr. Deoki Nandan Memorial Public Health Quiz 2026 took place in the main conference hall. It featured four postgraduate student teams that advanced from the preliminary round, and was carefully organized by Dr. Abhishek De and his team.



15th March 2026

✦ **Dr. JE Park Memorial Oration 2026**

Dr. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar, Professor, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, JIPMER, Puducherry, delivered the prestigious Dr. JE Park Memorial Oration 2026.



✦ **Role of Midwifery in India: Present Status and Way forward**

This plenary session was delivered by IIPH, Gandhinagar, featuring Dr. Veena Iyer, Associate Professor at IIPHG; Dr. Jallavi Panchami, also an Associate Professor at IIPHG; Dr. Manohar Agnani, a former IAS officer and Professor of Public Health at Azim Premji University; Dr. Bhawna Bakshi, Senior Program Officer at JHPIEGO; and Dr. Anchita Patil, Lead of MNCH at the Gates Foundation, along with their team. The discussion primarily centered on challenges in maternal and child healthcare,

particularly the lack of training among midwives. They also explored strategies to address these issues to improve maternal health and reduce the Maternal Mortality Rate.



✚ My Journey as a Public Health Specialist

Dr. Surya Bali, from AIIMS, BHOPAL; shared his journey as a public health specialist.



✚ Preventive Oncology Units as a Model for Integrated Cancer Care: Linking Primary and Tertiary Services to Achieve Equity and Sustainability in Public Health

This plenary session was given by Dr. Suresh Uppirella, WHO-NCD, Andhra Pradesh, who shared his work on the cancer prevention.



The session highlighted the establishment of preventive oncology institutes all over the states that helped in the early diagnosis of cancers at primary healthcare level.

Oral and Poster Presentations

The conference's highlight was the paper presentations by undergraduates, postgraduate students, and faculty.

Scientific Presentations

The conference saw active involvement from delegates representing multiple states of India. Participants comprised faculty members,

postgraduates, and undergraduates, all of whom actively engaged in the diverse scientific sessions throughout the event. Renowned resource persons of national prominence served as speakers and chairpersons, significantly enriching the academic quality of the event.

Recognition of Academic Excellence

The conference honored exceptional academic contributions by presenting awards for the best paper and poster presentations in both postgraduate and faculty categories. This recognition motivated participants to pursue excellence in research and highlighted outstanding achievements within the public health community.



Conclusion

The conference concluded with a dignified valedictory function, marking the successful culmination of the 70th Annual National Conference of the Indian Public Health Association (IPHAACON2026). During this closing ceremony, awards were distributed to the deserving winners, recognizing their outstanding contributions & achievements throughout event.

(Continued on Page 27.....)