

### ICMR-NIN TEAM AT SEHAT INITIATIVE LAUNCH

In a landmark step towards transforming India's agriculture, nutrition, and public health landscape, the SEHAT (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation) initiative was launched in New Delhi. This was jointly led by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The initiative was unveiled by Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri J. P. Nadda, and the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary to GoI, DHR & DG-ICMR, presided the event. Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, along with a team of scientists from the Institute, attended the prestigious occasion, reflecting ICMR-NIN's deep, shared commitment towards fostering healthier diets, sustainable food systems, and improved public health outcomes across India (11<sup>th</sup> May).



## ICMR-NIN AND AIMSR SIGN MoU

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by ICMR-NIN and the Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMSR) at ICMR-NIN (14<sup>th</sup> May).

This strategic institutional partnership is designed to strengthen research ecosystems and advance medical-nutritional science by fostering joint research studies. The collaboration aims to effectively bridge the gap between clinical expertise and public health nutrition. Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, along with a team of scientists from the Institute, was present on the occasion to mark this significant partnership.



## LET'S FIX OUR FOOD (LFOF) FIFTH E-DIALOGUE SERIES

ICMR-NIN organized the fifth e-dialogue series under the LFOF-NULIFE (Let's Fix Our Food)- (Nutrition Literacy and Improvement of Food Environments) initiative. The virtual session deeply explored a critical theme for countrywide cardiovascular health: "Low-Sodium Salt Substitutes in India: Evidence, Health Impact, and Policy Implications."

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, who underscored the immediate public health need to reshape local food choices. Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. SubbaRao M. Gavaravarapu, Scientist-G & Head, NICHE Division, who set the agenda for scaling safe, data-backed salt substitutes across India (18<sup>th</sup> May).

**icmr NIN** **RESOLVE TO SAVE LIVES** **Global Health Advocacy Incubator** **unicef for every child**

**Nutrition Literacy and Improvement of Food Environments (NULIFE) Let's Fix Our Food**

**5th E- Dialogue Series**  
Date: 18 May 2026  
Time: 02:00 pm-04:00 pm IST

**Low-Sodium Salt Substitutes in India: Evidence, Health Impact, and Policy Implications**

**Welcome Address**  
(02.00 to 02.05 pm)  
**Dr. Bharati Kulkarni**  
Director, ICMR- National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad

**Opening Remarks**  
(02.05 to 02.10 pm)  
**Dr. SubbaRao M Gavaravarapu**  
Scientist G & Head, NICHE Division, ICMR-NIN, India

## RECOGNITIONS/PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS/PROGRAMMES

### Dr. BHARATI KULKARNI, Director

- Participated in a virtual meeting regarding National Advisory Committee for effective implementation of Supplementary Nutrition under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Radhika Jha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, *Poshan Abhiyaan* (4<sup>th</sup> May).
- Attended sixth meeting of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for Sixth Round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) (virtual) (6<sup>th</sup> May).
- Participated in the ICMR Senior Management Team (SMT) Meeting chaired by DG-ICMR & Secretary-DHR (13<sup>th</sup> May).
- Participated as a panelist in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Clinical Trial Meet 2026 at ICMR- New Delhi (20<sup>th</sup> May).

### Mr. Ch. RAGHAVENDRA RAO

Completed the ICMR Health Communications Course (IHCC) 2025–2026 and attended the valedictory ceremony held at Leh, Ladakh. As part of the course requirements, he undertook a capstone project on Mpox, which was presented in both oral and poster during the concluding event. The poster presentation was awarded the Second-Best Poster Prize and the award was presented by Shri Jagdish Rajesh, Deputy Director General (Admin), ICMR, New Delhi (21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> May).



### Mr. BHASKER REDDY P

Completed the ICMR Health Communications Course (IHCC) 2025–2026 and attended the valedictory ceremony held at Leh, Ladakh and was honoured to receive two awards: 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Capstone Project and 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Poster Presentation (21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> May).



### Dr. C. S. SURYA GOUD

Delivered a guest lecture at the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), Hyderabad, for Assistant Commandant Probationers and Sub-Inspector trainees of CISF on the topic “Nutrition, Salt Reduction & Healthy Lifestyle Practices.” The session focused on hypertension prevention, healthy dietary habits, hydration, stress management, and the importance of salt reduction in maintaining long-term health and fitness among uniformed personnel. The lecture emphasized the role of preventive health and nutrition awareness in building a healthier and stronger nation -“Suposhith Bharat, Viksit Bharat” (22<sup>nd</sup> May).



### PAPER PUBLISHED/ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

- Barbara Häsler, Naveen Kumar Ramachandrappa, Srinu Rotta, Archana Konapur, Thanammal Ravichandran, Paula Dominguez-Salas, Dorothy Foster, Max Claron, Delia Grace, Vakdevi Validandi, Arshnee Moodley, Linnet Ochieng, Caroline Bosire, Little Flower Augustine, Claire Heffernan, Santosh Kumar Banjara, Bharati Kulkarni; Investigating the bovine milk value chain of Hyderabad, India, with a focus on child stunting. *Philos Trans R Soc Lond B Biol Sci* 14 May 2026; 381 (1950): 20250046.
- Basak S, Hridayanka KSN and Duttaroy AK (2026) Roles of gut metabolites on bone mineralization and remodeling: impact of metabolic dysregulation on the gut-immune-bone axis. *Front. Endocrinol.* 17:1774824. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2026.1774824.
- Basak S, Varma S, Nag S and Duttaroy AK (2026) Transgenerational exposure to plastics-derived endocrine-disrupting bisphenol A and its analogs on male infertility: impact of gut dysbiosis and epigenetic regulation. *Front. Endocrinol.* 17:1799472. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2026.1799472.
- Boga, N.S., Banerjee, A.K., Varma, S. Molangiri, A., Farhana, S., Banjara, S. K., Bagga, N., Duttaroy, A. K. and Basak, S. (2026) Leptin-specific epigenetic modulation of preterm cord blood serves as a candidate biomarker for obesity, *Pediatr Res*, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41390-026-05072-7>.