

DG, ICMR VISITS ICMR-NIN

Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, Department of Health Research & DG, ICMR, along with Ms. Anu Nagar, Addl. Secy., DHR & Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Addl. DG, ICMR, visited ICMR-NIN. They interacted with scientists, reviewed ongoing research, and provided a strategic roadmap and future directions. The DG also inaugurated the Central Instrumentation Facility and the Nutrition Physiology Laboratory at the institute (10th April).



Dr. B. R. AMBEDKAR & Dr. BABU JAGJIVAN RAM JAYANTHI CELEBRATIONS AT ICMR-NIN

ICMR-NIN commemorated the birth anniversaries of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram on 21st April. The programme was presided over by Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, along with Dr. G. Bhanuprakash Reddy, Scientist-G & Head, Biochemistry Division. It was coordinated by Dr. R. Ananthan, Scientist-E, with active participation from students, staff across scientific and administrative fields, and distinguished guests.



Chief Guest and Padma Shri Awardee Dr. K. Thangaraj, CSIR-Bhatnagar Fellow, CCMB, and Guest of Honour Shri D. Chakrapani, IAS (Retd.), shared their profound insights on social justice and inclusive equality. During the programme, prizes were awarded to the winners of the pre-conducted essay and elocution competitions, which were held on the theme "Women Empowerment through Social Justice and Inclusive Equality".



As part of Swachhta Pakhwada- a nationwide, fortnight-long cleanliness campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission aimed at mobilizing all Government of India Ministries and Departments to promote hygiene, waste management, and sustainable sanitation practices. Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, inaugurated the campaign at the institute.

On this occasion, all the staff members administered Swachhta Pledge. To encourage active participation and awareness, a dedicated Swachhta Selfie Booth and a Signature Campaign were also launched. Dr. K. Rajender Rao, Scientist F & Convener, Swachhata Committee co-ordinated the event (1st April).



ICMR-NIN organized Swachhta awareness programme in local schools in the form of a skit on 2nd April. The programme familiarized the students with the importance of cleanliness, handwashing habits, personal hygiene, nutrition and overall health.



As part of Swachhta Pakhwada 2026, staff and students actively participated in a variety of institutional initiatives. These included a departmental cleanliness drive, a seminar on "Preventive Public Health & Community Action", essay writing and drawing competitions, and a campus plogging drive aimed at achieving a plastic-free campus.



FIRE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING AT ICMR-NIN

ICMR-NIN organized a comprehensive Basic Fire Safety Training session for its staff, to enhance workplace safety and emergency preparedness. The programme was coordinated by Mr. G. Mahendra, Maintenance Officer, ICMR-NIN & Dr. M. Maheshwar, Scientist - F & Head, ET Division and Convenor, Fire Safety Committee, ICMR-NIN. Mr. Rama Krishna Reddy, Station Fire Officer, Habsiguda (State Disaster Response and Fire Services Department, Government of Telangana) was invited as the expert speaker. He delivered an insightful talk on fundamental fire prevention protocols and emergency response tactics. NIN Staff received hands-on practical training and live demonstration on the operation of fire extinguishers on a controlled live fire, equipping the institute's community with essential emergency response skills (21st April).



AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILIES

On the occasion of World Health Day 2026, ICMR-NIN scientists Dr. P. Raghavendra, Scientist-C and Dr. C. S. Surya Goud, Scientist-C from the Public Health Nutrition Division conducted an awareness programme on "Understanding Dietary Guidelines for Indians". The event was organized by the Military Hospital, Secunderabad, was tailored for members of the Armed Forces and their families to promote optimal nutrition and health practices (8th April).



RECOGNITIONS/PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS/PROGRAMMES

Dr. BHARATI KULKARNI, Director

- Chaired the monthly meeting to discuss intramural and ignition grant projects funded by ICMR with NIN Scientists (1st April).
- Participated in a training workshop on "GeM Portal and PRAGATI Software" at ICMR-NIN (6th April).
- Participated in the ICMR Senior Management Team (SMT) meeting chaired by DG-ICMR & Secretary-DHR (8th April).
- Participated in a meeting with DG, ICMR along with Additional Secretary, DHR and ADG, ICMR to review Research Priorities, Staff and Finance (10th April).
- Participated in a meeting regarding Shaping the Future of Women's Nutrition, aspirational food Products for Adolescent Girls and Women of Reproductive Age at ICMR-HQRs (16th April).
- Participated as a Distinguished Panellist – SymHealth 2026 on Suposhit Bharat at Symbiosis International Campus, Lavale, Pune (17th April).
- Participated in the National Steering Committee Meeting under SEHAT Mission at ICMR, New Delhi (27th April).
- Participated in a meeting to discuss formulation of comprehensive Nutrition Policy for the State of Himachal Pradesh under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (Health) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh (29th April).

Dr. G. BHANUPRAKASH REDDY

- Delivered a talk on 'Role of micronutrient in CKD' at the Annual Conference of Society of Renal Nutrition & Metabolism (SRNMCON-2026), Hyderabad (18th–19th April).



Dr. SUBBARAO M GAVARAVARAPU

- Invited as the Expert Committee Member to the Project Investigators' Meeting on Finalization of the Intervention as part of the on National Health Research Priority Project - STEPS India Trial, held at AIIMS, Jammu (14th April).
- Participated and moderated three session in the stakeholder Consultation on 'Aspirational Products for Combating Anaemia and Micronutrient Deficiencies among Adolescents and Women of Reproductive Age,' organized by Indian Council of Medical Research, at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (16th April).
- Moderated a discussion on Suposhit Bharat: AI-Enabled Dietary Assessment, Nutrient Profiling & Behaviour Insights for Indian Populations as part of SYMHEALTH 2026. A National Conference on 'Embracing Smart Healthcare: Predictive, Precision and Personalized Health Systems,' organized by Symbiosis International University, Pune (17th April).
- Participated Investigators' Meeting for the study "Approach for Mindful Eating (GAME) Co-designing a gamification module to promote healthier dietary choices and reduce ultra-processed food consumption among school adolescents", organized by PHFI, at the Indian Habitat Center, New Delhi (21st April).
- Invited to deliver the Closing Remarks in the Roundtable on 'Advancing Obesity Policy and Health System Responses,' organised under Management & Advocacy for Providers, Patients and Systems (MAAPS II) initiative by World Obesity Federation at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (23rd April).
- Invited to deliver the inaugural address at NutriSummit Bengaluru 2026, organized by Indian Dietetic Association, Bengaluru Chapter (26th April).



- Participated in the virtual consultation on forthcoming White Paper on School Meals and Cardiometabolic Disease (CMD) prevention organised by the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and presented Chapter outline on School Meals and Behavioural Impacts (28th April).
- Participated online as key expert in the session on "Expert Reflections: Health and Nutrition in Higher Education Settings", organized by Institute for Economic Growth (IEG), India (30th April).

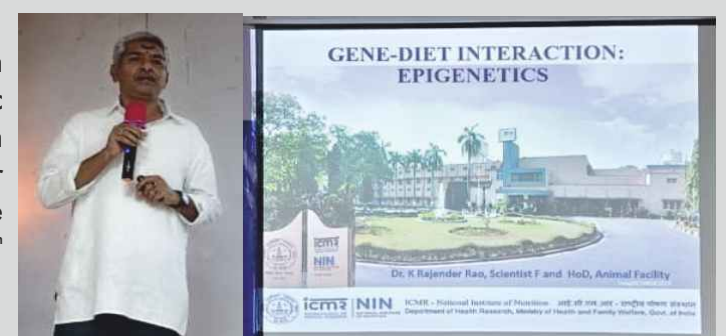
Dr. AYESHA ISMAIL

- Attended "One-Day Capacity Building Program on Vigilance Matters" for Vigilance Officers of all ICMR institutes held at ICMR-BMHRC, Bhopal (20th April).



Dr. K. RAJENDER RAO

- Invited as a key note speaker to deliver a talk on "Diet–Gene Interaction: Epigenetics" in an academic event on "Nutri Vision 2026: Two-Day Conference on Innovations, Emerging Technologies, and Career Pathways in Food & Nutrition" organized by the Vaagdevi College, Hanumkonda, Warangal (8th April).



Dr. B. SANTOSH KUMAR

- Attended the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Dermatology & Allergy meeting virtually as a subject expert committee member at Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), New Delhi (8th April).
- Attended Sectoral Stakeholder Consultation and 75th Food Additive Panel (SP-01) meeting virtually as a scientific panel member on 27th and 28th April respectively at FSSAI, New Delhi.

Dr. B. SANTOSH KUMAR & Dr. D. TEENA

- Participated as panel members in the National Safe Motherhood Day programme at Govt. Nursing College Secunderabad. The event was organized by the Commissionerate of Health and Family Welfare, Telangana as part of the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika 99-Day Campaign. ICMR-NIN also set-up an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) stall on maternal nutrition, showcasing ongoing research studies- PRAKASH, PRISM, and AASH-related to maternal and child nutrition. Shri. C. Damodar Raja Narsimha, Hon'ble Minister of Health and S&T, Govt of Telangana, took keen interest in ICMR-NIN displays (8th April).



Dr. NAVEEN KUMAR

- In a live discussion programme on DD News Telangana, Dr. R. Naveen Kumar, STO spoke on food adulteration and easy methods to detect adulteration at home (9th April).



Ms. SWARNA LAKSHMI J, & Ms. VIBHA SHREE M

Participated in an awareness programme conducted at the South Central Railway Zone Hospital as part of the Poshan Pakhwada celebrations. Ms. Swarna Lakshmi J delivered a guest lecture on the theme "Health education program on child health and nutrition in view of 8th Poshan Pakhwada abhiyaan," highlighting the importance of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months and appropriate complementary feeding thereafter for optimal child growth and development. The programme was attended by recent and expectant mothers, along with parents of children below five years of age. Informative pamphlets on maternal and child nutrition were also distributed during the programme (16th April).



PAPER PUBLISHED/ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

- Sangita Thenarngam, Prasanthi Prabhakaran Sobhana, Prathyusha Vasireddy, Shally Vishnoi, Shrunga Shree S, Pavithra R C, Srinivas Epparapally, Ravindranadh Palika, Radhika S Madhari. Formulation and sensory evaluation of nutrient-dense complementary food mixes for infants and young children aligned with national nutritional standards in India: A D- Optimal Mixture Design Approach. Indian Journal of Medical Research. DOI: 10.25259/IJMR_256_2026 (Accepted 27th March, 2026).
- Noorjahan Pehlari, Prasanthi Prabhakaran Sobhana, Brinda SA, Srinivas Epparapally, Radhika Madhari S. Development and characterization of barley-based composite food formulations (barley curd and barley beverage) nutritional composition, sensory attributes and glycemc response. Journal of Food Science and Technology. DOI: 10.1007/s13197-026-06719-3 (Accepted 27th April, 2026).

Semi-Technical Article:

- Ishani Ghotikar, Kriti, SubbaRao M Gavaravarapu*. "Beyond Deliver: Reconceptualizing the last mile in Nutrition Communication", Special Edition on Health Communication, Health For The Millions Academic Journal, 52(1): 2026, 31-39.