

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEETING

The Annual Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting, which brings together independent experts to evaluate new research proposals, assess ongoing progress, and provide strategic guidance, concluded under the Chairmanship of renowned physician-scientist Padma Shri Dr. Shashank R. Joshi, President of the Indian Academy of Diabetes and President of the Indian Society of Chronomedicine. Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, honored the Chair and committee members, thanking them for their valuable time and expert guidance in reviewing the institute's initiatives (4th & 5th August).





INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

ICMR-NIN celebrated the 80th Independence Day with great pride. Following the unfurling of the National Flag-the Tiranga and an address by Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, the institute reaffirmed its resolve to drive research excellence and empower the nation through nutrition in its stride towards Viksit Bharat (15th August).



DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, visited Hyderabad as part of a study tour. The meeting brought together 23 Members of Parliament along with representatives from various central government institutes, public sector undertakings, and state government ministries.

During the interaction, Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, highlighted the institute's rich legacy, landmark achievements, ongoing research progress, and strategic plans to support a healthier India in alignment with the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision. On behalf of the institute, the Director presented ICMR-NIN publications, books, and mementos to the Parliamentarians.

Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Additional DG; Shri Jagdish Rajesh, DDG(A) from ICMR Hq and Dr. Tushar Arun Karmakar, Deputy Secretary, DHR, MoHFW took part in the meeting. Dr. G. Bhanuprakash Reddy, Scientist-G & HoD, Biochemistry Division, Dr. M. Maheshwar, Scientist-F & HoD, ET Division, Dr. Sanjay Basak, Scientist-F, Molecular Biology Division, Dr. M. S. Radhika, Scientist - F & HoD, Dietetics Division, Dr. N. Samarasimha Reddy, Scientist-F, Clinical Epidemiology Division and Dr. R. Ananthan, Scientist-E, Food Chemistry and Nutrient Analysis Division from the institute attended the meeting (20th August).





The ICMR-NIN, conducted the two-day SHINE 2026 programme to introduce school children to science, public health, and nutrition. Led by Director Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, the outreach initiative aimed to foster scientific temper through hands-on activities, including food chemistry experiments, nutrition games, menstrual health awareness, and food adulteration detection. Around 2,000 students participated across the main campus and regional Model Rural Health Research Units (MRHRUs), with a significant portion attending from government schools. The MRHRU in Janampet (Mahabubnagar, Telangana) welcomed 110 government school students, while the MRHRU in Chandragiri (Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh) recorded a footfall of 235 students. (11th–12th August).





A CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP ON ANEMIA MUKT BHARAT 2.0 – PRAKASH

A Co-Design Workshop on Anemia Mukta Bharat 2.0-PRAKASH (Precision-Driven Response for Anemia Control and Sustainable Health) was organized at ICMR-NIN. Bringing together over 100 stakeholders, the workshop featured representatives from key Telangana state departments, UNICEF India, and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board, alongside Sri Faizan Ahmed, IAS, Additional Collector, Medchal-Malkajgiri. Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, highlighted the institute's landmark contributions to anemia research. Dr. Sai Ram Challa, Scientist-F & Head, Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Division (MCHN), Dr. B. Santosh Kumar, Scientist E, MCHN and colleagues presented formative findings from the PRAKASH initiative, followed by an interactive stakeholder discussion focused on identifying implementation gaps and shaping strategic actions to reinforce Anemia Mukta Bharat 2.0 (25th August).



RECOGNITIONS/PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS/PROGRAMMES

Dr. BHARATI KULKARNI, Director

- Participated as a panelist for Iron Women conclave 2026 at Tata Power Company Limited, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu (7th August).
- Attended ICMR Senior Management Team (SMT) Meeting chaired by DG-ICMR & Secretary-DHR (12th August).
- Participated in a virtual quarterly review meeting of the SEHAT Mission under Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR) and the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) (12th August).

- Participated as a Special Invitee in 38th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting of ICMR-NITHR, Jabalpur (17th August).
- Participated in a virtual meeting of 1st ICMR Administrative & Financial Review Meeting with ICMR Institutes (21st August).
- Participated as a faculty member for the launch of the AIG Microbiome Therapeutics & Pill Lab at AIG Hospitals, Gachibowli, Hyderabad (28th August).

Dr. G. BHANUPRAKASH REDDY

- Attended the Project Selection Committee meeting (virtual mode) for reviewing the proposal of ICMR-Small Grants, Hyderabad (13th-14th August).
- Attended the meeting of Research Advisory Committee of MRU, NIMS at Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad (18th August).

Dr. SUBBARAO M GAVARAVARAPU

- Attended IIRP-Small Grant Project Mentoring Meeting by ICMR virtually (12th August).
- Attended 156th DHR-International Travel Grant Committee Meeting virtually (13th August).
- Attended Technical Advisory Group Meeting for ICMR-Gates Grand Challenge on Aspirational Foods for combating Anaemia held virtually (14th August).
- Attended the Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee for 'Adaptation of National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGBC) for the Food and Beverage Sector' (virtual) (17th August).
- Attended A preparatory meeting of the organising committee of the upcoming 58th Conference of the Nutrition Society OF India at Avinashi lingam Deemed to be University (26th August).
- Visited along with ICMR team and Technical Advisory Group of Investigator-Initiated Research Project funded by ICMR at Osmania General Hospital (27th August).

Dr. VIRENDRA PANPATIL

- Attended a meeting of the FSSAI Expert Committee on Health Supplements at FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi (19th August).

PAPERS PUBLISHED/ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

- Dutta S, Anilkumar S A, Urooj M, Ismail A. Dietary Vitamin D2 Is Less Potent Than Vitamin D3 at Maintaining or Restoring Structure and Metabolism of Skeletal Muscle and Heart in Male Rats. *Mol Nutr Food Res*. 2026 Aug;70(16):e70588. doi: 10.1002/mnfr.70588.
- Kathiresan Jeyashree, Rizwan Suliankatchi Abdulkader, Kalaivani Raghupathy, Shefali Gupta, Ranjithkumar Govindaraju, Vanessa Ravel, V.T. Geethika, R. Sabarinathan, Roopa Shivashankar, Prabhdeep Kaur, SubbaRao M. Gavaravarapu, Effect of restaurant menu labelling on consumer food choices: A randomised controlled trial in South India, *Appetite*, Volume 228, 2027, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2026.108756>
- Kaur T, Konapur A, Mokalla TR, Gavaravarapu SM*. Foodporn for e-priming healthy food choices among adolescents: an experimental study using appealing food imagery. *BMC Public Health* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-026-28870-4>
- Mahesh Kumar Mummadi, SubbaRao M. Gavaravarapu, Samarasimha N. Reddy, Karthikeyan Ramanujam, Ritika Prakash, Sudhakar Reddy Vadde, Raghavendra Pandurangi, Priyanka G. Bansal, Ranadip Chowdhury, Bharati Kulkarni. Effectiveness of dietary, physical activity, and lifestyle interventions on weight and cardiometabolic outcomes in adults with overweight or obesity: an umbrella review of 112 systematic reviews and meta-analyses from 50 countries, *Obesity Pillars*, Volume 20, 2026, 100324, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.obpill.2026.100324>
- S.M. Mir, S.R. Kona, V.S. Santosh, P.B. Patil, S. Varma, A. Molangiri, S.V. Mullapudi, S. Palla, S. Basak*, A. Ibrahim*. Gamma oryzanol supplementation attenuates diet-induced metabolic dysfunction associated fatty liver by modulating oxidative stress & lipid metabolism, *J Food Sci Technol* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13197-026-06855-w> (IF 3.4)
- S. Varma, A.K. Duttaroy, S. Basak. Polystyrene microplastics impair trophoblast invasion in vitro and alter microRNA expression targeting the angiogenesis pathway, *Environmental toxicology and pharmacology*, 126 (2026) 105131. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.etap.2026.105131> (IF 4.6)
- V Vepakomma, B Geereddy, S Singireddy, SR Gurralla, K Ramanujam, GB Reddy. Neuronal biomarkers and micronutrient status in adults with mild cognitive impairment. *Nutrients*. 2026; 18 (15): 2428. [Doi.org/10.3390/nu18152428](https://doi.org/10.3390/nu18152428)