



WBIPHA CON 2026

TRANSFORMING PUBLIC HEALTH
THROUGH EQUITY, EVIDENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

HOSTED BY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE,
DIAMOND HARBOUR GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE



65th Annual State Conference of
IPHA West Bengal State Branch


COLLABORATE


INNOVATE


INTEGRATE


IMPACT




EQUITY
IN HEALTH


EVIDENCE
BASED PRACTICE


EMERGING
TECHNOLOGIES


COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT


SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE

25th & 26th JULY, 2026
SATURDAY & SUNDAY



ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE



MULTIDISCIPLINARY
COLLABORATION



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
LOCAL SOLUTIONS



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I N D E X



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With profound sorrow, we mourn the passing of several distinguished members who have left an indelible mark on their respective fields and on the lives of those who knew them. We remember the significant contributions, the dedication, and the lasting impact of the work of –

Dr. Paramita Sengupta

Dr. Jyotibikash Saha

Dr. S K Singh

Dr. Lalit Sankhe

Though they are no longer with us, their contributions and legacies will endure. We extend our deepest condolences to their families, friends, and all who were touched by their lives. May their souls rest in peace.





Minster-in-Charge

Department of Health & Family Welfare

ডঃ শারদ্বত মুখোপাধ্যায়
Dr. Sharadwat Mukhopadhyay
ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী | Minister-in-Charge
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ
Department of Health & Family Welfare
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার | Government of West Bengal



सत्यमेव जयते

Swasthya Bhawan,
GN-29, Sector-V, Bidhannagar,
Kolkata - 700 091.
Tel. No. : (033) 2357-7917

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Indian Public Health Association, West Bengal State Branch is organizing WBIPHACON 2026 on 25th and 26th July, 2026 at The National Library of India, Kolkata.

The theme of this year's conference, "Transforming Public Health through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies" is both timely and relevant. At a time when healthcare systems are evolving to address emerging challenges, the integration of scientific evidence, technological innovations, and equitable healthcare delivery is essential for achieving better health outcomes for all.

West Bengal has consistently prioritized strengthening its public health infrastructure through enhanced primary healthcare, disease surveillance, digital health initiatives, preventive healthcare, and capacity building of healthcare professionals. Conferences such as WBIPHACON provide an excellent platform for academicians, researchers, clinicians, public health practitioners, policymakers, and students to exchange ideas, present innovative research, and deliberate on solutions to contemporary public health challenges.

I am confident that the scientific deliberations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions during the conference will generate valuable insights and practical recommendations that will contribute to strengthening our healthcare system and advancing the goals of Universal Health Coverage.

I congratulate the Organizing Committee of WBIPHACON 2026 and the Indian Public Health Association, West Bengal State Branch, for their dedicated efforts in organizing this prestigious academic event. I extend my best wishes for the grand success of the conference and hope that all delegates have a productive, enriching, and memorable experience.

(Dr. Sharadwat Mukhopadhyay)

Dr. Sharadwat Mukhopadhyay
Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Government of West Bengal





Director of Medical Education



Prof. (Dr.) Indrajit Saha

Director of Medical Education
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Government of West Bengal

Swasthya Bhaban

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No. DME/Spl.Corresp./2026/65

Dated: 23/07/2026

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the West Bengal State Branch of the Indian Public Health Association (IPHA) is organizing WBIPHACON 2026 on 25th and 26th July, 2026 at the prestigious National Library of India, Kolkata.

The theme of this year's conference, "Transforming Public Health through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies," is both timely and highly relevant in the present healthcare landscape. As public health continues to evolve in response to emerging diseases, demographic transitions, climate change, and technological advancements, there is an increasing need for collaborative efforts that integrate scientific evidence, innovation, and equitable healthcare delivery.

Conferences such as WBIPHACON provide an excellent platform for academicians, public health professionals, clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and students to exchange knowledge, present innovative research, and deliberate on strategies that can strengthen our health systems. Such academic interactions play a pivotal role in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and translating research into effective public health policies and practices.

I am confident that the scientific deliberations, workshops, panel discussions, and presentations during the conference will stimulate meaningful dialogue and contribute significantly to the advancement of public health in West Bengal and beyond.

I congratulate the Organizing Committee, the West Bengal State Branch of IPHA, and all associated partners for their dedicated efforts in organizing this important academic event. I extend my best wishes for the grand success of WBIPHACON 2026 and hope that the conference inspires innovative ideas and lasting collaborations towards achieving healthier communities.

With best wishes,

Indrajit Saha
23/7/26
Prof.(Dr.) Indrajit Saha
Director of Medical Education
Government of West Bengal
Swasthya Bhavan
Kolkata - 700091





Director of Health Services

Dr. Swapan Saren

MBBS, DPH, MPH
Director of Health Services
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Govt. of West Bengal



Government of West Bengal

Directorate of Health Services,
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MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), West Bengal State Branch, is organizing WBIPHACON 2026, its 65th Annual State Conference, on the 25th and 26th of July, 2026, at The National Library of India, Kolkata.

The theme chosen for this year's conference, "Transforming Public Health Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies," is both timely and highly relevant. In an era where healthcare is rapidly evolving, integrating equitable practices with evidence-based approaches and modern technology is paramount. This conference provides a vital platform for public health professionals, academicians, policymakers, and students to exchange innovative ideas, share research findings, and formulate strategies that will strengthen our healthcare delivery systems.

The Department of Health & Family Welfare remains deeply committed to advancing public health services across the state. The continued dedication and collaborative efforts of the public health fraternity are instrumental in realizing this vision and ensuring accessible healthcare for all.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Organizing Committee, especially the teams from Diamond Harbour Government Medical College & Hospital and the IPHA West Bengal State Branch, for their hard work in bringing this event together.

I wish WBIPHACON 2026 a grand success and convey my best wishes for the publication of the Conference Souvenir.

Swan 15/7/26
Dr. Swapan Saren
Director of Health Services





Vice-Chancellor, WBUHS

THE WEST BENGAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES



Prof. (Dr.) Mukul Bhattacharyya
Vice-Chancellor

Memo No.: Message/PA-VC/WBUHS/2026/0018

Date: 20/07/2026



Message

It is my great pleasure to note that IPHA West Bengal State Branch is going to organize its 65th Annual State Conference - "WBIPHACON - 2026" on 25th and 26th July, 2026 at The National Library of India, Kolkata.

I am confident that this conference will provide an excellent platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experiences among eminent experts, academicians, researchers and public health professionals. The scientific deliberations and discussions will undoubtedly enrich the participants with the latest research findings, innovations, and developments in the field of Public Health.

I sincerely appreciate the dedicated efforts of the members and advisors of the organizing committee for their unwavering commitment and valuable contributions towards promoting public health and serving the people of our State and the nation.

I am happy to know that a souvenir will be published to commemorate this auspicious occasion.

I extend my warmest wishes for a grand success of the ceremony.

Prof. (Dr.) Mukul Bhattacharyya
Vice Chancellor

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National President, IPHA



Indian Public Health Association

(Official Publication: Indian Journal of Public Health)

Headquarters Secretariat

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Registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, XXVI of 1961

No. SO002809 of 1957-58

Phone: 033-2257-3373, Email: office@iphaonline.org, Website: www.iphaonline.org



President
Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh

Secretary General
Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra

Treasurer
Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu



President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the IPHA West Bengal State Conference, to be held on **25-26 July 2026** at the **National Library, Alipore Kolkata**. The conference theme, "**Transforming Public Health through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies**," reflects our shared commitment to building a healthier and more inclusive society.

As public health professionals, we face evolving challenges that demand innovative, evidence-based solutions while ensuring that no individual or community is left behind. Equity must remain the cornerstone of our efforts, supported by scientific research, robust public health systems, and the responsible use of emerging technologies to improve access, quality, and outcomes.

I am confident that this conference will provide an excellent platform for meaningful scientific deliberations, exchange of ideas, and collaboration among academicians, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and students. Let us reaffirm our collective resolve to strengthen public health and translate knowledge into action for the benefit of all.

I wish the conference every success and extend my best wishes to all participants.

Sanghamitra Ghosh

Dr Sanghamitra Ghosh
President, IPHA





Secretary General, IPHA



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(Official Publication: Indian Journal of Public Health)

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Founder Member
WFPHA

President
Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh

Secretary General
Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra

Treasurer
Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu

From the desk of Secretary General, Indian Public Health Association



Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the Indian Public Health Association, it gives me an immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all the participants to the Annual State Conference of the IPHA West Bengal State Branch, to be held on 25th and 26th July 2026 at The National Library of India, Kolkata and organized by the Department of Community Medicine, Diamond Harbour Government Medical College and Hospital.

The theme of this conference, "Transforming Public Health Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies" truly holds significance in today's world. It brings together three of the most critical drivers of modern healthcare into one cohesive theme. We are at a critical juncture where technology can either exacerbate the digital divide or be intentionally designed to democratize health outcomes.

The Conference will present a platform for prestigious presentations, plenary & parallel sessions, free paper & poster presentations, exhibitions that will provide valuable insights in the field of public health. academic feast of latest developments in the field of Public Health. In addition to providing updates relevant to the practice of Public Health, Community Medicine, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Family Medicine, Preventive Medicine etc., the conference will also provide a platform for our delegates to interact and exchange views in these fields.

Looking forward to seeing you all at WBIPHACON 2026 at The National Library of India, Kolkata!

Warm regards,

Kaushik Mitra

Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra
Secretary General,
Indian Public Health Association
Professor, Department of Community Medicine
Burdwan Medical College, West Bengal

Year 2026 - 28

Healthy People living in Healthy Environment





President, IPHA West Bengal



Indian Public Health Association

West Bengal State Branch

Block – AQ, Plot – 13/5, Sector – V, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700 091

President

Dr. Surajit Ghosh
9830074117

Hony. Secretary

Dr. Mausumi Basu
9231441362

Treasurer

Dr. Saikat Bhattacharya
9038279672



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, IPHA WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH

Dear Colleagues, Respected Seniors, and my IPHA family Friends,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I address you as the Outgoing President of IPHA West Bengal State Branch on the occasion of our Annual State Conference being held at the iconic National Library, Kolkata on 25th and 26th July 2026.

The last seven years has been a journey of collective effort, learning, and commitment. We have organised National Conference of IPHA in the year 2023, and State conference in every year. Our fund position is now stable. We launched our Website. For last two years we encourage the young professionals research grant for research projects. Our Branch organised several online and offline CME and workshops and different Health day observation. Together, we worked to strengthen public health systems, promote community medicine, and amplify the voice of public health professionals in policy and practice across West Bengal. From field programs to academic deliberations, from district initiatives to state-level advocacy — every step was guided by IPHA's core values of service, equity, and scientific temper.

This conference, with its theme and scientific sessions, is a testament to our shared resolve to address the evolving public health challenges of our state — be it NCDs, climate change, maternal-child health, or strengthening primary care under Ayushman Bharat. The National Library, a symbol of knowledge and heritage, is a befitting venue to deliberate, debate, and draw the roadmap ahead.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Executive Committee, Senior Members, Young Professionals, and all volunteers whose dedication made our initiatives possible. My gratitude to the Organizing Committee for hosting this conference with such vision and hospitality. The choice of National Library as our venue feels perfect. Just as it preserves knowledge for generations, let this conference preserves new ideas, friendship and collaborations that will shape Public Health in our State.

As I hand over the baton, I am confident that IPHA West Bengal will continue to grow stronger — as a forum for evidence, ethics, and action. Let us keep collaborating with the Government, academia, and community to build a healthier West Bengal. Thank you for your trust, your support and making this responsibility such a joy. I may be handing over the baton, but my association with IPHA West Bengal and with each one of you will always remain.

Wishing the conference grand success.

With warm regards,

Dr. Surajit Ghosh
President
IPHA West Bengal State Branch

Healthy People living in Healthy Environment





Secretary, IPHA West Bengal



Indian Public Health Association

West Bengal State Branch

Block – AQ, Plot – 13/5, Sector – V, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700 091

President

Dr. Surajit Ghosh
9830074117

Hony. Secretary

Dr. Mausumi Basu
9231441362

Treasurer

Dr. Saikat Bhattacharya
9038279672



MESSAGE FROM THE HONY. SECRETARY, IPHA WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH

It is my proud privilege to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all the distinguished delegates attending the 65th Annual State Conference of the Indian Public Health Association, West Bengal State Branch (WBIPHACON 2026), to be held on 25th and 26th July 2026 at the National Library of India, Kolkata, which is India's largest library by volume and public record. With the theme, "Transforming Public Health Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies," the conference aims to foster meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative action towards building equitable and resilient public health systems.

IPHA serves as a platform where delegates from multiple backgrounds can build meaningful connections. These bonds will outlast the two conference days, as IPHA fosters a dynamic and inclusive community.

With your expertise and diverse backgrounds, we have the opportunity to explore strategies that bridge the gap in public health and enhance the overall well-being of our communities. Throughout this conference, we will curate a comprehensive program comprising insightful sessions, engaging workshops, and interactive panel discussions.

During the last one year, the IPHA West Bengal State Branch has organized numerous academic activities with the support of the IPHA Headquarters, our dedicated members, and academicians from various disciplines. I am confident that, in the years ahead, the IPHA West Bengal State Branch will continue to scale new heights and play an even greater role in advancing public health through academic excellence, research, advocacy, and community engagement.

I encourage each one of you to actively participate in the scientific deliberations, exchange ideas, and contribute your expertise towards enriching the collective learning experience. I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Department of Community Medicine, Diamond Harbour Government Medical College & Hospital, for enthusiastically accepting the responsibility of organizing this prestigious conference under the aegis of the IPHA West Bengal State Branch. Their dedication, meticulous planning, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in making this event a reality.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors, volunteers, faculty members, and organizing committee for their invaluable support and tireless efforts. Let us come together in the spirit of unity, collaboration, and innovation to make WBIPHACON 2026 a memorable and impactful event.

Wish all success of the conference.

Long live IPHA!

Mausumi Basu

Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu
State Secretary
IPHA West Bengal State Branch

Healthy People living in Healthy Environment





Organising Chairperson, WBIPHACON 2026



25th & 26th July, 2026 | The National Library of India, Kolkata

Email: iphawbstatebranch@gmail.com

Website: www.iphawbstate.org

Patrons

Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh
Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra
Dr. Surajit Ghosh
Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu
Dr. Saikat Bhattacharya

Organising Chairperson

Dr. Subhrajyoti Naskar

Organising Co-chairperson

Dr. Adwitiya Das

Organising Secretary

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Dr. Somak Majumdar

Organising Jt. Secretary

Dr. Sumanta Chakraborty
Dr. Anirban Chatterjee
Dr. Sudipta Das

Organising Asst. Treasurer

Dr. Saptarshi Majumdar

Message from the Organizing Chairperson



Respected Dignitaries, Distinguished Speakers, Delegates, and Colleagues,

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to WBIPHACON 2026.

This conference brings together public health professionals, academicians, researchers, policymakers, and students with a shared commitment to advancing public health. Our theme, "Transforming Public Health Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies," underscores the importance of innovative, evidence-driven, and inclusive approaches in addressing the complex health challenges of our time.

WBIPHACON 2026 offers a dynamic platform for scientific exchange, professional learning, and meaningful collaboration. Through keynote lectures, scientific sessions, workshops, panel discussions, and research presentations, we aspire to foster ideas and partnerships that strengthen public health practice and contribute to healthier communities.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed speakers, delegates, sponsors, faculty members, scientific contributors, reviewers, volunteers, and all those whose dedication, expertise, and unwavering support have made this conference possible.

I wish you all a rewarding, inspiring, and memorable conference experience.

Warm regards,

Dr. Subhrajyoti Naskar
Organizing Chairperson, WBIPHACON 2026
Associate Professor & Head
Department of Community Medicine
Diamond Harbour Government Medical College & Hospital
Diamond Harbour, South 24 Parganas
West Bengal – 743331

**"Transforming Public Health
Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies"**





Organising Co-Chairperson, WBIPHACON 2026



25th & 26th July, 2026 | The National Library of India, Kolkata

Email: iphawbstatebranch@gmail.com

Website: www.iphawbstate.org

Patrons

Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh
Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra
Dr. Surajit Ghosh
Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu
Dr. Saikat Bhattacharya

Organising Chairperson

Dr. Subhrajyoti Naskar

Organising Co-chairperson

Dr. Adwitiya Das

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Dr. Debdutta Haldar

Organising Treasurer

Dr. Somak Majumdar

Organising Jt. Secretary

Dr. Sumanta Chakraborty
Dr. Anirban Chatterjee
Dr. Sudipta Das

Organising Asst. Treasurer

Dr. Saptarshi Majumdar



Message from Organising Co-Chairperson
WBIPHACON 2026

RESPECTED DIGNITARIES, DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS, DELEGATES, COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS AND WELL-WISHERS.

It is truly an honour and privilege to welcome you all to the much-awaited IPHACON 2026, West Bengal chapter on behalf of the entire organising team at The National Library on 25th and 26th July 2026.

The theme of this conference, "Transforming Public Health Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies", emphasises on the importance of bridging gaps between evidence-based health care for the public with innovation, adaptation, transformation and equitable distribution of the benefits that an all-inclusive confluence of public health experts, from this state and beyond can yield.

We aspired to be able to organise a state conference that would be an amalgamation of deeply immersive academic discourse, innovative ideas, brain-teasing flash presentations, a platform for younger public health enthusiasts to give a glimpse of their research aptitude along with equal measures of rendezvous of colleagues otherwise occupied, fruitful networking over shared meals.

We have tried our best to make this conference a vibrant and transformative arena for inspiring participatory learning, scientific knowledge sharing and future goal-setting for newer projects.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed advisors, speakers, delegates, faculty members, scientific contributors, reviewers, volunteers, sponsors, and all those whose dedication, expertise, and unwavering support have made this conference possible.

Wishing you all a memorable, worthwhile and rewarding experience.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Adwitiya Das

Organising Co-chairperson, WBIPHACON 2026

Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine

Diamond Harbour Government Medical College

Indian Public Health Association, West Bengal State Branch

**"Transforming Public Health
Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies"**





Organising Secretary, WBIPHACON 2026



25th & 26th July, 2026 | The National Library of India, Kolkata

Email: iphawbstatebranch@gmail.com

Website: www.iphawbstate.org

Patrons

Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh
Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mitra
Dr. Surajit Ghosh
Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu
Dr. Saikat Bhattacharya

Organising Chairperson

Dr. Subhrajyoti Naskar

Organising Co-chairperson

Dr. Adwitiya Das

Organising Secretary

Dr. Debdutta Halder

Organising Treasurer

Dr. Somak Majumdar

Organising Jt. Secretary

Dr. Sumanta Chakraborty
Dr. Anirban Chatterjee
Dr. Sudipta Das

Organising Asst. Treasurer

Dr. Saptarshi Majumdar



Message from the Organising Secretary

WBIPHACON 2026

It gives me immense pleasure and a deep sense of gratitude to welcome you all to WBIPHACON 2026, the Annual State Conference of the Indian Public Health Association, West Bengal State Branch, being held on 25th and 26th July 2026 at the iconic National Library of India, Kolkata.

Organising a scientific conference of this magnitude in one of India's most cherished heritage institutions has been a long-cherished dream. Today, as this dream becomes a reality, I feel privileged to share this journey with every delegate, faculty member, student, researcher, and public health professional who has joined us in this celebration of knowledge and collaboration.

This dream was inspired by my revered teacher, Late Prof. (Dr.) Sandip Kumar Ray, whose unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and immense contributions to the field of Public Health and to the Indian Public Health Association have inspired generations of public health professionals. His commitment to academic excellence, ethical leadership, and service to society continues to illuminate our path. I humbly dedicate this endeavour to the ideals he has so passionately upheld.

Guided by the theme, "Transforming Public Health through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies," WBIPHACON 2026 has been thoughtfully designed to provide a vibrant academic platform. The conference brings together distinguished experts, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and young professionals through keynote addresses, plenary lectures, panel discussions, workshops, free paper presentations, poster sessions, and interactive scientific deliberations. We hope that this diverse blend of scientific sessions will stimulate meaningful dialogue, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and inspire innovative solutions to contemporary public health challenges.

An event of this scale is the result of collective commitment and teamwork. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our patrons, distinguished guests, faculty members, organising committee, reviewers, volunteers, sponsors, and every delegate whose unwavering support has made this conference possible. Your enthusiasm and dedication have transformed a vision into reality.

I sincerely hope that your experience at WBIPHACON 2026 will be intellectually enriching, professionally rewarding, and personally memorable. May the exchange of ideas within these historic walls inspire us to strengthen our resolve towards building a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Warm regards,

Debdutta Halder

Dr. Debdutta Halder
Organising Secretary, WBIPHACON 2026
Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine
Diamond Harbour Government Medical College
Indian Public Health Association, West Bengal State Branch

**"Transforming Public Health
Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies"**





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Dr Mausumi Basu	Secretary, IPHA WB
Dr Saikat Bhattacharya	Treasurer, IPHA WB





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IPGME&R, Kolkata



Pre-conference Workshop on

“Updates on Infectious Disease Modelling”

Organized by
Department of Community Medicine, IPGME&R, Kolkata

In collaboration with
Indian Public Health Association, West Bengal State Branch



Date
18th July 2026,
Saturday



Time
9.30 am to
4.30 pm



Venue
MEU Room, 3rd Floor,
Academic Building,
IPGME&R, Kolkata

Registration fee: Rs 500/-

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

1 Hands-on session by eminent faculty and epidemiologist

2 Current scenario in West Bengal by Dr Yogiraj Roy, Dept. of Infectious Diseases, IPGME&R, Kolkata



25 seats!!

First come first served basis



Click here to register:
<https://forms.gle/UvzddJHcaC9yxuDf6>

For queries please contact:
9830200787 (Dr Sreetama Chakrabarti)





IPGME&R, Kolkata





Diamond Harbour Govt. Medical College



INDIAN PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION (IPHA)
WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH



DIAMOND HARBOUR
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& HOSPITAL



WBIPHAACON 2026
65th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE
OF IPHA WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH

WBIPHAACON 2026

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

SCIENTIFIC WRITING & RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Theme of WBIPHAACON 2026
*Transforming Public Health through
Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies*

 **DATE**
20th July 2026
(Monday)

 **TIME**
9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

 **VENUE**
Diamond Harbour
Government Medical College
& Hospital, West Bengal

Organized by
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
Diamond Harbour Government Medical College & Hospital

Under the aegis of
Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), West Bengal State Branch

Credit of 4.5 hours approved by WBMC

WHY ATTEND?

- ✓ Learn the fundamentals of scientific research design
- ✓ Develop skills in protocol writing and research planning
- ✓ Understand sample size calculation and data analysis basics
- ✓ Master the art of scientific manuscript writing
- ✓ Learn publication ethics and plagiarism prevention
- ✓ Gain practical insights into journal selection and publication process
- ✓ Enhance skills in abstract writing and conference presentations

WORKSHOP MODULES

SESSION I

Foundations of Research Methodology



- Research question formulation
- Study designs
- Sampling techniques
- Sample size calculation

SESSION II

Data Management and Analysis



- Data collection tools
- Data quality assurance
- Introduction to statistical analysis
- Interpretation of results

SESSION III

Scientific Writing



- Structure of a scientific manuscript
- Writing abstracts and introductions
- Presenting results effectively
- Discussion and conclusion writing

SESSION IV

Publication and Research Ethics



- Authorship criteria
- Plagiarism and ethical issues
- Journal selection
- Peer-review process

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES



Protocol development



Critical appraisal exercises



Manuscript review



Interactive group discussions

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Faculty Members • Postgraduate Trainees • Medical Officers •
Public Health Professionals • Researchers • Undergraduate Students

REGISTRATION FEES

Faculties/SRs	- Rs 1000
PGTs / Nursing Professionals	- Rs 800
UG students	- Rs 500

Register now!
<https://forms.gle/3RDVNrUVNzb5Yc8y6>



SCAN TO REGISTER

WBIPHAACON 2026

65th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE OF
IPHA WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH

"Transforming Public Health through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies"

25th–26th July 2026
National Library,
Kolkata

22

Transforming Public Health Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies



Diamond Harbour Govt. Medical College





Medical College, Kolkata



Indian Public Health Association **WBIPHAACON 2026**
West Bengal State Branch

Presents

Workshop on

COMPREHENSIVE GERIATRIC ASSESSMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

A Pre Conference Workshop of
WBIPHAACON 2026

Organized by

Dept of Geriatric Medicine, Medical College Kolkata

&

IPHA WB State Branch



Workshop Venue:
Seminar Room,
Department of Geriatrics,
Medical College Kolkata



Date:
21.07.2026
(Tuesday)



Time:
9.30 AM
to
3.30 PM



BACKGROUND:

With India's elderly population growing rapidly, public health professionals play a key role in early detection, prevention, and management of geriatric problems.

This workshop aims to equip doctors, nurses, health workers, and program managers with practical skills in Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment – CGA for community and primary care settings.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Public Health Professionals
- Medical Officers
- Post Graduate Trainees



KEY TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- Basics of Ageing & Burden of Elderly Health Problems in India
- Principles of CGA
- Functional Assessment
- Cognition and Mood Assessment
- Frailty Assessment
- Role of Public Health System in Elderly Care
- Case Discussions & Hands-on Practice



WORKSHOP FACULTY

Prof Dr Arunanshu Talukdar
Prof & HOD, Geriatric Medicine,
Medical College Kolkata

Dr Himadri Das
Assistant Professor, Geriatric Medicine,
Medical College Kolkata

ORGANIZERS:

Prof Dr Arup Chakraborty
Dean of Students Affairs,
Medical College Kolkata

Dr Anirban Dalui
National Joint Secretary,
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WBIPHAACON 2026

Dr Debdutta Halder
Organizing Secretary
WBIPHAACON 2026



Registration Fees: ₹ 500



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER





Medical College, Kolkata





Aliah University

Department of Nursing of Aliah University & IPHA (WB State Branch)
jointly Organises
Workshop
On
Comprehensive Public Health Guidelines

Date – 23rd July, 2026
Time – 10.30am onwards
Venue – Auditorium, Park Circus Campus

OUR RESOURCES

 Prof. Rama Bhunia Assistant Director of Health Services, Epidemiologist, IDB Government of West Bengal	 Dr. Tanusri Mandal Professor CON (IDBG)	 Mrs. Snita Bhunia Senior Lecturer CON, SSKM Program Co-coordinator	 Dr. Usha Mallick Associate Professor Department of Nursing Aliah University Program coordinator	 Dr. Kunal Kanti Majumdar Principal K.P.C Medical college and hospital
 Prof. Kasturi Mandal Principal CON, AHF	 Prof. Anindita Ray (Chakravarti) Professor and HOD, Department of Nutrition	 Dr. Mousumi Basu Secretary IPHA (WB State Branch) Guest of honour	 Dr. Rumi Sen Associate professor HOD, Department of Nursing Aliah University	 Dr. Aditi Aikat Professor JIMS

★ **WBNC CNE CREDIT POINTS - 1**





Aliah University





			
WBIPHAACON 2026			
Theme: <i>"Transforming Public Health Through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies"</i> Organised by Dept. of Community Medicine, Diamond Harbour Government Medical College Under Aegis of Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), West Bengal State Branch Venue: The National Library of India, Kolkata			
	Date: 25 th -26 th July, 2026		Time: 9.30am – 5.30 pm
(Program Schedule for Hall A)			
Conference Theme, Oration			
Hall A (Main Auditorium)			
Day 1 (25.7.2026)			
Time	Session details	Speaker	Chairperson/Judge
9.30- 10am	Key Note Address by Organising Chairperson & Organising Secretary of Conference		
10-10.30am	Session on the theme: Transforming Public Health through Equity, Evidence and Emerging Technologies	Dr. Arkaprabha Sau	Dr. Indranil Saha Dr. Star Pala Dr. Ashlesha Tawde Kelkar
10.30am-11am	Dr S.C Seal Oration: Emerging technologies and innovative approaches to combat anti-microbial resistance	Dr. Santasabuj Das	Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, Dr. M V V Murali Mohan
11-11.30am	Prevention in Hepatology: Advances, Challenges and Opportunities	Dr. Sanjay Banerjee	Dr. Sukamal Bisoi, Dr. Partha Halder
11.30-12 noon	Flu and Shingles in India: Rethinking Adult Immunisation	Dr. Somnath Naskar	Dr. Aditya Prasad Sarkar, Dr. Malay Mundle, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sadhukhan
12-12.30pm	Mobilizing Towards AIDS Suraksha (MAS): Bridging Gaps, Accelerating Action for 2026 – The West Bengal Journey"	Dr. Debjani Guchohait Rapporteur: Dr. Sharmista Chakrabarti	Dr. Indrajit Saha (DME), Dr. Swapan Soren (DHS)
12.30-2pm	Inauguration session		
2-2.30pm	Lunch		
2.30- 3pm	Panel discussion: Anti-microbial stewardship Moderator: Dr. Ankush Banerjee	Panelists: Dr. Kaushik Mitra, Dr. Arup Chakraborty, Dr. Sanjib Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Debjit Chakraborty, Dr. Sulagna Basu, Dr. Munmun Das Sarkar, Dr. Dipankar Maji	Dr. Surajit Ghosh, Dr. Mausumi Basu, Dr. Fasihul Akbar
3-3.30pm	Panel discussion: Public Health Research and Evidence (Operational research, Systematic reviews, Implementation science, Big-data) Moderator: Dr. Mousumi Datta	Panelists: Dr. Pramit Ghosh, Dr. Aditi Aikat, Dr. Dipta Kanti Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Bobby Paul	Dr. Aparajita Dasgupta, Dr. Nabanita Bhattacharya, Dr. Swaraj Halder
3.30- 5pm	Hands-on session: Pecha-Kucha Presentations	Dr. Rivu Basu, Dr. Sumanta Chakraborty, Dr. Debdutta Halder	Judges: Dr. Sima Roy, Dr. Tapobrata Mishra Roy, Dr. Rama Bhunia
5-5.30pm	Anticipatory to active grief: Palliative care journey for patient, family and community	Dr. Aniket Chatterjee, Dr. Satabdi Mitra	Dr. Indira De Dr. Kuntala Ray, Dr. Abhishek Paul Mazumdar
Hall 1 (Main Auditorium)			
Day 2 (26.7.2026)			
Time	Session details	Speaker	Chairperson
9.30-10am	Award Presentations	Dr. Shalini Pattanayak & Dr. Kalpana Gupta	Dr. J. Prabakaran, Dr. Pritam Roy, Dr. Anindya Mukherjee
10-10.30am	Sleep apnoea and its modern management	Dr. Sivaresmi Unnithan	Dr. Kajal Krishna Banik, Dr. Saikat Bhattacharya, Dr. Shuvankar Mukherjee
10.30-11.30am	Extempore session	Dr. Shibaji Gupta, Dr. Akash Dasgupta, Dr. Anindita Maiti	Judges: Dr. Kunal Kanti Majumdar, Dr. Debashish Sinha, Dr. Golam Mortaza
11.30am-12pm	Rare diseases – NPRD2021: Public Health Approach	Dr. Suchandra Mukherjee	Dr. Monalisa Sahu, Dr. Shamima Yesmin, Dr. Adwitiya Das
12noon-12.30pm	First trimester screening & its public health importance	Dr. Sumona Haque	Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Dr. Sanghamitra Maulik, Dr. Nilanjan Dastidar
12.30-1pm	The Silent Slowdown: Hypothyroidism as a Hidden Public Health Burden	Dr. Sujoy Mazumdar	Dr. Tarun Kumar Sarkar, Dr. Kinshuk Sarkar, Dr. Avishek Gupta
1-1.30pm	Prevention of Haemoglobinopathies in India through Screening Strategies, Genetic Counselling and Pre-natal Diagnostics	Dr. Maitreyee Bhattacharya	Dr. Manidipa Ray, Dr. Abhijit Mukherjee, Dr. Amitabha Sarkar
1.30pm-2pm	Lunch		
2-4pm (Annual General Body Meeting)			
4-4.30pm	Panel discussion: The Silent Epidemic: Mental Well-Being of Medical Professionals Moderator: Dr. Arnab Sarkar	Panelists: Dr. Priyanka Mukhyopadhyay, Dr. Maumita De, Dr. Anirban Dalui	Dr. Nirmalya Manna, Dr. Surajit Lahiri, Dr. Seshadri Kole
4.30-5pm	Is Tele-medicine ethical?	Dr. Debasish Das	Dr. Pranita Tarafdar, Dr. Gautam Dhar, Dr. Dipika Sur
5-5.30pm	Nutritional Challenges and Dietary Requirements in Geriatrics	Ms. Pallabi Chatterjee	Dr. Subhrajyoti Naskar, Dr. Amitabha Chattopadhyay, Dr. Nibedita Das
5.30-6pm	Valedictory session		



ABSTRACT ID	NAME	TITLE OF THE STUDY
WBIPHACON26_017_P01	DR. SAIMI BHATTACHARYYA	Quality Of Life Among Post-surgical Breast Cancer Women Receiving Adjuvant Therapy In India: A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis
WBIPHACON26_076_P02	DR. MANI ROY	Knowledge On Palliative Care Among Community Health Officers Of Health And Wellness Centres In Murshidabad District, West Bengal
WBIPHACON26_089_P04	DR. AISHI ROY	Self-medication And Over-the-counter Topical Combination Cream Use In Dermatological Conditions: Clinical Correlates And Patient Perspectives—a Mixed-methods Study
WBIPHACON26_101_P08	DR. PABITRA GHOSH	Prevalence And Risk Factors Of Unintentional Injuries Among Children Aged 1-9 Years In Rural West Bengal: A Community Based Mixed-methods Study
WBIPHACON26_059_P11	DR. SHAONI BARAL	Assessment Of Heat Vulnerability In Urban Field Practice Area Of Burdwan Medical College, Purba Bardhaman: A Cross Sectional Study
WBIPHACON26_004_P12	DR. PRABUDDHA GOSWAMI	Evaluating The Outcomes Of A HIV/AIDS Awareness Program Among School Teachers In Rural India: A Mixed-method Quasi-experimental Study
WBIPHACON26_069_P13	DR. PRERONA DAS	The Nutritional Status And Common Morbidities Of Adolescents In A Rural Community Of West Bengal-a Cross Sectional Study
WBIPHACON26_077_F01	DR. POULOMI MUKHERJEE	Treatment Outcome Among Non-diabetic, Controlled And Poorly Controlled Diabetic Tuberculosis Patients In Kolkata- A Prospective Cohort Study
WBIPHACON26_067_F03	DR. AMITABHA SARKAR	Acute Diarrhoeal Disease Outbreak Linked To Contaminated Municipal Water Supply In An Urban Municipality Of West Bengal, India
WBIPHACON26_144_F04	DR. TRINA SENGUPTA	Promise And Peril: Evaluating Chatgpt-5's Cultural Competence And Safety For Depression Responses In India
WBIPHACON26_278_F08	DR. ABHISHEK PAUL MAJUMDER	Predictors Of Treatment Failure Among People Living With HIV Receiving First-line Antiretroviral Therapy: A Hospital-based Case-control Study
WBIPHACON26_100_F09	DR. PRATIBHA DAS	A Longitudinal Observational Study On Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Practices And Iron And Calcium Consumption Among Mothers Of Low-birth-weight Infants In Kolkata, India

ABSTRACT ID	NAME	TITLE OF THE STUDY
WBIPHAACON26_125_F02	DR. ANIK CHAKRABORTY	Correlation Between Daily Air Quality Index and Paediatric Respiratory Morbidity: A Retrospective Study from A Tertiary Care Hospital in West Bengal
WBIPHAACON26_045_F05	DR. RIYA MONDAL	Social Security Status, Occupational Health Vulnerabilities and Mental Health Among Gig Workers in Eastern India: A Community-Based Cross-Sectional Study
WBIPHAACON26_057_F06	DR. ANKITA BANERJEE	Sleep Quality And Sleep Hygiene Practices Among Undergraduate Medical Students In A Medical College Of West Bengal : A Cross-sectional Study
WBIPHAACON26_022_F07	DR. SOURAV KUMAR GHOSH	Foot Care Practices Among Diabetes Mellitus Patients In A Slum Of Kolkata
WBIPHAACON26_108_P03	DR BITTY MARY GEORGE	WASH Service Levels And Associated Factors Among Households: A Cross-sectional Study In A Slum Of Kolkata
WBIPHAACON26_085_P05	DR. SHUVRO BHATTACHARYA	Pharmacist Perspectives On Internet-driven Self-medication And Treatment Non-adherence Among Rural Communities Of West Bengal: A Qualitative Study
WBIPHAACON26_087_P06	DR. SWIKRITA MANDAL	A Cross-sectional Study On The Prevalence Of Low Back Pain And Its Associated Risk Factors Among Home Makers In An Urban Slum In Kolkata
WBIPHAACON26_101_P07	DR. SAIBAL SENGUPTA	Prevalence And Psychosocial Determinants Of Common Mental Disorders (Depression, anxiety) Among Adults Patients Attending Psychiatry Opd Of A Tertiary Hospital Kolkata: A Community Psychiatry Perspective
WBIPHAACON26_181_P09	DR ROSHNI BISWAS	A Study On Depression, Anxiety And Stress Among The Undergraduate Medical Students In A Private Medical College Of West Bengal.
WBIPHAACON26_110_P10	DR. SUBHRAJYOTI ADAK	Awareness Regarding Cervical Cancer And Hpv Vaccination Among Undergraduate Medical Students In A Tertiary Care Hospital In Kolkata
WBIPHAACON26_186_P14	DR MAHIR AKHTAR	A Cross - Sectional Study On Assessment Of Medication Adherence And Its Influencers Among Hypertensive Adults Attending Selected Health And Wellness Centers Under Rural Field Practice Area Of A Tertiary Care Health Center In West Bengal
WBIPHAACON26_094_P15	DR SAHANAJ PARBHIN	Digital Exposure And Feeding Practices Among Children Aged 12-59 Months In A Metropolitan City Of Eastern India: A Cross-sectional Study

ABSTRACT ID	NAME	TITLE OF THE STUDY
WBIPHAACON2026_P16	DR. ASHITH MOHAMMED A A	Assessment of Fear of Falling and its Determinants among Elderly in a Rural Block of Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal: A Cross-Sectional Study
WBIPHAACON26_188_P17	DR. ADITI PAUL	Perception of frontline healthcare workers regarding risk factors, management, and treatment delays following snakebite in a rural area of Chakdaha, West Bengal
WBIPHAACON26_259_P20	DR AKASH MONDAL	Psychometric Validation Of The Burnout Inventory Among Medical Undergraduate Students
WBIPHAACON26_190_P23	DR. NIMISHA BISWAS	Digital Health Literacy & Its Associated Factors Among School Going Adolescents (14-19 Years) In An Urban Area Of Eastern India
WBIPHAACON26_269_P24	DR. DEBADRITA ACHARYYA	Nomophobia And Its Psychosocial Correlates Among School-going Adolescents In Urban India: A Mixed-methods Study
WBIPHAACON26_277_P26	DR VIVEK SINGH	Beyond Safe Delivery: Assessing Mothers' Knowledge Of Essential Newborn Care
WBIPHAACON26_P27	DR. RATUL ROY	Impact Of Digital Screen Exposure, Physical Activity And Sleep Quality Over Adiposity Indicators: A Cross-sectional Study Among School-going Adolescents In Rural West Bengal.
WBIPHAACON26_299_P31	DR MEGHA JAGADISH	An Evaluation Of Health-related Content Shared By Indian Health Influencers On Social Media Compared With Current Health Guidelines In India
WBIPHAACON26_243_E01	DR. PRASHANT CHAUHAN	Evaluation Of The Malaria Surveillance System In Lohardaga District, Jharkhand, India, 2025–2026
WBIPHAACON26_206_E03	DR. MANISH SHEKHAR	Epidemiological Analysis Of Measles Cases And Their Measles - Rubella (MR) Vaccination Status In Deoghar District, Jharkhand (2023-2025)
WBIPHAACON26_249_E06	DR. HA I DAHI CHYRMANG	Outbreak Investigation Of Leptospirosis In Mawpat Block, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, Jan–may 2026
WBIPHAACON26_247_E08	DR. GARGI DUTTA BHATTACHARYYA	An Outbreak Investigation Of Acute Diarrhoeal Disease In An Urban Residential Complex, North 24 Parganas District, West Bengal
WBIPHAACON26_R02	DR. ANUSHKA GHOSH	Latent Health-related Quality-of-life Profiles And Associated Determinants Among Older Adults Living In Slums Of Kolkata, India
WBIPHAACON26_R03	DR. TILA KHAN	Fragmented Awareness And Structural Barriers To NCD Prevention And Care-seeking: A Life-course Qualitative Study In Eastern India



ABSTRACT ID	NAME	TITLE OF THE STUDY
WBIPHACON26_282_P18	DR. VIBHUTI VAIBHAV	A Study On Common Adolescent Mental Disorders And Its Associates In A Rural Area Of West Bengal
WBIPHACON26_258_P19	DR. NAMRATA BHAUMIK	Technology Transition In The Healthcare Sector: Barriers To UWIN Portal Self-registration Among Beneficiaries
WBIPHACON26_216_P21	DR. TRINAKUSUM DAS	A Cross-sectional Study On Medication Adherence And Its Associated Factors Among Diabetic Patients In A Slum Of Kolkata
WBIPHACON26_231_P22	DR. SUBHAJIT BARMAN	Health Status Of Senior Secondary School Students In Kalyani And Chakdaha, Nadia District, West Bengal: A Cross-sectional Study
WBIPHACON2026_P25	DR. USHASHI BHATTACHARYYA	Assessment Of Non-medical (Indirect) Expenses Of Thalassemia Patients Attending The Institute Of Haematology & Transfusion Medicine In West Bengal And Comparing It With Direct Expenses
WBIPHACON26_230_P28	DR. CHANDRIKA DAS	Prehypertension And Its Association With Digital Health Literacy Among Young Adults In An Urban Area Of Kalyani, West Bengal
WBIPHACON26_287_P29	DR. YADAV JYOTISKUMAR	Burden Of Care , Quality Of Life And Coping Strategies Among Caregivers Of Patients With Schizophrenia Attending A Tertiary Care Center In Lucknow District .
WBIPHACON26_271_P30	DR. SAYANTAN DAS	Psychological Distress And Its Mediating Effect On Quality Of Life Among Women With Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome: A Structural Equation Modelling Analysis
WBIPHACON26_023_P32	DR. RITANKAR PRAMANIK	Assessment Of Perception Regarding Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Among School-going Adolescent Girls In Diamond Harbour Health District: A Quasi-experimental Study
WBIPHACON26_153_R01	DR. SILADITYA BALIAL	Connecting The Gap Between Vulnerable Populations And Public Health Services Through Outreach Initiatives
WBIPHACON26_R04	DR. IPSITA BHATTACHARJEE	A Community Based Preconception Care Intervention In West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha: A Blueprint For Healthy Pregnancies And Safe Birth Outcomes
WBIPHACON26_202_E02	DR. TOSHIMONGLA A LONGKUMER	Scrub Typhus Outbreak Investigation In Mokokchung District, Nagaland-april 2026
WBIPHACON26_217_E04	DR. TAPASH KUMAR DAKUYA	Outbreak Investigation Of Dengue In Swaraj Dweep Island, South Andaman District, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, May-june 2026
WBIPHACON26_255_E05	DR. BHARATI MEITRAM	Epidemiological Profile Of Dengue In Manipur During 2022 To 2024, A Secondary Data Analysis
WBIPHACON26_250_E07	DR. ANUP KUMAR SINGH	Outbreak Investigation Of Chickenpox From 1 November 2025 To 12 February 2026 In Balra Village, Palamu District, Jharkhand



ABSTRACT ID	NAME	TITLE OF THE STUDY
WBIPHACON26_074_No1	MS. DIPHA CHETRY	Effectiveness Of Health Promotion Programme On Prevention Of Substance Abuse Among Adults At Girmit Line, Darjeeling.
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WBIPHACON26_169_U04	MR. DHRUV SINHA	Effectiveness Of A Module-based Health Education Intervention On Nipah Virus Awareness Among Healthcare Trainees In A Peripheral Tertiary Medical College In West Bengal
WBIPHACON26_39_U05	MR. ARYAN GUPTA	Occurrence Of Nonfermenting Gram Negative Bacilli And Their Drug Resistance Crisis Along With Developing Superbug Problem:experience In A Tertiary Care Hospital In Eastern India
WBIPHACON26_296_U06	MR. ARYA DAS	Early Assessment Of Awareness, Information Sources And Service Experience Among Parent Of Eligible Adolescent Girls Receiving Government HPV Vaccination At A Government Medical College In West Bengal
WBIPHACON26_361_U07	MR. ANIRBAN NASKAR	Assessment Of Risk Of Diabetes Mellitus Among Undergraduate Medical Students Of Diamond Harbour Government Medical College And Hospital: A Cross-sectional Study



**Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis Grant Award for Best Research Proposal (WBIPHACON 2025)****TITLE: 'HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION ACCEPTABILITY FOR CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION AMONG PARENTS OF GIRLS BELONGING TO SCHOOL-GOING AGE IN A SLUM AREA OF KOLKATA: A MIXED-METHODS STUDY'****Dr Shalini Pattanayak**

Introduction: Cervical cancer remains a major public health problem and is one of the leading causes of cancer-related morbidity and mortality among women, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Persistent infection with high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the principal cause of cervical cancer, and HPV vaccination is a highly effective primary preventive strategy. With the Government of India's planned inclusion of HPV vaccination into the Universal Immunization Programme for girls aged 9-14 years, parental acceptance will be crucial for successful implementation. Parents' perceptions are influenced by awareness, vaccine safety concerns, social influences, accessibility, and healthcare provider recommendations. Therefore, understanding the determinants of HPV vaccine acceptability is essential for designing specific interventions to improve vaccine uptake in vulnerable urban populations.

Objectives: To determine the level of acceptability of HPV vaccination for cervical cancer prevention among parents of girls aged 9-14 years residing in a slum area of Kolkata and factors influencing the acceptability

Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional study with an exploratory sequential mixed methods design (QUAL → quan) was conducted in the slum area of Chetla (KMC Ward 81, Kolkata), which is also the urban field practice area of IPGME&R and SSKM Hospital, between May 2025 and May 2026. The qualitative component included three gender-stratified, video recorded focus group discussions among 32 purposively selected parents. Themes and attributes generated were used to develop vaccination scenario cards for the quantitative phase. A total of 167 parents were selected by simple random sampling.





Participants rated 8 hypothetical vaccination scenarios based on 7 major attributes, generated using an 8-run Plackett–Burman factorial design, on a 5-point Likert scale. A median score was also calculated based on responses obtained on Likert scale for determining vaccine acceptability among the parents (categorized as ‘high’ and ‘low’). Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, one sample and independent-samples t tests, and Pearson's chi-square test ($p < 0.05$). Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee of IPGME&R.

Results: Among 167 parents, 87 (52%) demonstrated high acceptability towards HPV vaccination, while 80 (48%) had low acceptability. Qualitative findings identified seven major attributes influencing vaccine acceptance: vaccine cost, delivery platform, healthcare worker recommendation, vaccine safety information, community uptake, accessibility, and post vaccination support. One-sample and independent-samples t-tests showed no significant differences across vaccination scenarios or between mothers' and fathers' responses ($p > 0.05$), indicating comparable perspectives. However, lower acceptability was significantly associated with joint family structure ($p=0.004$) and lower socioeconomic status ($p=0.022$).

Conclusion: HPV vaccine acceptability among parents of girls aged 9-14 years was nearly half of the total participants. Vaccine acceptance was significantly influenced by family structure and socioeconomic status. Qualitative findings revealed that concerns regarding vaccine safety, cost, limited awareness, and social influence acted as major barriers, whereas trusted healthcare provider recommendations, free vaccine availability, and accessible vaccination services were key facilitators. These findings highlighted the need for targeted community-based awareness programmes and equitable service delivery to improve HPV vaccine uptake among the parents. Keywords: Cervical cancer, Conjoint analysis, Human Papillomavirus, HPV vaccination, Vaccine acceptability.



**Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis Grant Award for Best Research Proposal (WBIPHACON 2025)****TITLE: 'ASSESSMENT ON LIFETIME EXPERIENCE OF CHILD ABUSE AMONG SLUM DWELLING ADOLESCENTS IN KOLKATA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY'****Dr. Kalpana Gupta**

Introduction: Child abuse is a major public health problem that may pose lifelong consequences. Adolescents particularly living in slums are vulnerable to various forms of abuse due to poverty, overcrowding, lack of privacy and limited adult supervision. Abuse is mostly under-reported or even normalized due to lack of awareness, social stigma or fear of punishment. As the literature is not much explored, therefore the study intends to estimate the prevalence of lifetime experience of child abuse and describe child abuse profile with any factors if associated.

Methodology: Community based descriptive study with cross-sectional design was conducted among adolescents aged 14-18 years, residents of slums of UPHC-81, Kolkata over a period of 10 months (April 2025 to January 2026). Using Cochran's formula Z^2pq/d^2 (where $p=53\%$), 10% absolute error, 10% non-response and design effect of 2, the final sample size was calculated as 211, were selected using Multistage random sampling technique. Pre-designed, pre-tested structured questionnaire consisting of the international childhood abuse screening tool, child version (ICAST-C), exploring types of abuse was analyzed using SPSS v26.0.. Descriptive and inferential statistics were performed. Each type of abuse was categorized as experienced or not experienced and witnessed or not witnessed for violence. For the lifetime prevalence, even one experience in any form of abuse was considered. Binary logistic regression was used to identify factors associated with psychological and physical abuse, neglect and witness violence. Variables with p-values less than 0.25 in the bivariate analysis were included in the multivariable logistic regression. To demonstrate the strength of the relationship, the adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with the corresponding 95% confidence interval (CI) was used.





Results: 206 results were obtained. Majority (76%) were females. The mean ($\pm$ SD) age was 15.64 ($\pm$ 1.35) years. A small proportion of adolescents lived with single parent/relatives (9.8%) and were also working apart from study (18.1%). Participant's fathers were mostly educated up to primary (32.6%) while mothers up to middle school (25.0%) and most of them were working (57.8%). The lifetime prevalence of abuse was 79.0%. Most adolescents experienced psychological abuse (69.60%), followed by neglect (61.30%), physical abuse (34.30%), witnessed violence (26.0%) and sexual abuse (2.50%). Younger aged adolescents (AOR=3.782, 95% CI: 1.263-11.328) and those working apart from studying (AOR=11.479, 95% CI: 4.371-30.147) were significantly found to be witnessed violence. Adolescent females (AOR=3.461, 95% CI: 1.713-3.885), younger adolescents (AOR=2.019, 95% CI: 1.017-4.008) and those having working mothers (AOR=2.045, 95% CI: 1.076-3.885) experienced significantly more of psychological abuse; similar factors were also significantly found to be associated with neglect; while adolescents living away from both parents (AOR=8.963, 95% CI: 2.776-28.944) and those working apart from studying (AOR=3.464, 95% CI: 1.556-7.711) experienced significantly more physical abuse.

Conclusion: Adolescents living in unstable family environments, working apart from studying, belonging to younger age, females and those having working mothers were more vulnerable to child abuse.

Keywords: Lifetime prevalence, child abuse, adolescents



আপনার কি ভাইরাল ফিভার হয়েছে?

~ DR MALAY MUNDLE

ডাক্তারের কাছে দু তিন দিনের জ্বর, গায়ে হাতে পায়ে ব্যথা নিয়ে গেলে, অনেক সময়েই উনি রোগী কে বলে থাকেন, বিশেষ কিছুই হয়নি, ভাইরাল ফিভার হয়েছে। অনেক সময়ই ডাক্তার বাবু রোগ বিজ্ঞান বা Pathology না বুঝতে পারলে এইরকম নিদান দিয়ে থাকেন। যেমন রোগ বিজ্ঞানের কারণ ধরতে না পারলে Idiopathic বলা হয়।

যাই হোক, ভাইরাস এবং জীবাণু বা bacteria যে এক গোত্রের নয় তা প্রথমে বুঝে নিতে হবে। জীবাণুর একটা জীবন আছে, জন্মায়, খায়, বড়ো হয়, বংশ বৃদ্ধি করে, তারপর মারা যায়। কিন্তু ভাইরাস এর মধ্যে জীবনের এই ক্রম দেখা যায় না। ভাইরাস একটা শিশির মধ্যে বছরের পর বছর ধরে রেখে দিলেও একই রকম থাকবে, বাড়বে না, কমবে না, নষ্ট তো হবেই না। তারপর দীর্ঘ দিন পর সেই শিশি থেকে বের করে একটা জ্যান্ত কোষের মধ্যে সে সেই কোষের কোষ পর্দার গায়ে থাকা গ্রাহক বা receptor এর মাধ্যমে সেখানে স্টেটে বা absorbed হয়ে যায়। তারপর তার প্রোটিন আবরণ এর মধ্যে যে জীন (gene বা chromosome এর অন্তর্গত একক যা বংশানুক্রমিক বৈশিষ্ট্য কে নিয়ন্ত্রণ করে) থাকেন তার নিউক্লিক এসিড কোষের মধ্যে প্রেরণ করে। এই নিউক্লিক এসিড দুই প্রকার- DNA (Deoxyribo nucleic acid) এবং RNA(Ribonucleic acid)। কোষের মধ্যে DNA বা RNA সোজা nucleus বা কোষ কেন্দ্র এর মধ্যে চলে যায়। তারপর কোষের যাবতীয় কাজ কর্মের নির্দেশনার ব্যাপার নিজের 'হাতে' তুলে নেয়। এবং নতুন ভাইরাস কণা বা virion তৈরি করার নির্দেশ দেয়। অসংখ্য ভাইরাস কণা তৈরি হয়ে শরীরের বিভিন্ন অংশে ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। বিভিন্ন অঙ্গ প্রত্যঙ্গ এর কর্ম ক্ষমতা হ্রাস পায়। এই ভাবেই ভাইরাল অসুখ হয়ে থাকে।

জীবাণু বা bacteria থেকে ভাইরাস আলাদা করার জন্য বিশেষ এক ফিল্টার আবিষ্কার করেন ফরাসি জীবাণু বিজ্ঞানী চার্লস চেম্বারল্যান্ড 1884 সালে। এই ফিল্টার এর ছিদ্র জীবাণুর আয়তন এর চেয়ে ছোটো ছিল। এই Pasteur Chamberland ফিল্টার এর সাহায্যে রুশ বৈজ্ঞানিক Dimitri Ivanovsky Tobacco Mosaic ভাইরাস সম্বন্ধে অনেক নতুন তথ্য আবিষ্কার করেছিলেন। ডাচ অনুজীব বিজ্ঞানি চার্লস বিয়েজেরিন্ক 1899 সালে প্রথম দেখিয়েছেন যে ভাইরাস শুধু মাত্র জীবিত কোষের মধ্যেই replicate করতে পারে। তারপর 1931 সালে আসে electron microscope যা আমাদের কাছে ভাইরাস এর প্রকৃত ছবি তুলে ধরেন জার্মান ইঞ্জিনিয়ার Ernst Ruska এবং Max Knoll। অনেক পরে William Goodpasture দেখান যে Influenza ভাইরাস কী করে নিষিক্ত মুরগির ভ্রূণের (chick embryo cell) মধ্যে ভাইরাস কণা replicate করে।





একটা ভাইরাস একটা জীবাণুর থেকেও ক্ষুদ্রতম। পীত জ্বর বা Yellow fever ভাইরাস যেমন কেবলমাত্র 22 ন্যানো মিটার ($1 \text{ nm} = 10^{-9} \text{ metre}$), জলাতঙ্ক বা Rabies ভাইরাস 125 nm, যেখানে haemoglobin molecule 15 NM । জীবাণুর মধ্যে E coli 2 micron ($1 \text{ micron} = 10^{-6} \text{ মিটার}$)। Streptococcus 1 micron, Rickettsia 0.3 micron ।

ভাইরাস সমস্ত প্রাণী জগতেই ছড়িয়ে আছে। উদ্ভিদ এর ভাইরাস এক উদ্ভিদ থেকে আরেক উদ্ভিদে বয়ে নিয়ে যায় পোকা মাকড় । জীব জন্তুর দেহে যেসব ভাইরাস থাকে তা মানুষের শরীরে বিভিন্ন উপায়ে প্রবেশ করতে পারে যেমন –

ক) হাওয়ার মাধ্যমে বা airborne যেমন Influenza, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Corona, Rhino, Adeno ইত্যাদি। হাচি কাশির মাধ্যমে নাসিকা নির্গত জল কণা বা Droplet infection এর দ্বারা এই সংক্রমণ ঘটে।

খ) দূষিত পানীয় জল বা খাবারের দ্বারা- Faeco-oral route- যেমন Rota ভাইরাস, Poliomyelitis, Norwalk ভাইরাস।

গ) শরীরের তরল রসের মাধ্যমে, সহবাসের সময়ে একজনের শরীর থেকে অন্য জনের শরীরে প্রবেশ করে - Sexual transmission, যেমন Hepatitis B, HIV, Herpes simplex ।

ঘ) মশার কামড় দ্বারা- Vectorial transmission যেমন Aedes মশার দ্বারা Dengue এবং Yellow fever, Culex মশার কামড়ে Japanese encephalitis প্রভৃতি।

ভাইরাসের মধ্যে যে বংশ গতীয় সংকেত বা জেনেটিক কোড থাকে তা হয় DNA অথবা RNA । DNA থাকলে তাকে DNA ভাইরাস বলা হয়। RNA থাকলে তাকে RNA ভাইরাস আখ্যা দেওয়া হয়। DNA ভাইরাস আন্তরণ যুক্ত বা Enveloped হতে পারে যেমন Smallpox, Chickenpox, Herpes। আন্তরণ মুক্ত ডবল stranded DNA ভাইরাস যেমন Adeno ও Papova ভাইরাস। Single stranded DNA ভাইরাস যেমন Parvo ভাইরাস যা কুকুরের হলে বাঁচানো মুশ্কিল।

RNA আন্তরণ যুক্ত সবই Single stranded যেমন Orthomyxovirus, Bunya ভাইরাস, Arena ভাইরাস, Paramyxovirus, Rhabdovirus, করোনা ভাইরাস প্রভৃতি। যে RNA ভাইরাস এর রিভার্স transcriptase enzyme থাকে, তারা RNA থেকে DNA কপি বার করে নিয়ে কোষের নিয়ন্ত্রণ নিজ 'হাতে' তুলে নেয় যেমন Retrovirus বা HIV। আন্তরণ হীন single stranded RNA ভাইরাস হলো Picornavirus, Calicivirus ইত্যাদি।

এবারে দেখবো বিভিন্ন ভাইরাস অসুখ চিনবো কী করে। চিকেন পক্স হলে গায়ে গুটি দানা বেরোয়। Herpes zoster হলে প্রান্তিক নার্ভের গতিপথে চামড়ায় গুটি বেরোয় এবং প্রচণ্ড জ্বালা যন্ত্রণা অনুভূত হয়।





Measles বা হাম হলে জ্বর এর সঙ্গে গায়ে লালচে rash হয় যা কানের পিছন থেকে শুরু করে, মুখে, তারপর গলায়, বুকে পেটে হাতে পায়ে ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। হাম হলে ডায়ারিয়া বা নিউমোনিয়ায় রোগী মারা ও যেতে পারে। Mumps হলে কানের সামনে Parotid gland এ প্রদাহ হয়ে ফুলে যায়, অন্ড কোষে প্রদাহ ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। Rubella হলে প্রসূতি মায়েদের ক্ষেত্রে বিপজ্জনক হতে পারে, কারণ পেটের বাচ্চার Congenital Rubella Syndrome হতে পারে-deafness, cataract এবং পেটেন্ট ductus arteriosus। Influenza বা Corona infection হলে clinical diagnosis বা শারীরিক পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে রোগ নির্ণয় করা হয়। এই অসুখে অসংখ্য লোকের কাজের দিন নষ্ট হয়, bed rest নিতে হয়। করোনা ভাইরাস 2020 সালে সারা পৃথিবীতে ছড়িয়ে পড়েছিল এবং কোটি কোটি মানুষের প্রাণ নিয়ে নিয়েছে। প্রসঙ্গত বলা যায় যে ঠিক এক শত বছর আগে অর্থাৎ 1920 তে স্প্যানিশ ফ্লু তে ও লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মারা গেছিল। হেপাটাইটিস হলে জন্ডিস হয়। ডেঙ্গু হলে গায়ে হাতে পায়ে প্রচণ্ড ব্যথা হয়, চোখের পিছনের দিকে ব্যথা হয়, রক্ত ক্ষরণ হয়, Platelet বা অনুচক্রিকার সংখ্যা কমে যায়। এই অসুখে শক ও হতে পারে।

HIV infection হলে শরীরের প্রতিরোধ ক্ষমতা কমে যায়, CD4 count ভীষণ ভাবে কমে যায়। তখন আন্টি retroviral থেরাপি দিতে হয়। Yellow fever আমাদের দেশে হয় না, সাধারণত আফ্রিকা মহাদেশে দেখা যায়। Rabies ভাইরাস rabid জন্তুর থেকে আসে যেমন কুকুর, বিড়াল, বেঁজি, নেকড়ে বাঘ ইত্যাদি। এই ভাইরাস কেন্দ্রীয় স্নায়ুতন্ত্র এর দিকে ধাবিত হয়। তাই convulsions বা খিচুনি হয় সামান্য তম irritation হলেই। যেমন উজ্জ্বল আলো, আওয়াজ, জোরে বাতাস সব কিছুতেই খিচুনি আরম্ভ হয়ে যায়। কুকুরে কামড়ালে সর্ব প্রথম কাজ হলো কামড়ানোর জায়গা টা সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ভালো করে সাবান জল দিয়ে 15 থেকে 20 মিনিট ভালো করে ধুয়ে ফেলা। মুখে গলায় কামড়ালে সরাসরি বেলঘাটা আই ডি হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করে চিকিৎসা করার দরকার। জলাতঙ্ক রোগের প্রতিষেধক নিতে হবে 0, 3, 7, 14, এবং 28th দিনে।

মশার কামড় থেকে জাপানী এনকেফালাইটিস হতে পারে। এই ভাইরাস বক জাতীয় পাখির থেকে Culex মশার কামড় এর দ্বারা হয়ে থাকে। মশা সব প্রাণী কেই কামড়ে দিতে পারে। শুয়োর এর শরীরের মধ্যে এই ভাইরাস প্রচুর পরিমাণে বংশ বিস্তার করে কিন্তু শুয়োর কে কোনো ক্ষতি করতে পারে না, তাই শুয়োর কে Amplifier host বলা হয়।

এনকেফালাইটিস রোগ শুধুমাত্র মানুষের এবং ঘোড়ার হয়। জ্বর এর মাত্রা 105 ডিগ্রির বেশি হলে বা রোগী বেহুঁশ হয়ে গেলে দ্রুত হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করে চিকিৎসা করা দরকার। JE র ভাইরাস যে মশা থেকে মানুষের শরীরে আসে, সেই Culex মশা ধান গাছের গোড়ায় জমা জলে বংশ বিস্তার করে। তাহলে যেখানে ধান উৎপাদন বেশি হয় যেমন বর্ধমান আর যেখানে শুয়োর চরে বেড়ায়, সেখানে JE হবার সম্ভাবনা বেশি।





একটু Rota ভাইরাস সম্বন্ধে বলি। এই ভাইরাস ছবি তে গোল গোল চাকার মত দেখা যায়। পাঁচ মাস থেকে তিন বছর বয়সে শিশুদের মধ্যে এই অসুখ দেখা যায়। সবুজ সবুজ পাতলা পায়খানা এবং জল শূন্যতা বা dehydration হয়। বাচ্চা মারা ও যেতে পারে। তাই আজকাল বাচ্চাদের Rota virus vaccine খাওয়ানো হয়।

আরেকটা অত্যন্ত সংক্রামক ভাইরাস হলো Norwalk ভাইরাস। আমার অনেক ডাক্তার বন্ধুরা বলে যে এটা আমাদের দেশের অসুখ নয়। আসলে আমেরিকার Ohio শহরে Norwalk নামক স্থানে এই ভাইরাস সর্বপ্রথম আবিষ্কার করা হয়। এটাকে winter bug ও বলা হয়। শীত কালে বমি পায়খানা পেটে ব্যথা হয়। বছরে 70 কোটি লোক আক্রান্ত হয়ে 2 লক্ষাধিক লোক মারা যায়। উন্নয়নশীল দেশে ও এই রোগ দেখা যায়। অনূর্ধ্ব পাঁচ বছরের বাচ্চাদের এই অসুখ বেশি হয়। শীত কালে ঘষাঘষি করে বসবাস করায় রোগ টা দ্রুত ছড়ায়। এই ভাইরাস হাওয়ার মাধ্যমে এক জন থেকে আরেক জনের শরীরে প্রবেশ করে। টয়লেট flush করলে হওয়ায় এটা ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। তাই কমোডের ঢাকনা ফেলে দিয়ে তারপর flush করতে বলা হয়েছে। মাত্র কুড়ি টা ভাইরাস কণা এই অসুখ টা করতে পারে। দূষিত পানীয় জল ও খাবার থেকে ও এই ভাইরাস সংক্রমিত হতে পারে। অসুখ সেরে গেলেও ভাইরাস রোগীর শরীর থেকে নির্গত হতে পারে। শীত কালে বোর্ডিং স্কুলের ডরমিটরী তে দাবানলের মত ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। একটা ঘটনার কথা বলি। রেস্টুরেন্টএ সবাই খাবার খেতে বসেছে। এমন সময়ে কোনার একটা টেবিলে এক মহিলা বমি করে। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তার সঙ্গী তাকে নিয়ে বাইরে চলে যায়, কিন্তু রেস্টুরেন্টের অনেকেই এই অসুখে ভুগতে থাকে ঘটনার তিন দিন পরেও। অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রেই Norwalk ভাইরাস এর অসুখ সাধারণ ভাবেই সেরে যায় এবং দীর্ঘ মেয়াদী কোনো অসুবিধা হয় না।

উপরের প্রতিবেদন টা পড়ে আপনার কি মনে হয় যে ভাইরাস অসুখ নিতান্তই মামুলি ব্যাপার? বিশেষ কোনো ক্ষতি করে না? অনেক ভাইরাস আছে যারা খুব ক্ষতি করতে পারে না ঠিকই। জ্বর থাকে চার পাঁচ দিন। তারপর সম্পূর্ণ ভালো। কিন্তু ও কিছু না, ভাইরাল ফিভার, এই casual approach টার আমি বিরোধী। অবশ্য আমার উদ্দেশ্য ভয় পাইয়ে দেওয়া নয়, সতর্ক থাকতে বলা। কিভাবে রোগ টা হয়েছে তা নিজে বোঝার চেষ্টা করুন, আপনার ডাক্তার কেও সেই তথ্য দিয়ে রোগ নির্ণয় করতে সাহায্য করুন।

কারণ, ভাইরাস এর রোগের কোনো নির্দিষ্ট চিকিৎসা নেই। Symptomatic চিকিৎসা করতে হয়। কিছু কিছু ক্ষেত্রে antiviral drug দিতে হবে যেমন চিকেন পক্স হলে Ribavirin, HIV হলে Antiretroviral থেরাপি ইত্যাদি।

অনেক ভাইরাস এর প্রতিষেধক টীকা আছে যেমন Poliomyelitis এর জন্যে oral polio ও injectable polio vaccine। Measles Mumps Rubella র MMR vaccine আছে। ভবিষ্যতে আরও অনেক উন্নত চিকিৎসার পদ্ধতি আবিষ্কৃত হবে ভাইরাস রোগ নির্মূল করতে, এই আশা রাখি।



BELVEDERE HOUSE

~ Sohini Pyne M. Arch

Conservation Architect



Figure 1 Belvedere House, c. 1878, taken from the 'Walter Hawkins Nightingale (PWD) collection: Album of views of Calcutta. At this time the building was the Lieut Governor of Bengal's official residence. (Source: Rare Book Society of India.)



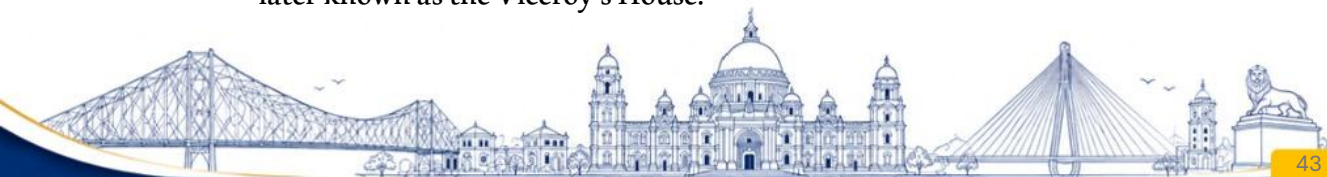
Set within the expansive grounds of the National Library of India in Alipore, Belvedere House is one of Kolkata's most significant historic residences. Its layered architectural character reflects successive phases of occupation, alteration and enlargement. Through the years, the Anglo-India style garden house gradually acquired Italian Renaissance-inspired façades, ceremonial staircases, verandahs and projecting wings, giving the building its present monumental appearance.

The early history of the Belvedere House and the circumstances of its construction remain unclear, as surviving archival records are incomplete. The earliest records place it as the private country house of Governors before the time of Warren Hastings to Governors of Bengal - Verelst (1767-1769) and Cartier (1769-1772). Located beyond the crowded centre of colonial Calcutta, it offered the privacy and openness of a garden house while remaining close to the city. Warren Hastings moved in to the residence in 1772 initially as the Governor of Bengal and later as the first Governor-General of the Bengal Presidency.



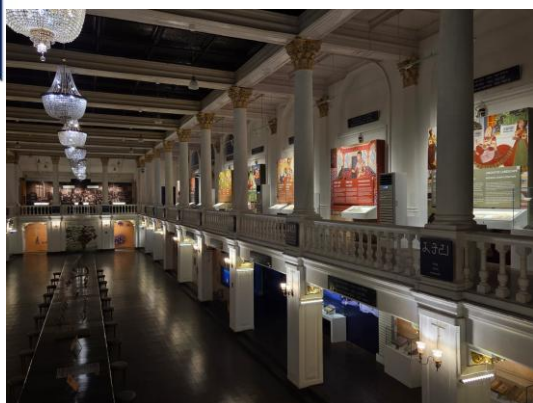


By the late 1770s, however, Hastings no longer required the estate and in early 1778, leased it to Major William Tolly, remembered for the excavation of Tolly's Nullah. The lease was converted into a sale in 1780. That same year, the grounds near Belvedere witnessed one of colonial Calcutta's most dramatic episodes—the duel between Warren Hastings and his political opponent, Philip Francis. Francis was wounded and carried into Belvedere House for treatment. The incident added a lasting note of intrigue to the history of the estate. After Major Tolly's death in 1784, Belvedere passed through several owners and occupants. Among them was General Sir Edward Paget, Commander-in-Chief in India from 1822 to 1825. The property later came into the possession of the Prinsep family, one of the best-known European families in nineteenth-century Calcutta. They had occupied the house for some time before purchasing it outright in 1841. In 1854, Charles Robert Prinsep sold Belvedere to the East India Company. According to a minute recorded by Lord Dalhousie, the estate was purchased for ₹80,000, with another ₹20,000 set aside for repairs and alterations. Belvedere was then adapted as the official residence of the newly appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. For nearly six decades, from 1854 to 1912, Belvedere was one of the centres of administrative and social life in Bengal. A succession of Lieutenant-Governors occupied the house, each leaving some mark upon it. New wings, verandahs, staircases and ceremonial spaces gradually transformed the earlier garden residence into a palatial government house. Yet the broad form of the building appears to have retained elements of its eighteenth-century layout, resembling its representation on a map prepared from surveys undertaken in 1792–93. Belvedere's role changed after the transfer of the imperial capital from Calcutta to Delhi. In 1912, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was elevated to the position of Governor and moved to Government House in central Calcutta. Belvedere nevertheless continued to be used for official purposes and was later known as the Viceroy's House.





A new chapter began after Independence. In 1948, the National Library of India was established at the Belvedere House, bringing together collections inherited from the former Imperial Library, located in the Metcalfe Hall. On 1 February 1953, the National Library was formally opened to the public by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Minister of Education.



Today, the Belvedere House houses the Museum of Word - a pioneering cultural initiative devoted to India's multilingual, literary and oral heritage. It brings diverse Indian languages and traditions together within a single experiential space and presents language not merely as a system of written communication, but as a living and continuously evolving expression of human thought, identity, memory and culture. The museum's narrative begins with the personal and experiential dimensions of language—sound, the first spoken word, lullabies, emotions and the mother tongue—and gradually expands into the wider civilizational journey of Indian languages. It examines their oral, written, literary and performative forms, as well as their influence beyond the geographical boundaries of India. The museum therefore transforms the visitor from a passive observer into an active participant in the exploration of language. It was recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on the 19th of July 2026.





WBIPHAACON 2026

LEISURE | GAME 1

THE PUBLIC HEALTH LINK-UP

A connections-style challenge with a Community Medicine twist

TIME LIMIT: 8 MINUTES

DIFFICULTY: MODERATE

HOW TO PLAY The 16 tiles hide four groups of four. Each group shares one precise public-health connection. Some words may seem to fit more than one group - that is the trap.

ABHA	AEDES	INCIDENCE	HPV
NIKSHAY	PREVALENCE	TRACHOMA	ANOPHELES
LENACAPAVIR	U-WIN	ATTACK RATE	CULEX
SICKLE CELL	eSANJEEVANI	CASE FATALITY RATE	SAND FLY

YOUR FOUR CONNECTIONS

1	Group title: _____ Tiles: _____
2	Group title: _____ Tiles: _____
3	Group title: _____ Tiles: _____
4	Group title: _____ Tiles: _____

SCORING: 4/4 = Field Epidemiologist | 3/4 = Programme Detective | 2/4 = Data Sleuth | 0-1 = Revisit Park!





WBIPHACON
2026

LEISURE | GAME 2

THE NINE-LOCK PUBLIC HEALTH ESCAPE

Solve nine mini-clues. The first letters unlock the final master key.

TIME LIMIT: 7 MINUTES

FINAL KEY: 3 + 6 LETTERS

MISSION You are locked inside the Department of Community Medicine after hours. Each correct answer opens one lock. Write the answer, then collect its first letter.

LOCK 1 A sudden occurrence of disease cases above what is normally expected in a place and time. Answer: _____	LOCK 2 India's digital platform supporting tuberculosis patient notification, tracking and care. Answer: _____	LOCK 3 The science that studies the distribution and determinants of health-related states in populations. Answer: _____
LOCK 4 Indirect protection that develops when a sufficiently large proportion of a population is immune. Answer: _____	LOCK 5 India's national telemedicine service connecting patients with healthcare providers remotely. Answer: _____	LOCK 6 A unique digital health account used to access and share an individual's health records. Answer: _____
LOCK 7 A chronic infectious disease caused by <i>Mycobacterium leprae</i>. Answer: _____	LOCK 8 Delivery of healthcare at a distance using information and communication technology. Answer: _____	LOCK 9 The principle that everyone should have a fair opportunity to attain their full health potential. Answer: _____

MASTER KEY

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Hint: The key links people, animals and the environment.

BONUS LOCK: Name the three domains traditionally connected by the master key. _____



**WBIPHAACON
2026****EDITORIAL PAGE****ANSWER KEY & FACT-
CHECK NOTES**

Remove this page before the souvenir goes to print.

GAME 1 - THE PUBLIC HEALTH LINK-UP

Digital public-health platforms	ABHA, U-WIN, NIKSHAY, eSANJEEVANI
Vectors of public-health importance	AEDES, ANOPHELES, CULEX, SAND FLY
Epidemiological frequency/severity measures	INCIDENCE, PREVALENCE, ATTACK RATE, CASE FATALITY RATE
Recent public-health update keywords (2024-26)	HPV, LENACAPAVIR, TRACHOMA, SICKLE CELL

GAME 2 - THE NINE-LOCK PUBLIC HEALTH ESCAPE

1. OUTBREAK |
2. NIKSHAY |
3. EPIDEMIOLOGY |
4. HERD IMMUNITY |
5. eSANJEEVANI |
6. ABHA |
7. LEPROSY |
8. TELEMEDICINE |
9. HEALTH EQUITY





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 2025-2026

Dear members,

I am happy to present all the activities undertaken by the Indian Public Health Association WB State Br during 2025-26 i.e. (from last State Annual Conference).

First of all, I would like to inform you, that as Secretary General of IPHA HQ has taken environment friendly initiative **GO GREEN**, we, the West Bengal State Branch also follow this policy. So, hard copies of this report will not be served. It will be distributed via email and other electronic media.

EC and GB Meetings conducted:

Sl.	Meetings held	Date & Venue
1.	64 th AGB meeting of IPHA WB Branch	4 May 2025 The Stadel Hotel, Salt Lake
2.	1 st EC meeting	20 th January 2025 online
3.	2 nd EC meeting	22 nd January 2026 at IPHA Bhaban
4.	3 rd EC meeting	21 st May 2026 online
5.	4 th EC meeting	1 st June, 2026 online
6.	5 th EC meeting	13 th June 2026 at IPHA Bhaban

Reports on 64th WBIPHACON 2025 at Stadel Hotel:

The 64th Annual state conference of Indian Public Health Association West Bengal Branch was held at The Stadel Hotel, Salt Lake City on 3rd & 4th May 2025 with the theme of "From Prevention to Cure: Strengthening the Continuum of Care in Public Health" under the leadership of Dr Dipika Sur (Organizing chairperson), Dr Surajit Ghosh (President, WB State Br), Dr Mausumi Basu (Secretary WB State Br) and Dr. Anirban Dalui (Organizing Secretary).

Almost 380 delegates participated in the conference. A significant number of abstracts and posters were submitted at the conference. All the innovative sessions were highly appreciated by the delegates.

Oration:

Prof. S. P. Mukhopadhyay Life-time Achievement Award 2024 given to Dr. Sujit Kumar Bhattacharya, Senior Consultant and HOD, Department of Internal Medicine, Bengal Faith Hospital & Former Additional Director-General, ICMR during the 64th State Annual Conference (WBIPHACON 2025) on 3rd May 2025.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

IPHA WB Br had arranged a good number of webinars, seminars, CMEs and masterclasses. Some public health days were also observed.

Membership report:

Total Members of IPHA – 11410 (till June 2026)	Year	Total no. of new members
Total Members from WB - 1969	2025	55
	2026	37





Activities (January 2025 – December 2025):

Workshop on Methods of Data Collection in Research:

Date: April 29, 2025

Venue: IPGMER, Kolkata

Details: Workshop on "Methods of Data Collection in Research" was organized by IPHA West Bengal State Branch with the support of the Department of Community Medicine, IPGMER, Kolkata, as part of the **pre-conference** workshop of WBIPHACON 2025 on April 29 at IPGMER, where 50 registered delegates, including PG medical and nursing students, MPH students, and faculties, learned about various quantitative and qualitative data collection methods and processes. The workshop was facilitated by eminent faculty members from community medicine, including Prof. (Dr.) Mausumi Basu, Dr. Kuntala Ray, Dr. Sinjita Dutta, Dr. Somnath Naskar, Dr. Surajit Lahiri, Dr. Sreetama Chakrabarti, Dr. Anindita Maiti, and Dr. Moumita Mandal, who shared their expertise and provided valuable insights to the participants.



Workshop entitled "Keeping Vaccines 'Fit': Essentials of Cold Chain"

Date: April 30, 2025

Venue: Medical College Kolkata

Details: IPHA West Bengal State Branch and Medical College, Kolkata, jointly organized a hands-on workshop titled "Keeping Vaccines 'Fit': Essentials of Cold Chain" on April 30, 2025, as part of the **pre-conference** workshop of WBIPHACON 2025. The workshop covered recent updates from the Routine Immunization Handbook and focused on key areas like preparation, maintenance, and monitoring of cold chain systems through demonstrations, hands-on activities, and role-playing exercises. A total of 55 participants, including postgraduate doctors, nursing students, faculty members, and public health professionals, attended the workshop, gaining valuable insights and practical knowledge on effective cold chain management.



Workshop on "Managing Outbreaks: Practitioner's Approach"

Date: May 1, 2025

Venue: AIHH&PH, Kolkata

Details: IPHA West Bengal State Branch, in collaboration with the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (AIHH&PH), organized a workshop as part of the **pre-conference** workshop of WBIPHACON 2025 on "Managing Outbreaks: Practitioner's Approach". The workshop was held at the B.N. Campus of AIHH&PH on May





1, 2025. The speakers included Dr. Manas Kundu, Prof. C.S. Taklikkar, Prof. Debasish Dutt, Dr. Rivu Basu, Dr. S. Sadhukhan, Dr. Harikrishna B.N., Prof. Atul Raj, and Prof. Bobby Paul. The sessions covered outbreak investigation, field planning, data handling, and biosecurity, with interactive activities like preparing case report forms and interpreting curves using Epi Collect. Over 30 senior residents and faculty members attended the workshop.



WBIPHACON 2026

Date: May 3 & 4, 2026

Venue: Stadel hotel, Salt Lake, Kolkata

Details: The 64th Annual State Conference of the Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), West Bengal State Branch, along with the East Zone Public Health Conclave, was held on May 3–4, 2025 at Stadel Hotel, Salt Lake, Kolkata, with participation of over 300 public health professionals and postgraduate students from across the state.

The conference included scientific sessions such as orations, plenary discussions, oral and poster presentations covering topics like HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B elimination, Integrative Medicine, NCDs, Tuberculosis, Cancer, CSE, and Artificial Intelligence in Public Health. Prof. Dr. Anand Krishnan delivered the Dr. S.C. Seal Memorial Oration, while Dr. Sanjoy Ghosh delivered the Dr. Dharmendra Memorial Oration. The Dr. S.P. Mukhopadhyay Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred upon Dr. Sujit Kumar Bhattacharya for his outstanding contribution to Public Health.



The Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis Memorial Research Grant was awarded to two selected research articles (to Dr. Shalini Pattanayak and Dr. Kalpana Gupta).

The inaugural session was attended by senior dignitaries including Dr. Swapan Saren, Prof. (Dr.) Mukul Bhattacharyya, Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, Dr. Kaushik Mitra, Dr. Surajit Ghosh, and Dr. Mausumi Basu. **A total of 25 abstracts were presented orally, 17 as posters, and 15 undergraduate posters were showcased.** The conference concluded with the Annual General Body Meeting of the IPHA West Bengal State Branch. The West Bengal Medical Council

sanctioned 5 credit hours, and the conference received an overwhelmingly positive response from participants, marking it a successful scientific event. Special initiatives for the conference were

- Research Grant Dr Dilip Mahalanabis
- Poster presentation by UG students
- Three pre cons
- 5 Credit hours





World No Tobacco Day observation

Date: 31st May, 2025

Venue: Calcutta National Medical College

Details: World No Tobacco Day was observed by Indian Public Health Association HQ, West Bengal State Branch and Dept of Community Medicine, Calcutta National Medical College on 31st May, 2025.

The program was inaugurated by respected guests like

- Prof Dr Subhra Mitra (Principal, CNMCH),
- Prof Dr Arghya Maitra (MSVP, CNMCH),
- Dr Sanghamitra Ghosh (President, IPHA HQ),
- Dr Surajit Ghosh (President, IPHA WB State Branch),
- Prof Dr Manidipa Roy (HOD, Community Medicine, CNMCH),
- Prof Dr Kunal K Majumder (MSVP, KPCMCH) etc.

Renowned faculty and senior members like Prof Dr Aparajita Dasgupta, Dr Kunal Kanti Majumder, Dr Rama Bhunia, Dr Shuvankar Mukherjee, Dr Debjani Sengupta, Dr Sukanta Majumdar, Dr Partha Dey, Dr Satabdi Mitra etc graced the occasion.

Prof Dr Sanjay Saha (HOD, CM, Raiganj Medical College) described Tobacco cessation process in detail. Dr Shelly Shamim (HOD, Chest Medicine, CNMCH) elaborated the effects of smoking on lung in a lucid and effective manner.

Prof Dr Kunal Kanti Majumder (MSVP, KPCMCH) explained the audience about significance of this day and its theme.

There was Quiz contest themed on Tobacco use for UG students. There was a Poster Presentation contest as well for UG students on this year's theme. Winner and Runner up were awarded with certificates and books by the dignitaries.

The Program was attended by delegates from different fields and sectors.



International Day of Yoga (2025)

Date: June 21st 2025

Venue: IPHA Bhaban

Details: The IPHA West Bengal State Branch, in collaboration with Banchbo School of Human Skill Development, observed International Day of Yoga on June 21st, 2025, at IPHA Bhawan. Members of IPHA and Banchbo Sociocultural Association, along with students pursuing the Geriatric Yoga Diploma,





attended the event. Basic yoga training was provided by expert Mr. Ujjal Kumar Ghosh, under whose guidance members and students performed yoga. The event commenced with a brief introduction by Dr. Surajit Ghosh, President, IPHA WB State Branch, and Mr. Tapan Sen, General Secretary, Banchbo Socio-Cultural Association. Doctors from IPHA also highlighted the significance of practicing yoga in relieving various diseases.

ALLARM, allergy and airway meet

Date: July 26th, 2025

Venue: Hotel Gulmohar Royals, Coochbehar

Details: The ALLARM academic meet, held on July 26, 2025, at Gulmohar Royals Resort in Coochbehar, marked a significant milestone in regional respiratory and allergy education. Organized by the Saltlake Asthma and Allergy Research Centre in collaboration with IPHA West Bengal State Branch, the event drew nearly 60 delegates who engaged in a comprehensive blend of knowledge sharing, clinical skill-building, and interactive learning.



The meet featured expert sessions on asthma diagnosis and management, allergy diagnostics, and medicolegal awareness, with a focus on practical, evidence-based approaches. A highlight of the event was the panel discussion on "One Airway, One Disease," which emphasized the interconnected nature of respiratory and allergic diseases. The discussion underscored the need for unified diagnostic and therapeutic strategies, fostering inter-professional understanding among attendees.

A standout segment was the hands-on demonstration on respiratory devices and spirometry interpretation, which provided participants with valuable practical skills. The event concluded with overwhelmingly positive feedback, reflecting a growing demand for regional educational initiatives that cater to the needs of healthcare professionals. The success of ALLARM Coochbehar 2025 sets a promising precedent for future events, emphasizing the importance of academic excellence, practical relevance, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Observation of World Breastfeeding Week 2025

Date: August 5th, 2025

Venue: Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata

Details: IPHA West Bengal state branch observed World Breastfeeding Week 2025 along with IPHA Headquarters in collaboration with the College of Nursing, Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata, scheduled on 5th August 2025 from 2 pm to 4 pm at the auditorium of the College of Nursing.



The event focused on this year's theme, "Invest in breastfeeding, invest in future". Dr. Surajit Ghosh, State President, gave his welcome address followed by inaugural speeches by Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, President, IPHA HQ, Prof.

Dr. Anjan Adhikari, MSVP, MCK graced the programme with his valuable speech. The keynote address was





given by Dr. Arup Chakraborti, Dean of Students' Affairs, MCK. He delivered his speech focusing on strengthening healthcare support for mothers in breastfeeding-friendly environments with reduced reliance on formula feeding. He emphasized promoting equality and sustainability. A panel discussion was held on 'Breastfeeding Uncovered: Busting Myths and Embracing Reality'. The panel was moderated by Dr. Anirban Dalui, Assistant Professor, Barasat Medical College, and the panelists were Prof. Dr. Rakesh Mondal (Professor, Pediatrics, Medical College Kolkata), Dr. Shamima Yasmin (Associate Professor, Community Medicine & Gynecologist), Prof. Dr. Alpanamayi Bera (Principal, College of Nursing, MCK), Dr. Moumita Mandal (Assistant Professor, Community Medicine, IPGMER & SSKM), and Ms. Pallabi Chatterjee (Guest Lecturer, College of Nursing, MCK). The discussion aimed to dispel common myths surrounding breastfeeding and promote a deeper understanding of its benefits. A quiz event was also arranged for the nursing students and was conducted by Dr. Shamima Yasmin and Dr. Ankush Banerjee. Prizes were distributed among the students who gave correct answers.



Observation of National Nutrition Month by IPHA

Date: 10th September, 2025

Venue: IDBG Hospital, Belegghata

Details: National Nutrition Month 2025 with the theme "Food Connects Us" was observed by Indian Public Health Association in collaboration with IDBG Hospital, Kolkata on 10th September 2025 in GB2 Auditorium of IDBG Hospital, Belegghata. The program was attended by nursing personnel of IDBG Hospital as well as beneficiaries who attended the facility for maternal and child health care services.

The program began with a warm welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Nabanita Bhattacharyya, Principal,

IDBG Hospital and Dr. Baisakhi Maji, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, IDBG



Hospital anchored and moderated all the sessions. The first session was on the agenda of 'Nutritional counseling in Antenatal care' which was discussed in detail by Ms. Ananya Chatterjee, Project Research Scientist-I, NHRP-ICMR BCSS Project, Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata. Here all components regarding importance of nutritional supplementation

during the antenatal phase to prevent nutritional deficiencies was discussed in detail.

The second session was on "Advantages of Breastfeeding and Technique of Breastfeeding" which was taken by Ms. Soma Mondal, Senior Sister Tutor, ANM (R) Training School, ID & BG Hospital, Kolkata. She discussed in detail with the help of posters and flipcharts on the correct technique of breast feeding and gave suitable advice on breast feeding steps to the attending mothers. Hands on demonstration with mannequin on attachment for breast feeding was conducted by her. This 40 minutes sessions by Ms. Mondal also consisted of numerous doubt clearing sessions among the beneficiaries attending.





The next session was taken by Ms. Pallabi Chatterjee (Dietitian) and Guest Lecturer, College of Nursing Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata in the topic of "Nutritional needs of Lactating Mothers, Complementary feeding & Nutrition of Under 5 children". Ms Chatterjee spoke regarding the importance of nutrition intake and extra calorie supplementation of lactating mothers, the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and how to initiate complementary feeding. The importance of maintaining proper nutritional intake for proper growth and development of under-five child was also discussed under this session.

In the final session, Dr. Ankush Banerjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, JIS School of Medical Science and Research, Santragachi, Howrah summarised the important proceedings of the previous sessions and discussed some common myths and doubts regarding breast feeding among the beneficiaries.

The program ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Baisakhi Maji.

Observation of National Nutrition Month 2025

Date: 12th September

Venue: NRS Medical College & Hospital

Details: National Nutrition Month 2025 was observed by the Indian Public Health Association, West Bengal State Branch, in collaboration with the Department of Community Medicine, NRS Medical College & Hospital, on 12th September 2025 at the e-Classroom, Academic Building, NRS Medical College Campus.

Eminent public health professionals delivered speeches on various topics relevant to nutrition and health. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Santasabuj Das, Scientist G and Director, ICMR-NIRBI; Prof. (Dr.) Indira Dey (Pal), Principal, NRSMCH; Dr. Dibakar Haldar, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, NRSMCH; and Dr. Surajit Ghosh, President, IPHA West Bengal Branch, who addressed the gathering during the inaugural session.

A plenary session titled "Public Health Nutrition and Related Policies" was held, featuring insightful talks by Dr. Dipta Kanti Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Somnath Naskar, and chaired by Dr. Lina Bandyopadhyay.



A panel discussion on "Sustainable Diets and Climate-Resilient Nutrition" followed, with eminent speakers Dr. Dibakar Haldar, Dr. Aritra Khan, Dr. Usha Mallick, and Dr. Kunal Kanti Majumdar. The session was moderated by Dr. Satabdi Mitra and chaired by Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh.

In addition to the discussions, eight expert talks were delivered by renowned professors and public health specialists on diverse topics. The speakers included:

1. Dr. Anindita Ray Chakravarti, Assistant Professor and HOD, Dept. of Food and Nutrition, Maharani Kasiswari College, Kolkata
2. Ms. Pallabi Chatterjee, Guest Lecturer (Nutrition and Dietetics), College of Nursing, Medical College & Hospital Kolkata
3. Dr. Agnimita Giri Sarkar, Consultant Paediatrician Incharge Lactation Services Institute of Child Health
4. Dr. Rumi Sen, HoD & Associate Professor Department of Nursing Aliah University, Kolkata
5. Dr. Somsindhu Ghosh, Associate Consultant- Critical Care Manipal Hospitals, Salt Lake City Kolkata





6. Dr. Sayan Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, Kolkata
7. Mrs. Snita Bhunia, Senior Lecturer West Bengal Govt. college of Nursing, SSKM Hospital campus
8. Dr. Jharna Ghosh, Principal Florence College of Nursing

The expert talks covered a range of topics, including the intersection of nutrition with mental health, cancer care, and critical care. Discussions also addressed food safety, nutrition for specific health conditions such as diabetes and renal disease, and the vital role of nurses in diet planning. The sessions highlighted emerging trends and practical applications in nutrition science.

As part of the event, a debate competition was organized on the topic "Is Modern Diet a Threat to Adolescent Health?" moderated by Dr. Shibaji Gupta and Dr. Shabana Yasmin. Six postgraduate students participated in the debate, where Dr. Prabudhha Goswami and Ms. Bula Dey were declared winner and runner-up, respectively.

The programme was attended by more than 120 delegates, including postgraduate trainees and public health professionals. It concluded with a brief valedictory address by Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, National President, IPHA. Participation certificates were distributed to all attendees.

The event received an enthusiastic response and was highly appreciated by the delegates.

Observation of National Nutrition Month 2025

Date: 12th September, 2025

Venue: JIMSH, Budge Budge

Details: In collaboration with IPHA Headquarters the Department of Community Medicine, Jagannath Gupta Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital (JIMSH), Budge Budge, takes immense pride and pleasure in sharing the resounding success of NUTRIPOT 2.0, organized as part of the National Nutrition Month celebration in collaboration with IPHA Headquarters.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Sanghamitra Ghosh, National President, Indian Public Health Association (IPHA), as the Guest of Honour. Her inspiring words and gracious presence added immense value to the occasion, motivating students and faculty alike.



A total of 44 medical students participated enthusiastically, forming 22 teams that competed in a spirited display of creativity, teamwork, and nutritional knowledge. The competition aimed to reinforce the principles of balanced nutrition through the concept of "fun learning", where complex nutrient calculations were transformed into engaging, enjoyable exercises — truly reflecting the spirit of the National Nutrition Month.

The event was adjudicated by an esteemed panel comprising our Dean of Academics, Administrative and Nodal Officer, JIMSH, and a third set of scores derived from the collective evaluation of the young and dynamic faculty members of the Department of Community Medicine, JIMSH.

The event reached a memorable conclusion with the Executive Director, JIMSH, Dr. Shubhangi Gupta, honouring the winners by personally awarding medals, a moment of great pride for all participants and organizers.





The celebration truly embodied the message of “Healthy Eating for a Healthy Tomorrow”, blending learning, innovation, and joy in perfect harmony.

Scientific Session on adult pneumococcal vaccine-PCV20 – Advancing Protection Against Adult Pneumococcal Disease

Date: 22nd January, 2026

Venue: IPHA Bhaban

Details: A scientific session was held on 22nd January 2026 (Thursday) at IPHA Bhaban, Kolkata, from 2:00 PM onwards. The session was delivered by Dr. Somnath Naskar and attended by 30 members. The lecture focused on adult pneumococcal vaccine, PCV 20, a 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine that protects adults against 20 serotypes of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The session concluded with an interactive discussion and was well appreciated by the participants.

Online Sensitization Programme on Mass Drug Administration (MDA)

Date: 13th June, 2026

Mode: Online

Details: IPHA West Bengal State Branch organized an Online Sensitization Programme on 13th June 2026 to raise awareness about the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) 2026 campaign for the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in West Bengal. The programme highlighted the objectives of MDA, eligibility for drug administration, and the management of adverse events during the campaign. The session was inaugurated by Dr. Swapan Saren, Hon'ble DHS, Government of West Bengal, with introductory remarks from office bearers of IPHA and the Department of Health & Family Welfare. Dr. Pritam Roy, WHO Coordinator, delivered the keynote address on the importance of MDA in achieving the elimination of lymphatic filariasis by 2030. Coordinated by Dr. Rama Bhunia and moderated by Dr. Anirban Dalui, the programme witnessed active participation from over 160 public health professionals.

Commemorative Observation of Yoga Day 2026

Date: 27th June, 2026

Venue: IPHA Bhaban

Details: Commemorative Observation of Yoga Day 2026 Date: 27th June, 2026 | Venue: IPHA Bhaban 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all our members for being with us always and gratefully acknowledge the support and cooperation received by the branch from the HQ President, Secretary General and other CC members. We would like to place on record our deep appreciation of the sincere and committed efforts of our office staff, Mr Souvik Dasgupta for making all our achievements possible.

Let us keep working together for realizing all our dreams for the Indian Public Health Association WB Branch.

Long live IPHA!





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