



**icmr**  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF  
MEDICAL RESEARCH  
**NIN**  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF NUTRITION

# रा.पो.सं. मासिक सूचना-पत्र

## NIN Monthly Newsletter

संपादक: डॉ. एम. महेश्वर जनवरी & फरवरी 2025 Vol. 62 No: 1 & 2 Editor: Dr. M. Maheshwar Jan & Feb 2025

### NIN Welcomes Dr. Bharati Kulkarni

**Dr. BHARATI KULKARNI** took over as the New Director of ICMR-NIN on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. An acclaimed physician-scientist with a specialization in paediatrics, public health and maternal & child nutrition. She has vast experience in nutrition research as a scientist of NIN for more than 20 years, including as Head of the Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Division, ICMR-NIN.

For the past three years, she has been holding the position of the Head, Division of Reproductive and Child Health and Nutrition at ICMR, New Delhi. Scientists, Technical and Administrative staff welcomed Dr. Bharati on assuming charge as Director.



After assuming charge Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, addressed the staff of the Institute and elucidated her vision and priority areas of work in alignment with ICMR DELHI's action plan towards Viksit Bharat 2047.



### Republic Day Celebrations | 26<sup>th</sup> January

On the occasion of 76<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director, unfurled the tricolour flag & addressed the staff. She also released 2025 Calendar based on Dietary Guidelines, booklets in 3 languages & distributed prizes to winners of sports events. Dr. Bhanuprakash Reddy, Scientist G & HoD, Biochemistry Division, Dr. J. J. Babu, Scientist G & HoD, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Dr. Sudhip Ghosh, Scientist G & HoD, Molecular Biology Division, scientists, technical staff & PhD students also participated in the event.



## SPECIAL EVENT: Dr. Yellapragada SubbaRow's Birthday Celebrations

Dr. Yellapragada SubbaRow's 130<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations were held at Dr. YSR Academic Block by lighting the lamp and garlanding the statue by Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Director. Earlier, Dr. M. Maheshwar, Scientist F & HOD, Extension & Training Division-MYAS, welcomed staff of the ET Division, MYAS and M.Sc. Students. Dr. C. Suresh, Scientist F & HOD, Cell Biology Division & Convener of the M.Sc. Curriculum Committee also spoke on the occasion (10<sup>th</sup> January 2025).



Team NIN forged ties with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) India Org Food & Nutrition Initiative to popularise Dietary Guidelines for Indians. Glimpses of the National Nutrition Seminar were seen in the ongoing IMA National Conference in Hyderabad (28<sup>th</sup> Dec 24).



The role of stakeholders in implementing nutritional guidelines was moderated by Dr. SubbaRao M Gavaravarapu, Scientist F & HoD, NICHE Division. Experts Prof. V. K. Tiwari, Dr. Meenakshi Bajaj, Dr. Aman Basheer, and Dr. Premalatha discussed the role of health programmes, media, FMCGs, government, and academia in promoting nutrition info (16<sup>th</sup> Dec 24).

Staff of NICHE Division conducted nutrition awareness programme in Nagaram Municipality area, TG Municipal commissioner, Municipal Chairperson & Vice-Chairman, Medical Officer & over 300 SHG women, 50 daily wage Workers attended (4<sup>th</sup> Dec 24).





# Congratulations



**Dr. G. BHANUPRAKASH REDDY**, Scientist G & Head, Biochemistry Division on being elected as the Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) India.

**Mr. SRINIVAS MYADARA**, Technical Officer, NIN Animal Facility awarded Ph.D from Department of Microbiology, Osmania University. He carried out his doctoral studies on "Study on host-genotype impact on the gastrointestinal bacterial community in genetically different rat strains" under the guidance of Dr. K. Rajender Rao, Scientist-F & HoD, ICMR-NIN Animal Facility.

## MoU SIGNED WITH GANDHI MEDICAL COLLEGE



ICMR-NIN and Gandhi Medical college signed an MoU to collaborate and work on National Health Research projects, academic research exchange and support MDRU, at Gandhi Medical college. The team of NIN Scientists and Technical Officers was seen with Dr. Bharati Kulkarni Director, NIN (08<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).

## RECOGNITIONS/PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS/PROGRAMMES

### Dr. BHARATI KULKARNI, Director

- Participated in 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for WAVE-2 of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) organized by Statistics Division, Department of Health and Family Welfare (17<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).
- Participated in TAG Meeting for DABS study (online) organized by ICMR with DABS Experts (24<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).
- Participated in a meeting to discuss for Research on Nutrition and TB, organized by Gates Foundation (30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).

### Dr. G. BHANUPRAKASH REDDY

- Presented on "From research to practice: Implementing evidence-based approaches in nutrition for geriatrics," at the International Conference on 'Vanasprashthshram: Longevity and Health in Senior Citizens at Dr. BMN College of Home Science, Mumbai (10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2024).
- Presented on "Nutritional requirements: Concepts and interpretations of EAR, RDA and TUL," at the Consultation Meeting on Dietary Guidelines for Indians organized by NIHFW & ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad (16<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2024).

### Dr. SUBBARAO M GAVARAVARAPU

- Nominated as the Co-chair of the Electronic Working Group related to 'Provisions relevant to Joint presentation and Multi-pack Formats' for the Codex Alimentarius Commission on Food Labelling (CCFL).
- Invited to be a part of the high-level Expert Group and Advisory Group of Partnerships for Impact (P4I) an independent organization, and a social enterprise dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable populations.
- Attended virtually the 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee of FSSAI (11<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24).
- Invited as a presenter and panellist in Consultation on Dietary Guidelines for Indians, co-organised by ICMR-NIN with National Institute of Health and Family Welfare & Primus Partners in Hyderabad (16<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24).

- Invited as an expert member and panellist to attend the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the “Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Sickle Cell Anemia among Children,” jointly organised by UNICEF, University of Hyderabad and Ashoka University in Hyderabad (20<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24).
- Chaired the 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Scientific Panel on Labelling & Claims/Advertisements of Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at FDA Bhavan, New Delhi (23<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 2024).
- Invited to deliver a talk on ‘Dietary Guidelines for Indians and Possible Collaborations between Medical Fraternity and NIN to Disseminate the same’, at the National Seminar on Nutrition as part of the Annual National Conference of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in the Engineering Staff College of India, Hyderabad (27<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24).
- Virtually attended the meeting of the Scientific Committee of FSSAI to discuss the agenda regarding the final (draft) notification of Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2024 (31<sup>st</sup> Dec, 24).
- Attended as the Working Group Member in the review meeting on the “Development of the Strategy for improving Nutrition in India”- NITI Aayog, New Delhi (13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).
- Invited as a panellist in the panel discussion on “Gender justice, climate change and food & nutrition security,” at the University of Hyderabad, Institute of Eminence (IoE) sponsored National Conference on “Intersecting identities and economics of discrimination,” organised by the Department of Economics, University of Hyderabad (14<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).
- Invited as Chief Guest and Panellist for the one-day consultation and dissemination workshop after release of policy brief on “Enhancing Nutrition Outcomes through India's Social Safety Net Programs: Opportunities and Way Forward,” organised by Nutrition International at New Delhi (15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).
- Invited as Chairman of scientific panel on food labelling to discuss on "Urgent need for comprehensive egg marking," organised virtually by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) (16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).
- Invited to deliver a talk on "Food labelling in India: Consumer awareness, gaps and way forward," in a national webinar on Food Labelling Requirements as per FSSAI, jointly organised by Sadabai Rasoni College and Nutrition Society of India, Nagpur Chapter (20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).
- Participated virtually in the workshop on “Dissemination of top line findings of Behavioural Insights (BI) Study on complementary feeding in Ranchi,” as a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission (21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025).
- Invited to deliver a talk on Nutrition Education, Communication and Policy Advocacy in the ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on "Food and Nutrition Security: Addressing challenges and opportunities," organised jointly by St. Teresa's College and NSI, Kochi Chapter in Ernakulam (23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2025).
- Invited as a Panellist in a session titled “What India eats and needs to eat,” on Nutrition Atlas 2.0 of NIN organised as part of the Science and City stream of Hyderabad Literary Festival (24<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).
- Invited to deliver keynote address on “Promoting Fortified Foods in Diverse Communities: Examining the Crucial Role of Communication, Policy Advocacy, and Community Engagement,” in the Advancing Large-Scale Food Fortification in the Global South Learning Exchange Meeting organised jointly by PATH and The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany at New Delhi (29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).

#### **Dr. B. SANTOSH KUMAR**

- Participated virtually as a member of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) in a meeting primarily focused on evaluating a clinical trial application submitted by the firm for conducting clinical studies on Vorolanib in India at CDSCO (HQ), New Delhi (8<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).

#### **Dr. R. NAVEEN KUMAR**

- Delivered a guest lecture on “Microbiological evaluation of food and water” for Community Science students of the Dept. of Foods and Nutrition, College of Community Science, Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad. A group photo of the audience was seen with Dr. R. Naveen Kumar (10<sup>th</sup> Dec 24).



## PAPER PUBLISHED/ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

1. Anjusha Bhaskar and Shobi Veleri, Fundamental origins of neural tube defects with a basis in genetics and nutrition. *Experimental Brain Research*. 2025.
2. Konda V, Palika R, Rajendran A, Neeraja CN, Sundaram RM, Pullakhandam R. Zinc-Biofortified Rice Improves Growth in Zinc-Deficient Rats. *Biological Trace Element Research*. 2024 Dec 16:1-8.
3. Surekha MV, Meur G, Suneetha N, Balakrishna N, Kumar PU, Tulja B, Reddy KS, Ibrahim A, Sunitha P. COVID-19 Serostatus Does Not Affect the Intrauterine Transfer of Micronutrients and Fatty Acids or Maternal-fetal Lymphocyte Cell Composition: An Observational Study. *Am J Perinatol*. 2024 Dec 24. doi:10.1055/a-2480-5329. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39719143.

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

An AcSIR PhD Orientation programme was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> January virtually for the PhD Students of AcSIR, ICMR-NIN for the batches of August 2024 and January 2025.



ICMR-NIN Animal Facility conducted a 3-day ad-hoc training programme on “Animal Sciences, Care, Handling and Experimental Lab Animal Welfare Guidelines”. Dr. Rajender Rao, Scientist F & HoD, NIN Animal Facility was seen presented certificates to the participants (29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025).



## JOURNAL CLUB

### Ms. SHREYAS ELMA MATHEW

UGC-SRF, delivered her PhD final presentation on “Nutritional quality, prebiotic potential, and other health benefits of raffinose family oligosaccharides of bengalgram (*Cicer arietinum* L)” (27<sup>th</sup> Dec 24).

Guide: Dr. S. Devindra, Scientist E, Dietetics Division.



### Ms. SUMI M S

CSIR UGC-SRF, delivered her PhD final presentation on “Nutritional quality, prebiotic potential and health benefits of raffinose family oligosaccharides of green gram (*vigna radiata* (L.) R Wilczek)” (10<sup>th</sup> January, 2025).

Guide: Dr. S. Devindra, Scientist E, Dietetics Division.



### Ms. B. Sindhoora

CSIR UGC-SRF, delivered her PhD final presentation (virtual mode) on “Role of Durva swaras in menopause induced metabolic complications” (31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025).

Guide: Dr. B. Dinesh Kumar, Scientist G (Retd.), Drug Toxicology Division



## STAFF NEWS

### RETIREMENT

We bid farewell to **Mr. M. SOMAIAH**, Laboratory Assistant-1 on the eve of his retirement on attaining superannuation.

