

HALF-YEARLY NEWS LETTER



icmr
INDIAN COUNCIL OF
MEDICAL RESEARCH

NICPR
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CANCER
PREVENTION AND RESEARCH



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Editorial Board

Dr. Shalini Singh
Dr. Ekta Gupta
Mrs. Sangeeta Batra

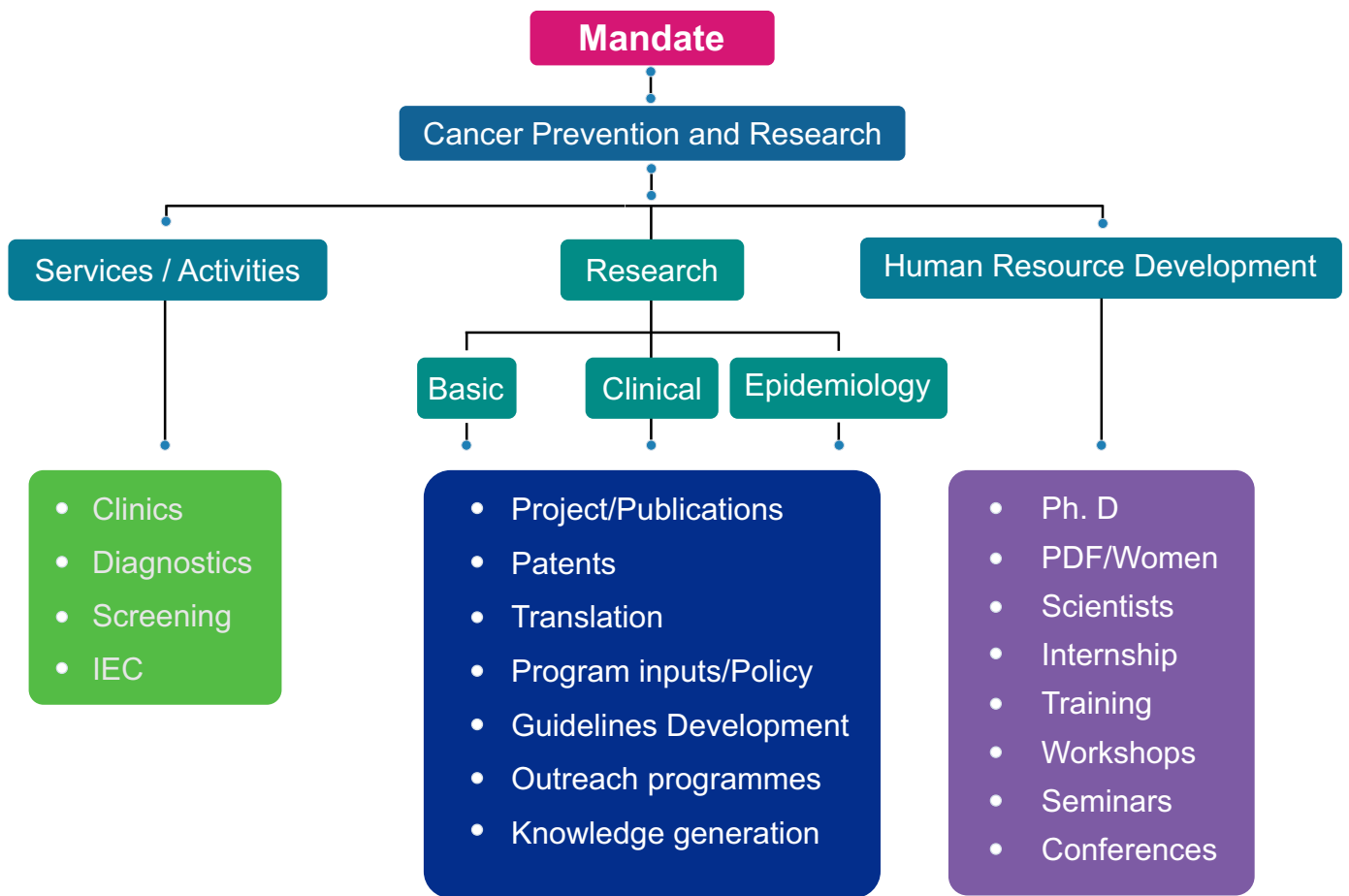
Address from Director, NICPR

I am delighted to announce the issuance of half-yearly newsletter of National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR, ICMR) for the year 2021.

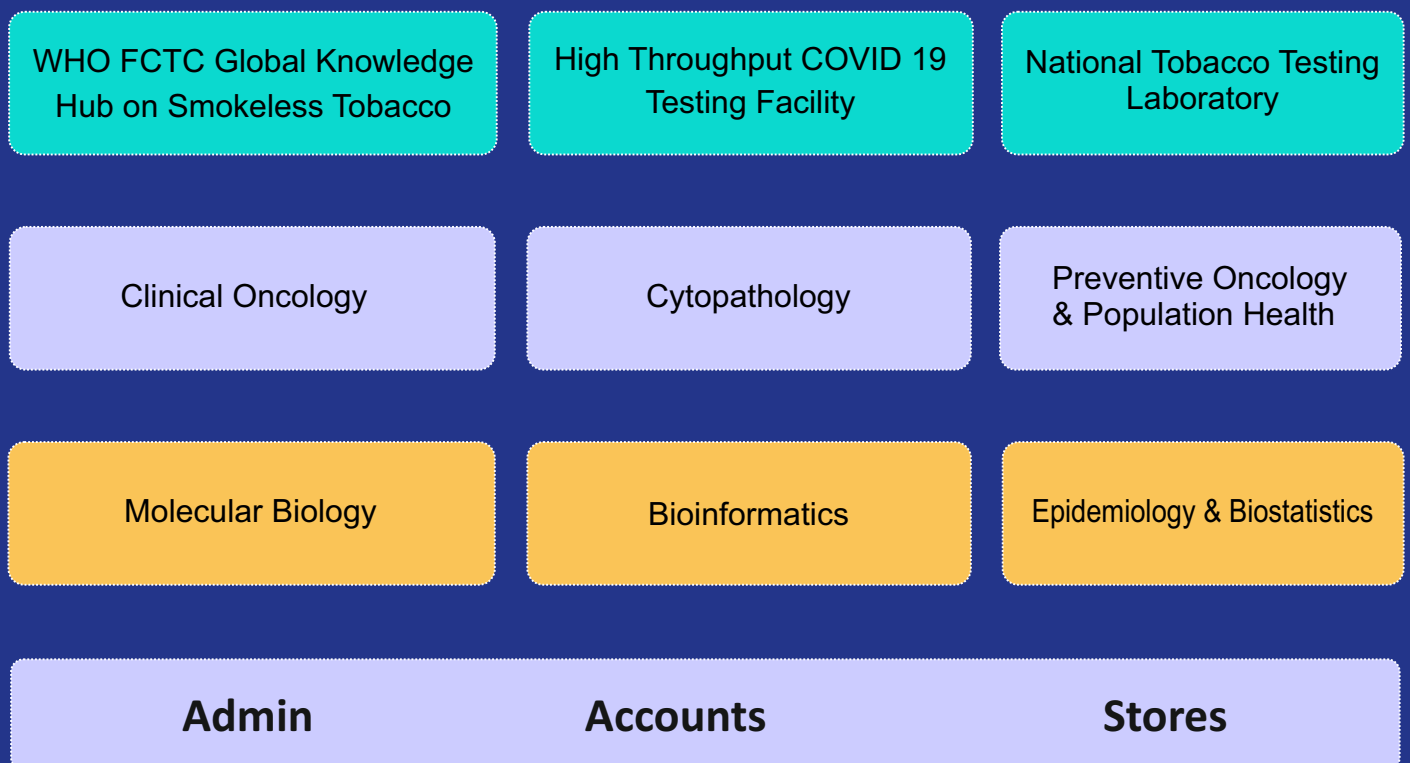
The year began on a positive note indicating declining trends in positivity rates of SARS CoV-2 infection across the state. However, by April the second wave of COVID-19 struck us all. Lockdown was imposed, several of our staff members both permanent and contractual or their family members were infected. Despite this, Team NICPR continued to support COVID-19 containment efforts. The High Throughput Viral Diagnostic Laboratory continued to work 24x7 in three shifts for carrying out RT-PCR testing, and till date more than 13 lakh tests have been done to support testing in Western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

Besides this, Tobacco cessation and control activities were carried on including through telephonic counseling, Nukkad natak, painting competitions etc were organized. The Institute celebrated the New Year's Day, the 42nd Foundation Day, Republic Day, International Women's Day each in unique style with lots of open-air activities and participation of young and elders alike. The Staff and faculty also participated enthusiastically to observe and spread the message on the occasion of World Cancer Day, World Health Day, World Hypertension Day and World No Tobacco Day. Journal club has been started in the Institute every fortnight. NICPR scientists have been awarded several new research projects and are working enthusiastically towards their goals.

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and we look forward to your feedback.



Organisational structure of NICPR





Dr. Shalini Singh, Director NICPR
Head - Division of Clinical Oncology
Head - Division of Preventive Oncology and Population Health

TEAM NICPR



Dr. Sanjay Gupta
Head - Division of Cytopathology



Dr. Mausumi Bharadwaj
Head - Division of Molecular Biology



Dr. Smita Asthana
Head - Division of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics



Dr. Subhash Mohan Agarwal
Head - Division of Bioinformatics



Staff of High Throughput Viral Diagnostic Laboratory for COVID-19



National Tobacco Testing Laboratory (NTTL)

INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES (CONFERENCES/PROCEEDINGS/SEMINARS/TRAINING COURSES ORGANISED)

HEALTH DAYS / EVENTS

January 2021:

The year started with the celebration of 42nd Foundation Day of the institute. The day was celebrated with full enthusiasm and vigor by the whole staff of NICPR family.

Glimpses of Foundation Day celebrations

Sports activities on
Foundation Day



Rangoli competition



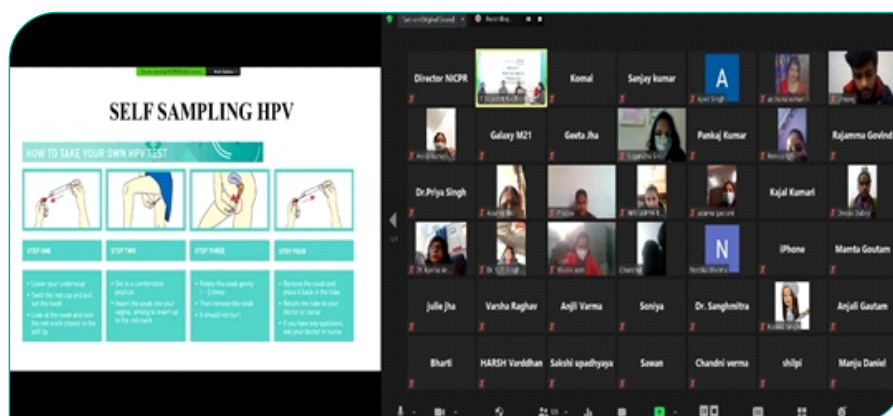
*"Team work matters":
Team building workshop
organized by **Pegasus***



Award ceremony: felicitating the winners

19th January 2021:

A webinar on “Cervical Cancer Awareness” as part of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month organized by the institute.



Republic Day celebrations:

NICPR celebrated 72nd Republic Day with traditional gaiety and enthusiasm.



March 2021:

8th March: International Women's Day.

This day was celebrated with zeal and enthusiastic participation by the staff of NICPR. An interactive webinar was conducted on “How to live a Stress-free Life” by a qualified life skills trainer Mrs. Uma Ramesh. She elaborated on the causes of stress and the tools to tackle it. A Nukkad Natak was performed in the institute by the college students of Post Graduate Degree College, Noida. The play portrayed stories on stereotypes and gender discrimination which exists in our society with the aim to sensitize the society against this bias for females. A painting competition was organized. 14 enthusiastic participants showcased their creations. The paintings depicted women's full and active participation in all spheres including the battle against Covid - 19 as Scientists, doctors, caregivers, police personnel etc.



A cervical cancer screening camp organized at District Hospital, Noida, on 8th March, 2021 on the occasion of Women's day.

APRIL 2021:

7th April, 2021: World Health Day

World Health Day was celebrated at NICPR with focus on holistic health. A Session of Physical fitness was organized for the staff. A guided meditation session by a trained teacher was also organized for appraising techniques of mental well-being.

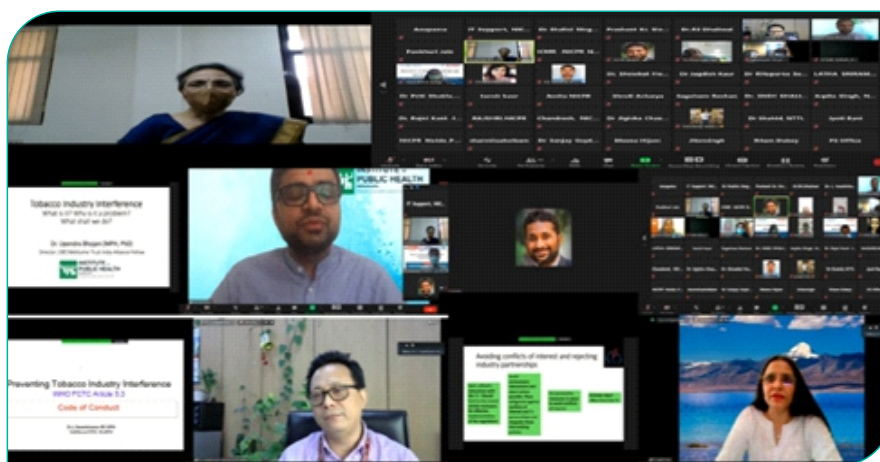
In the Health Clinic, string test was performed for the staff to assess their physical fitness.



Guided meditation session

April 15th 2021:

Webinar on Implementation of Article 5.3 and the Code of Conduct issued u/Article 5.3 of WHO FCTC organized by The WHO FCTC Global Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco (GKH-SLT). The webinar was attended by more than 70 participants from all the ICMR institutions. During the Webinar, the tobacco control experts gave a deep insight into the provisions of WHO FCTC to counter Tobacco Industry Interference and the Code of Conduct of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to be followed by government officials when interacting with Tobacco industry. Eminent panelists included Dr Shalini Singh, Director, ICMR-NICPR, and WHO FCTC GKH-SLT, Dr R S Dhaliwal, Scientist 'G' & Head, Division of Non-Communicable Diseases, ICMR, Dr Amit Yadav, Senior Technical Advisor-Tobacco Control, The Union, Dr Jagdish Kaur, Regional Advisor, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, Dr L Swasticharan, Additional DDG (LS) MOHFW, Govt. of India and Dr Upendra Bhojani, Assistant Director, IIPH, Bengaluru. The State Consultants from UP and Karnataka apprised the participants about their first-hand experiences implementing Article 5.3 in their state under the National Tobacco Control Programme.



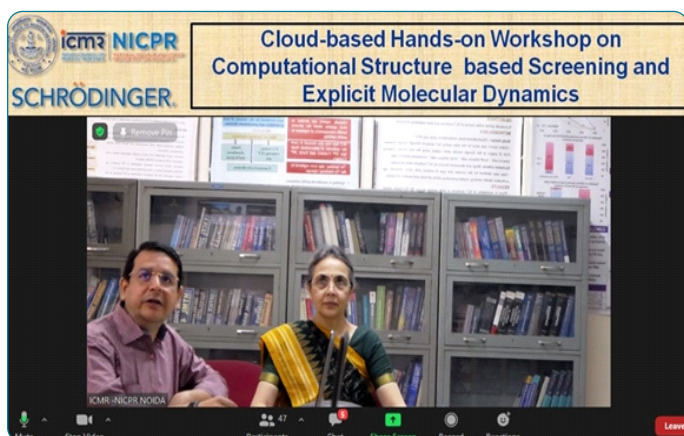
May 2021:

To commemorate World No Tobacco Day, a Facebook live session was conducted through zoom platform on 30th May, 2021, wherein the Director of WHO FCTC GKH-SLT, Dr. Shalini Singh while addressing this global tobacco epidemic highlighted the steps taken by the country and NICPR in mitigating this tobacco epidemic. On **31st May, 2021**, a webinar was organised by WHO FCTC GKH-SLT through Zoom platform on a very pertinent topic- **“Commit to Quit Tobacco: To avoid the Deadly Quartet- Covid-19, Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), Respiratory diseases and Cancer”**.

The panelists for the webinar were **Dr. Shalini Singh**, *Director ICMR-NICPR*, **Dr. (Prof) Shekhar Kashyap**, *Interventional Cardiologist*, **Dr. Yatan Pal Singh Balhara**, *Addl. Professor Psychiatry, AIIMS, New Delhi* and **Dr. R.K. Mani**, *Director Critical Care and Pulmonology, Yashoda Superspeciality Hospital, Kaushambi* who deliberated on the effects of tobacco on the deadly quartet. The panelists shared their vast clinical experience in managing critical patients and assisting users quit tobacco. The future roadmap of activities to control this growing menace of tobacco was also drawn.

TRAINING / WORKSHOPS:

1. Six months training programme initiated in Division of Molecular Biology from 1st January 2021.
2. Online training sessions conducted under NICPR-ECHO programme:
3. Training of Master Trainers on Cervical Cancer Screening.
4. Advanced Cancer Screening Training Program for Dentists (ACSTP-O4): Total participants trained-80
5. Advanced Cancer Screening Training Program for Dentists (ACSTP-O5): Total participants trained-115
6. Cloud-based Hands-on workshop on Computational Structure based screening and Explicit Molecular Dynamics: 23 – 24th March, 2021 organized by Division of Bioinformatics in collaboration with Schrodinger, Inc. It was well received across India and attended by 59 participants from 19 different states and UT and from 36 different institutes and Universities. Participants were introduced to theory of molecular docking and dynamics along with hands on practical experience was given on organic molecule sketching, protein and ligand preparation, molecular docking and dynamics for lead identification
7. Five days National Workshop on Research Methodology co-organized in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Deoghar from 16th - 20th February, 2021 virtually.



PRESENTATIONS/TALKS

Panel discussion organized by BD India on 'Cervical Cancer Screening effective with two tests or one- Co- testing vs Primary LBC' 24th Feb 2021 by Dr. Sanjay Gupta

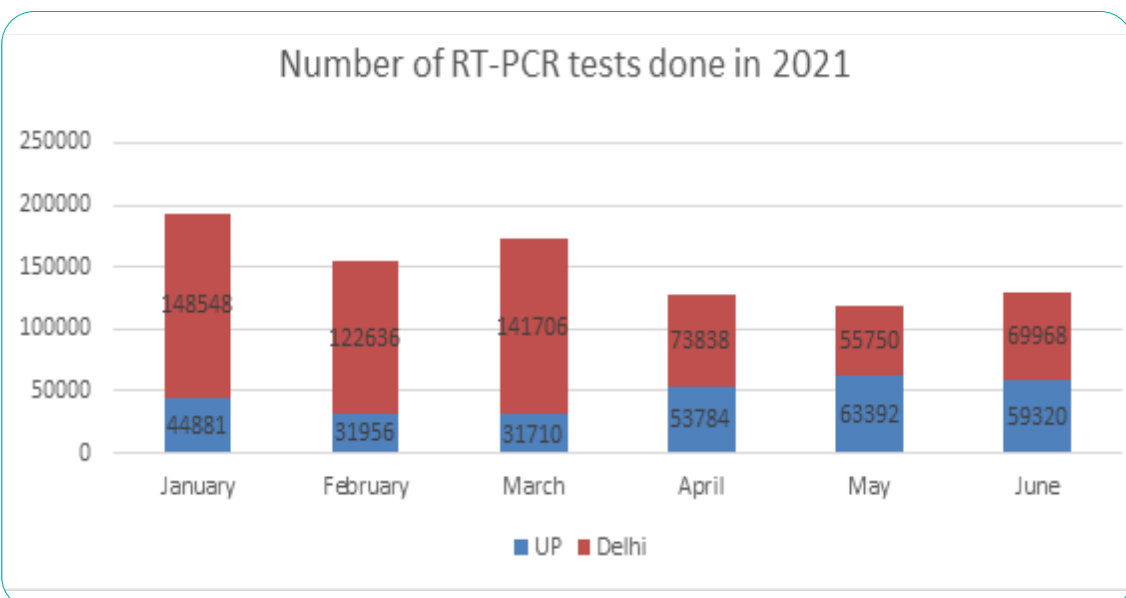
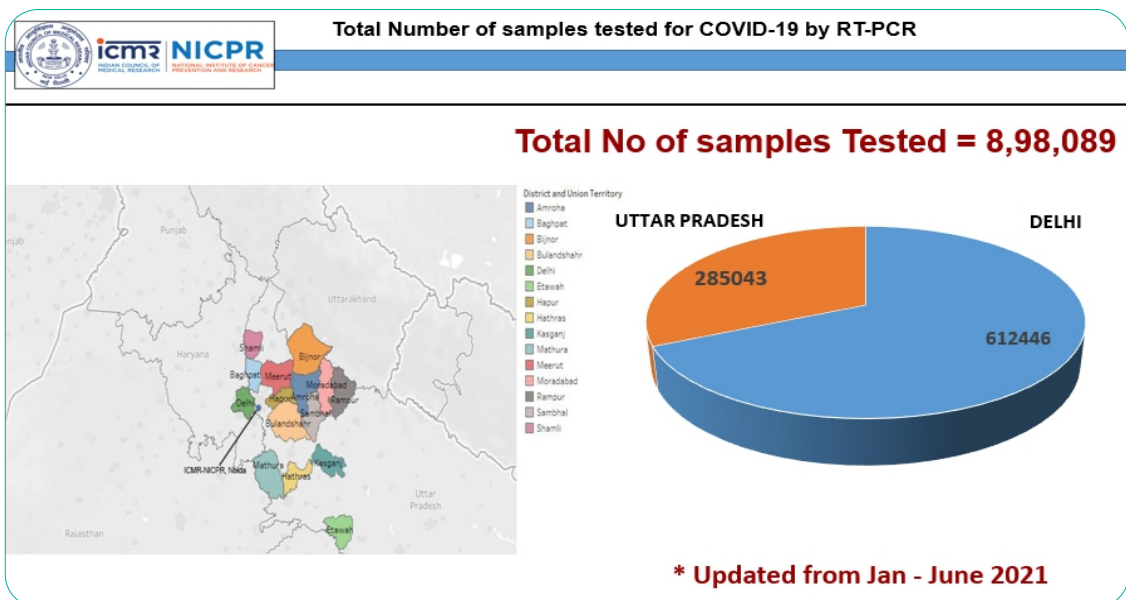
Talk on "Planning a Scientific Study and Protocol Writing" organized by Biostatistics Consortium of India (BCI) on 4th and 5th march, 2021 by Dr. Smita Asthana

A session in a webinar on "Epigenetics in Cancer" on 15th June 2021, organized by Royal School of Biosciences and Royal School of Life Sciences, Royal Global University, Guwahati, Assam by Dr. R. Suresh Kumar

Poster presentation in 39th Annual National CME (Virtual) organized by JNMC, Belgavi from 24th – 26th June 2021 on Aspiration cytology of extraskeletal osteosarcoma in the arm: report of a rare case posing diagnostic dilemma by Dr. Ruchika Gupta

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES

1. High Throughput Viral Diagnostic Lab for Covid-19:



2. WHO FCTC Global Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco (KH-SLT)

The focal point to collect, generate and disseminate the correct scientific knowledge and information on smokeless tobacco. KH-SLT has successfully engaged with parties and has undertaken several activities in the past six months. KH-SLT initiated a dialogue with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare about smokeless tobacco products and spitting in public places and their ill effects in aggravating the COVID-19 pandemic post which Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued an appeal to the public at large to refrain from consuming tobacco products and spitting in public highlighting its adverse effects on the health of people especially during the pandemic.



In March 2021, following the footsteps of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's appeal, KH-SLT issued the “*Statement to Partner Countries calling for strengthening tobacco control measures and prohibiting spitting in Public Places*” and supported by the WHO FCTC Secretariat. In addition to research-based activities, KH-SLT has also engaged successfully in evidence-based advocacy through conferences, expert meetings, and webinars, thus engaging in the permeation of information and knowledge sharing. KH-SLT has produced several publications on tobacco epidemiology in peer-reviewed journals with high impact factors and advocacy documents, published in the public domain.

New Projects initiated:

1. **Feasibility of Integrating Tobacco Use Screening and Tobacco Cessation Services with routine ANC Services** - A pilot study in the district hospital of Gautam Buddha Nagar
Funding agency: ICMR, New Delhi. *Duration of project: 3 years (2021-2024).*
2. **To explore the SALL transcription factor family in breast carcinogenesis.** (ICMR-SRF)
Funding agency: ICMR, New Delhi. *Duration of project: 3 years (2020-2023).*
3. **Genome wide methylation profiling of north Indian gallbladder patients.** (ICMR-RA)
Funding agency: ICMR, New Delhi. *Duration of project: 3 years (2020-2023).*
4. **Brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) and its receptor, TrkB in gall bladder carcinoma: potential biomarkers and prognostic markers**
Funding Agency: ICMR. *Duration: 3 years (2021-2024).*
5. **To decipher and target the metabolic signatures associated with Epirubicine- resistant triple negative breast cancer”.**
Funding agency: ICMR *Duration of project: 3 years.*
6. **Identification of prognostic marker for mTOR kinase inhibitor and their mechanisms of therapeutic resistance in breast cancer.**
Funding agency: DHR *Duration of project: 3 years.*
7. **Identifying anti-cancerous phyto molecule combinations against cancers for leveraging traditional drug discovery.**
Funding agency: ICMR *Duration: 2 Years*

Staff News:

Our deepest condolences on the passing away of members of NICPR family.

Dr. N.S.Murthy (Retd.), Scientist-F on 7th May 2021.

Mr. Rajender Kumar, Lab Assistant on 5th June 2021.

We Bid Farewell to:

Mr. Mohinder Singh, LDC on his superannuation on 31st March 2021.

Mr. Mohanan T., Admn. Officer, on his superannuation on 31st May 2021.

Mr. Rajesh Solanki, MTS on his transfer to ICMR-NIMR on 31st March 2021.

Mr. A.K. Sharda, T.O.- B on his transfer to ICMR- RMRC Gorakhpur

Mr. Dinesh Kumar T.O.- A on his transfer to ICMR- RMRC Gorakhpur.

Congratulations on their Promotions

Mr. Sant Ram, Assistant

Mr. Himanshu Rohilla, T.O.-B

Mr. Dinesh Kumar, T.O.- A

Mr. A.K. Sharda, T.O.-B

Ms. Neha Kaushik, UDC

Dr. Pragya Sharma, Sr .T.O.-1

NICPR warmly welcomes the new members to its family

Dr. Ekta Gupta joined as
Scientist E on 26.05.21

Staff Transferred in:

1. **Mr. Dinesh Soni**, Admn. Officer
2. **Mr. Shailendra Kumar**, Sr. T.O (II)
3. **Mrs. Kalpana Verma**, TO - A
4. **Mrs. Sangeeta Batra**, Lib. Infor. Asstn.
5. **Mrs. Karuna**, Sr. Technician - III
6. **Mr. Jiwan Singh Bisht**, Section Officer
7. **Mr. Rakesh Kumar**, Section Officer
8. **Mr. Rajesh Kumar**, Section Officer
9. **Mr. Neeraj Dubey**, Tech. Assistant

10. **Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Sharma**, Technician - I
11. **Mr. Mritunjay Kumar**, Technician - I
12. **Mr. Satya Pal**, Lab. Assistant
13. **Mr. Anil Kumar Verma**, Lab. Assistant
14. **Late Mr. Rajender Kumar**, Lab. Assistant
15. **Mr. Ram Chander Das**, Lab. Assistant
16. **Mr. Ram Phool Meena**, Lab. Assistant
17. **Mr. Jitender Singh**, Lab. Attendant
18. **Mr. Rahul Tiwari**, Lab. Attendant
19. **Mr. Vinod Kumar Dhyani**, Lab. Attend. - I
20. **Mr. Yogesh Kushwaha**, Lab. Attendant

Personal milestones:

Mr. Kailash, got married

ICMR – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH

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NICPR LINKS



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<https://www.facebook.com/icmr.nicpr>

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