

# IIPHG NEWSLETTER

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## From the Director's Desk

Dear Students, Faculty, Well-wishers, and Friends of IIPHG,

As we reflect upon the last quarter, it is impossible to overlook the significance of August, a month that reaffirms our commitment to the nation through the celebration of Independence Day. The sight of the Indian flag flying high at IIPHG serves as a powerful reminder that our mission in public health is fundamentally dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of every citizen in India.

This quarter saw IIPHG redoubling its efforts to build a healthier and more resilient country, mirroring the ideals of our freedom. Our focus on climate-resilient healthcare, a key national need, was evident in multiple initiatives during August. Our dedication to strengthening foundational public health systems continues, particularly through the Centre of Excellence in Nutrition (CoEN). During this period, we achieved significant milestones in capacity building, including the training of over 751 AWWs in IYCF training programs in Ahmedabad. In August and September, the cascading model of the OHNI 2025 Summer One Health School Program successfully leveraged peer-led training, resulting in over 1,800 students being sensitized on the One Health approach across numerous institutions nationwide.

Our achievements—whether training frontline workers, guiding climate resilience planning for cities like Ayodhya (which included preparatory meetings on July 31st and August 1st, 2025), or empowering the next generation of One Health leaders—are all steps toward realising the vision of a truly healthy and independent India.

We look forward to your continued collaboration as we work to translate evidence into actionable policy and practice across the country.

Warm Regards

Prof. (Dr) Deepak Saxena Director, IIPHG

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## Celebrating 79th Independence day!



From raising the tricolour to cherishing moments of togetherness, we reaffirm our commitment from care to courage – Building a Healthier Future.

## Highlights

### Advancing Evidence-Based Nutrition Initiatives for a Healthier Gujarat – Through the Centre of Excellence in Nutrition

IIPHG, through its Centre of Excellence in Nutrition (CoEN), is implementing Project Tushti to strengthen nutrition systems across Gujarat. Significant progress has been achieved in capacity building, data-driven monitoring, and community engagement, advancing evidence-based nutrition initiatives statewide.



#### State-Level Progress

CoEN completed a three-year trend analysis of child malnutrition indicators using geo-spatial mapping to identify bottom-performing districts. The MLTC IYCF training program achieved its targets in Ahmedabad, training 751 AWWs in FY 2025–26. On-site mentoring at Dwarka and Sadra Training Centres enhanced interactive, role-based learning.

#### Infrastructure development under the GSPC-supported CSR

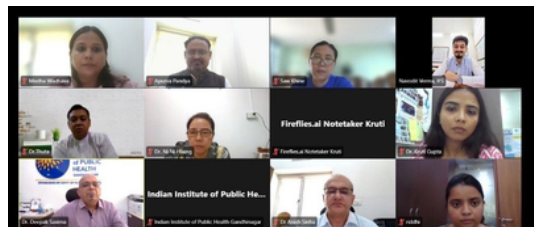
initiative is progressing well. In Gandhinagar, one AWC is operational and six are nearing completion. Patan reported active progress at 27 sites, with six new sites in Mehsana prepared for handover. Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad Rural, and Banaskantha have initiated groundwork.

#### Key Achievements (July–September 2025)

- Capacity Building: Over 900 frontline workers trained in IYCF, SBCC, and C-MAM.
- Data Analytics: District-wise nutrition maps and three-year trend analyses developed.
- Infrastructure: Seven AWCs completed; 40+ under construction with BaLA integration.
- Community Engagement: 256 adolescents reached; increased male participation achieved.
- Poshan Sangam Pilot: Observable improvements in child nutrition indicators.
- Monitoring: Over 25 joint field visits and data validation exercises conducted.
- Technical Support: Policy briefs, module development, and review inputs provided.

### Inaugural of Myanmar Program on Health Policy and Leadership

IIPHG, through its Centre for Quality Improvement in Public Health (QUALIPS), inaugurated the Executive Program on Health Policy and Leadership for Officials from Myanmar on 3rd September 2025. Organised under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative.



The inaugural session was graced by distinguished dignitaries and featured insightful discussions on global collaboration and health system strengthening. The training program provides participants with opportunities to engage in interactive sessions with health policy experts, explore case studies on health governance, and gain exposure to India's healthcare quality and patient safety initiatives. This initiative highlights QUALIPS' ongoing commitment to fostering international partnerships and building global capacities in healthcare leadership and governance.



## Highlights

### Stakeholder Workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Conducted at GMERS Sola Campus, Ahmedabad

The IIPHG-HTA Resource Hub, in collaboration with SHSRC-Gujarat and with support from HTAIn under the Department of Health Research (DHR), Government of India, conducted a Stakeholder Workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) on 19th September 2025 at GMERS Sola Campus, Ahmedabad which was attended by 52 participants from 15 medical colleges.



The workshop aimed to strengthen understanding of HTA methodology through real-world applications, engage medical faculty in identifying policy-relevant topics, and facilitate submission of proposed HTA topics for national prioritization. As a key outcome, several topic proposals were submitted to HTAIn, marking progress toward evidence-informed policymaking. The next phase will involve initiating full HTA studies in collaboration with medical colleges and forming HTA Committees across all government medical colleges in Gujarat. This initiative marks a major step toward institutionalizing HTA and promoting evidence-based healthcare planning in the state.

### IIPHG HTA Team Strengthens Capacity in R-Based Health Technology Assessment at National Workshop

The IIPHG HTA team participated in a two-day National Workshop on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Using R, held on 9–10 September 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram. The workshop was organized by the Regional Resource Centre for HTA (RRC-HTA) at Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies (AMCHSS), SCTIMST, in collaboration with HTAIn under the R4HTA India 2025 initiative.

Through a series of hands-on sessions, participants gained practical knowledge in R programming and RStudio for HTA, Decision Tree and Markov Modelling, Probabilistic Sensitivity Analysis (PSA), and cost-effectiveness visualization using Quarto and Shiny. The workshop strengthened the IIPHG team's capacity in evidence generation, data analytics, and HTA modelling to support informed health policy decisions.



### IIPHG HTA Team Participates in Training on Economic Analysis of Air Pollution Mitigation at PGIMER, Chandigarh



The IIPHG-HTA team attended a three-day training at PGIMER, Chandigarh, from 8–10 September 2025, focused on supporting data collection for the economic analysis of air pollution mitigation strategies in India, focusing on emissions modelling. The training enhanced participants' understanding of data-driven approaches to assess the economic impact of air quality interventions, contributing to evidence-based policymaking for sustainable environmental health management.

## Highlights

### IIPHG continues the Ayurvedic Interventions to Improve the Nutritional Status among Adolescent Girls

IIPHG, with support from the Department of AYUSH, is implementing the project “Ayurvedic Interventions to Improve the Nutritional Status among Adolescent Girls” in Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat.



The initiative aims to assess the impact of Ayurvedic approaches on improving haemoglobin levels and overall nutritional status among adolescent girls. Led by Dr. Somen Saha and Dr. Apurvakumar Pandya, the project has enrolled 402 girls from Bhanvad and Dwarka blocks. During July–October 2025, regular follow-ups and interactive sessions were held to promote medicine compliance and strengthen nutrition awareness.

A major highlight was the Ayurved Divas celebration on 23rd September at Beyt Dwarka, organized in collaboration with the Health Department, ICDS, and WCO. Over 70 girls participated in sessions on Ayurveda, nutrition, and adolescent wellness, aligning with the Poshan Maah theme. The endline survey for Phase 2, which included anthropometric assessments and haemoglobin testing, showed encouraging improvements in most participants. The initiative also gained local media attention, amplifying awareness on integrating traditional wisdom with modern public health for adolescent well-being.

### Project Achievement - Ayodhya Unites for Climate Resilience: Stakeholder Consultation on Heat Action Plan

COHERD at IIPHG, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) India, convened a stakeholder consultation on 19th September 2025 at Vikas Bhavan, Ayodhya, to co-develop the city's Heat Action Plan (HAP). The event brought together 35 representatives from key government and line departments, including the Hon'ble Mayor, Municipal Commissioner, and Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Sandul Yasobant and Dr. Yamini Saini represented IIPHG and guided the discussions that focused on identifying vulnerable groups, mapping high-risk hotspots, and reviewing existing mitigation measures. The Hon'ble Mayor highlighted Ayodhya's first comprehensive heat vulnerability assessment as the foundation for targeted resilience planning.

The consultation marked a significant step toward developing an inclusive and proactive HAP aimed at protecting heat-affected populations and advancing Ayodhya's vision of becoming a climate-resilient city. The event also received wide local media coverage, reflecting its importance and relevance.



### रामपथ के आसपास ग्रीनरी डेवलप करने पर मंथन



विकास भवन सभागार में बैठक की अध्यक्षता करते महापौर गिरीशप्रति त्रिपाठी ।

अयोध्या, अमृत विचार : गुजरात के गांधीनगर के इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ पब्लिक हेल्थ के सहयोग से हीट वेव और स्वास्थ्य पर एक दिवसीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन महापौर गिरीशप्रति त्रिपाठी की अध्यक्षता में विकास भवन सभागार में हुआ । जिले में एक बेहतर हीट वेव एक्शन प्लान बनाने, जन जागरूकता बढ़ाने, रामपथ के आसपास ग्रीनरी डेवलप करने को लेकर मंथन किया गया । कार्यशाला में सीडीओ कृष्ण कर्त सिंह, नगर

आयुक्त जयेंद्र कुमार, सीएमओ डॉ. सुशाल कुमार, जन्मभूमि के ट्रस्टी डॉ. अनिल मिश्रा, नगर स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी आर एम शुक्ला, डीटीओ डॉ. संदीप शुक्ला, एण्डिमेंटलॉजिस्ट डॉ. अरविंद श्रीवास्तव, जिला मलेरिया अधिकारी मंजुलाआनंद, डीसीपीएम अमित कुमार, इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ पब्लिक हेल्थ से डॉ. अभिषेक, डॉ. रितिका, डॉ. यशोवत, डॉ. यमिनी, समाजसेवी संस्था राम के घर से एकता भटनागर, डॉ. दीपिका वंद्रा ने महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव दिए ।



## Highlights

### OHNI 2025 Summer One Health School Program: Empowering Young Leaders

COHERD at IIPHG, in collaboration with the One Health Network of India (OHNI), with support from Chevron and the Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN), organised the OHNI 2025 Summer One Health School Program from 13th to 19th July 2025.



The week-long residential training brought together 51 students from 10 academic institutions across India for intensive sessions, field visits, and interactive workshops integrating human, animal, and environmental health perspectives.

Inaugurated by Shri D. D. Jadeja, IAS, Mission Director, GSBTM, the program featured insights from national and international experts. As part of the initiative, students are committed to conducting peer-led workshops at their respective institutions, extending One Health awareness to over 2,500 youth nationwide. The program marked a significant step in nurturing a new generation of One Health leaders, strengthening pandemic preparedness, and promoting community-level awareness across India.

### World Ozone Day 2025: Showcasing Passive Climate Solutions

COHERD at IIPHG, in collaboration with the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) and the Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ISHRAE), participated in the World Ozone Day observance on 16th September 2025. A key highlight of the event was a panel discussion on “Designing for the Future: Passive and Climate-Friendly Alternatives – Perspectives from Practice and Industry.”

Dr Priya Bhavsar, representing IIPHG, served as a panellist and shared experiences from the REFLECT project, highlighting innovative passive design solutions. The session created a platform for dialogue between academia and industry, sharing practical insights and emphasising the importance of collaborative approaches to building climate-resilient futures.



### Empowering Youth Leaders through One Health Peer-to-Peer Trainings

COHERD at IIPHG, as part of the OHNI 2025 Summer One Health School's cascading model led by OHNI-COHERD with support from SEAOHUN and Chevron, facilitated peer-led One Health training sessions across India from August to September 2025. Through this initiative, One Health Ambassadors successfully trained and sensitised over 1,800 students on the One Health approach. The sessions were hosted at NFSU (Gandhinagar), DMIHER (Wardha), DY Patil University (Navi Mumbai), KVASU (Kerala), St. John's Medical College (Bengaluru), Navsari Veterinary College (Gujarat), KMC (Mangalore), AIIMS (Jodhpur), MAFSU (Nagpur), and IIPHG (Gandhinagar).



Through interactive discussions, expert inputs, and One Health-themed activities, students explored the interlinkages between human, animal, and environmental health. This continuing effort aims to nurture the next generation of youth leaders in health preparedness and sustainability, with more institutions set to join the movement in the coming months.

## Highlights

### Laying the Foundation for Ayodhya's Heat Action Plan

IIPHG, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), participated in a preparatory meeting held on 31st July and 1st August 2025 at the residence of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Ayodhya, to discuss the concept of developing a Heat Action Plan (HAP) for the city.



Representatives from IIPHG – Dr. Anish Sinha (Registrar), Dr. Sandul Yasobant (Faculty), and Dr. Yamini Saini (Project Coordinator) – along with Dr. Abhiyanti Tiwari, Lead Climate and Health Specialist from NRDC, engaged in detailed discussions with Dr. Sunil Baniyaal, CMO Ayodhya, to introduce the HAP framework and assess local heat-related challenges. These deliberations laid the foundation for engaging key government stakeholders in co-developing Ayodhya's first comprehensive Heat Action Plan, aimed at protecting vulnerable populations and strengthening the city's climate resilience.

### Strengthening Climate and Health Preparedness in Sabarkantha

IIPHG, through its COHERD team, conducted training sessions for medical officers from PHCs and CHCs under the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) on 26th August 2025 at Pawapuri Hall, Idar, Sabarkantha.

The sessions were led by Dr. Sandul Yasobant (Climate and Health: An Overview and Air Pollution), Dr. Shailee Patil (Heat and Health), and Dr. Princey Verma (Green and Climate Resilience for Healthcare Facilities).



In addition to expert lectures, participants took part in a group activity using a PICK chart, where they collaboratively developed localized district action plans to address climate-sensitive health challenges.

The training effectively translated knowledge into actionable strategies, empowering medical officers to integrate climate resilience into their local health systems.

### Stakeholder Consultation Workshop to Strengthen WASH Services in Climate-Vulnerable Healthcare Facilities in Sundarban

IIPHG played a key role in a stakeholder consultation workshop held on 7th August 2025 at the CMOH Office, Diamond Harbour, jointly organised by SSDC, SDC, and Terre des hommes (Tdh) in collaboration with district health authorities. The workshop focused on strengthening WASH services and promoting climate-resilient healthcare in the Sundarban region.



IIPHG played a key role in a stakeholder consultation workshop held on 7th August 2025 at the CMOH Office, Diamond Harbour, jointly organised by SSDC, SDC, and Terre des hommes (Tdh) in collaboration with district health authorities. The workshop focused on strengthening WASH services and promoting climate-resilient healthcare in the Sundarban region.



## Highlights

### Poshan Maah 2025: Awareness Activity on Healthy Eating at Alampur School



IIPHG, as part of the Poshan Maah 2025 celebrations, organised a nutrition awareness activity at the Government School in Alampur on 17th September 2025. The session was conducted by students of the MPH-PHN 2024–2026 batch to sensitise school children about healthy eating practices, focusing on reducing the intake of sugar, salt, and oil, choosing healthier food options, and incorporating regular physical activity into daily routines.

Through simple, interactive games, students effectively communicated key nutrition messages in an engaging and age-appropriate way. The activity not only enhanced children's understanding of balanced diets and healthy lifestyle habits but also provided MPH-PHN students with hands-on experience in community engagement and health promotion. The initiative was well received by students and teachers alike, contributing meaningfully to the broader goal of promoting nutrition awareness during Poshan Maah.

### IIPHG supports documentation of the Midwifery Initiative in five states



IIPHG, in collaboration with UNICEF India, is implementing a comprehensive documentation project on the National Midwifery Initiative (NMI) across five states Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Odisha, and West Bengal.

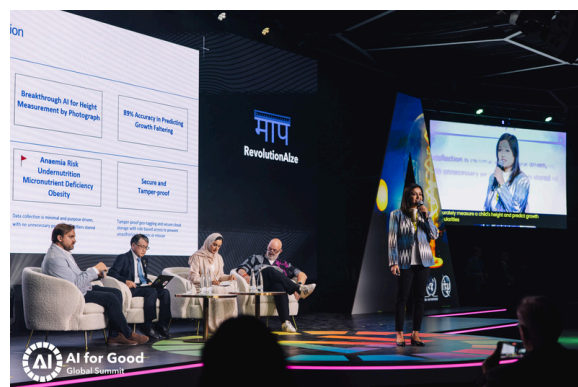
The project aims to capture each state's journey in establishing midwifery care as prescribed by the 2018 guidelines. Through field visits IIPHG examined the progress of midwifery in terms of functionality of State Midwifery Training Institutes (SMTIs), National Midwifery Training Institutes (NMTIs), Midwifery-Led Care Units (MLCUs).

### IIPHG PhD student showcases MAAP AI at Global 'AI for Good' Summit in Geneva

Romita Ghosh, PhD scholar at IIPHG and CEO of RevolutionAlze, represented India as a finalist at the AI for Good Innovation Factory Grand Finale 2025 held on 8–9 July 2025 in Geneva, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with 50+ UN partners. She presented MAAP AI, a smartphone-based tool that enables early detection of child malnutrition as an example of frugal, frontline-ready AI innovation designed for resource-constrained settings.

Romita was further invited to speak at a dedicated session on “Enabling AI for Health Innovation and Access” as part of the Global Initiative on AI for Health (GI-AI4H) convened by WHO, ITU and WIPO, held on 11 July 2025 in Geneva.

These UN-led platforms bring together policymakers, researchers, and innovators to advance the responsible and equitable use of AI in healthcare. Romita's work demonstrates how academic research and innovation can shape scalable, real-world public health solutions.



## Highlights

### IIPHG Highlights India's MCH Innovations at SCORA Xchange



IIPHG participated in the SCORA Xchange Program held on 14th July 2025 at Narendra Modi Medical College, Ahmedabad, bringing together medical students from around the world for a vibrant exchange of knowledge and culture. Dr. Shalu Chaudhary, Assistant Professor and Team Lead (IVA-SRESTHA-G) at IIPHG, delivered a guest lecture on Maternal and Child Health Services, highlighting India's key programs, policies, and strategies to strengthen maternal and child health.

As part of the program, IIPHG also organised a field visit to the Ishanpur Urban Health Center, where Dr. Varsha Gadhavi and Dr. Kripanshu Garasiya introduced participants to India's urban health system, showcasing service delivery, maternal and child health initiatives, and facility management. Through this initiative, IIPHG continues to bridge academic learning with public health practice while fostering global collaboration among young health professionals.

### IIPHG host esteemed faculty from Brunel University



IIPHG was honoured to host Dr Christine Barrett, an esteemed faculty member from Brunel University, London, for a four-day intensive lecture series on evidence-based planning and implementation of health promotion as part of the course on Health Communication & Promotion for the Master's of Public Health students.

Dr Barrett's sessions covered the six critical steps of IM, guiding participants through practical applications and case studies

### IIPHG students visited the Hospital for Mental Health, Ahmedabad

IIPHG students visited the Hospital for Mental Health, Ahmedabad, as part of an elective course, "Mental Health & Wellbeing". Despite limitations, the innovative approaches and dedication of staff were inspiring. This experience reinforced the understanding that mental health is just as important as physical health. Mental health awareness, timely diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation are key components of effective mental healthcare.



### IIPHG's Well-being club conducts a session on Dance Movement therapy



As part of the ongoing Mental Health & Well-being course, the Well-being Club at IIPHG were excited to host a special interactive session on Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) on 4th September, led by Ms. Upasana Das, a certified practitioner.

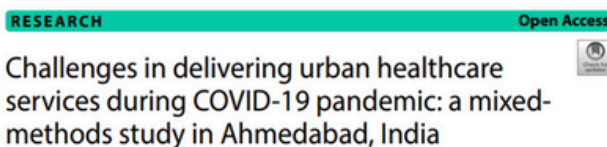


# Publications



Dsani, J. K., Johnson, S. A. M., Yasobant, S., & Bruchhausen, W. (2025). Intersectoral collaboration in zoonotic disease surveillance and response: A One Health study in the Greater Accra metropolitan area of Ghana. *One Health*, 21, 101137. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2025.101137>

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<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-025-13147-0> BMC Health Services Research

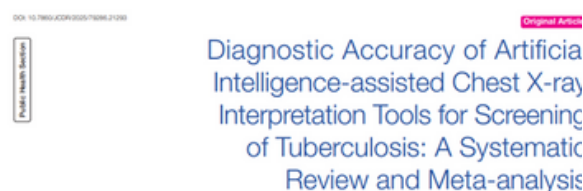


Sandul Yasobant<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Krupali Patel<sup>4</sup>, Ravina Tadi<sup>2</sup>, Harshi Thacker<sup>2</sup>, Walter Bruchhausen<sup>3</sup> and Deepak Saxena<sup>1,2</sup>

1. Yasobant, S., Patel, K., Tadi, R., Thacker, H., Bruchhausen, W., & Saxena, D. (2025). Challenges in delivering urban healthcare services during COVID-19 pandemic: A mixed-methods study in Ahmedabad, India. *BMC Health Services Research*, 25(1), 979. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-025-13147-0>



Pandya, A., Wadhwa, M., Gupta, K., & Saxena, D. (2025). Building Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Culture for Indian Healthcare: A Strategic Imperative for Overcoming Challenges and Driving Excellence in Patient Care. *International Journal for Healthcare Quality, Patient Centeredness & Safety*, 6(2), 66-68.



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Pandya, A., Wadhwa, M., Harshika, K., & Zafar, S. (2025). An Integrated Communication Control System Framework for Hospital Setting-A Conceptual Framework to Streamline Healthcare Communication. *International Journal for Healthcare Quality, Patient Centeredness & Safety*, 6(2), 59-65

# HEALTH PALOOZZA !

Scan QR Code and Submit  
your response to Quiz by  
25 December 2025



Quizupp!!

**Congratulations**  
To the top three winners of the  
last edition of the Quiz



Dr Mounika K



Dr Shailee Patil



Ms Mahima Rawal

Winners will be acknowledged in the next edition and certificate will be issued.

## Connect with Well Being cell @IIPHG

### WELL BEING CELL

For You @ IIPHG

#### INITIATIVES

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Counselling & Consultation  
Wellbeing Club      Workshops and Webinars

#### Core Facilitators

Dr. Apurvakumar Pandya  
Dr. Smita Rani  
Dr. Medha Wadhwa

#### Health Consultation:

- Schedule an appointment via email.
- Walk-in Medical Care from 10.30 am to 02.00 pm

#### Psychological Wellbeing Consultation:

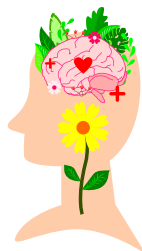
- Schedule an appointment via email.
- Free TeleCounselling



OR 1-800-891-4416

Venue: Basement, IIPHG Building

Contact: wellbeing@iiphg.org



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**RS. 150 PER SESSION**

Please note:  
The identity cards of students & staff is  
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