Newsletter July-September 2026

Message from the Chief Executive

Dear Readers,

Warm greetings from the Centre for Public Health Research (CPHR), Kolkata!

It is our pleasure to present the third quarterly edition of the CPHR newsletter for 2026. As we move through the latter part of the year, we continue to build on the progress made over the preceding months, guided by our commitment to advancing public health through high-quality, evidence-based research and meaningful collaboration.

Over the past quarter, our teams have remained actively engaged across our core areas of work, including tobacco control, maternal and child health, tribal health, climate change and health, infectious diseases, and nutrition. Each initiative reflects our continued efforts to generate robust evidence to address pressing public health challenges while contributing to informed decision-making and sustainable health outcomes.

At CPHR, we continue to place a strong emphasis on methodological excellence, drawing on experimental, quasi-experimental, and mixed-methods approaches to strengthen the quality and relevance of our research. Our focus on research ethics, cost-effectiveness analysis, and implementation science remains central to ensuring that our findings are translated into practical solutions that can inform policy and strengthen public health practice.

Collaboration continues to be one of our greatest strengths. Through our partnerships with government agencies, academic institutions, and civil society organisations, we strive to foster an environment where knowledge is shared, expertise is combined, and research is translated into meaningful action. These partnerships remain essential to expanding the reach and impact of our work.

As we continue through 2026, we remain committed to promoting innovation, upholding the highest standards of scientific integrity, and engaging with communities to ensure that our research responds to real-world needs. I extend my sincere appreciation to our collaborators, supporters, and readers for your continued trust and encouragement, which continue to inspire us to move forward with purpose and dedication.

In this edition, we are pleased to share highlights of our recent activities, publications, and ongoing initiatives. We hope you enjoy reading this issue and invite you to stay connected as we continue working together towards a healthier and more equitable future.

Thank you for your continued support.

Happy reading!



Warm regards,
Chief Executive
Centre for Public Health Research (CPHR), Kolkata

Our Team

Chief Executive- Dr. Nirmalya Mukherjee

Director- Research: Dr. Paramita Bhattacharya

Assistant Director- Dr. Sajda Khatoon

Research Coordinator- Mr. Soumya Chandra

Research Officers- Ms. Suraya Roy, Ms. Sulagna Mukherjee, Mr. Saptarshi Basu Roy Choudhury

Research Associates- Ms. Pritha Das, Ms. Tanya Sharma and Ms. Debasmita Maji

Senior Fellows- Mr. Pranay Lal, Dr. Amit Yadav, Prof. Subhash Pokhrel, Prof. Marty Otanez, Dr. Kaushik Chattopadhyay, Dr. Chanchal Bhattacharya, Dr. Pranab Chatterjee, Dr. Amitaksha Nag, Dr. Debashis Basu, Dr. Debjani Mueller, Dr. Jayati Basu, Dr. Prasanta Kumar Roy, and Dr. Pritam Datta

Director- Administration: Mr. Anirban Roy

Finance Officer- Mr. Soumen Bhuiya

Staff page- https://cphr-mant.org/team-cphr/

Publications

1. Janakiram C, Chandran Nair AS, Nair AV, Pious A, Gyra GG, James A, et al. Behavioural and environmental risk factors associated with snake–human conflict: A scoping systematic review. Kini RM, editor. PLoS Negl Trop Dis. 2026 Aug 6;20(8):e0014505. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0014505

2. Chattopadhyay K, Evans C, Khatoon S, Ashmore A, Bhattacharya P, Leonardi-Bee J, et al. Management of cardiometabolic diseases among tribal populations in South Asia: a scoping review protocol. JBI Evidence Synthesis. 2026 Aug 12. doi:10.11124/JBIES-26-00116

3. Mukherjee N, Bhattacharya P, Khatoon S, Mukherjee S, Mondal B, Nandy B, et al. From hierarchy to collaborative authentic leadership: attributes and lessons from primary health care implementation in West Bengal, India. JBI Evidence Implementation. 2026 Jul 28. doi:10.1097/XEB.0000000000000641

Event

1. **6th National Consultation on Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in Tobacco Control**

Location: Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Date: July 13th–16th, 2026

CPHR took part in the Emerging Novel Nicotine Product event, organised by the ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) in Ahmedabad. Dr. Nirmalya Mukherjee contributed to the programme as a speaker, sharing insights on the emerging landscape of novel nicotine products in India. The event also marked the release of the report titled *'Unmasking the Emerging Market of Nicotine Pouches and Novel Nicotine Products in India'*.



The event brought together researchers, public health professionals, and other stakeholders to examine the growing presence of novel nicotine products in India. Discussions focused on emerging trends, product marketing, and the need for continued evidence generation to inform tobacco control and public health responses.

2. **Awareness & Capacity Building Seminar on Tobacco Control and Cessation**

Location: Manipal Hospitals E M Bypass, Kolkata | Date: July 17th, 2026

CPHR, in collaboration with the Department of Oncology, Manipal Hospitals, organised the *Awareness & Capacity Building Seminar on Tobacco Control and Cessation* in Kolkata. The seminar brought together medical professionals and public health experts to discuss key aspects of tobacco control, cessation, and the role of healthcare practitioners in supporting tobacco-free communities. Dr. Gan Quan, Vice President of Vital Strategies, New York, USA, delivered the keynote address, while other sessions covered tobacco control measures in India, the role of medical practitioners in tobacco cessation, and evidence supporting stronger tobacco taxation.











The seminar also addressed clinical approaches to tobacco cessation, including medical management of nicotine dependence, the health effects of tobacco use, and emerging concerns around youth and nicotine. The programme concluded with a floor discussion and exchange of perspectives among the participating medical professionals and experts.





3. **Orientation of Civil Society on Tobacco Control**

Location: Indore, Madhya Pradesh | Date: August 17th, 2026

CPHR-MANT participated in the one-day State-level Orientation of Civil Societies on Tobacco Control, held on 7 August 2026 at Hotel Amar Vilas, Indore, and organised by the Madhya Pradesh Voluntary Health Association (MPVHA). Dr. Nirmalya Mukherjee served as a **Resource Person** for the orientation, contributing to discussions on tobacco control among civil society representatives and other stakeholders.





The orientation provided a platform for knowledge sharing and dialogue on tobacco control priorities, experiences, and opportunities for strengthening civil society engagement and coordinated action towards effective tobacco control in Madhya Pradesh.



4. Multi-stakeholder Roundtable: Accelerating Progress Towards Cervical Cancer Mukt Bharat

Location: Delhi NCR | Date: September 16th, 2026

CPHR-MANT participated in the Multi-stakeholder Roundtable: Accelerating Progress Towards Cervical Cancer Mukt Bharat, held on 16 September 2026 at the Taj Surajkund Resort & Spa, Delhi NCR. The roundtable was jointly hosted by the Cervical Cancer Elimination Consortium India (CCEC-I) at IIT Delhi, Global HPV Consortium (GHC), SABIN Institute, and CAPED-India. Dr. Nirmalya Mukherjee from CPHR-MANT served as a Resource Person at the event.



The roundtable focused on accelerating national progress towards cervical cancer elimination in India, bringing together stakeholders to reflect on the existing strengths and gaps across HPV vaccination, screening, treatment, and community engagement. Discussions highlighted the importance of connecting these components into a coordinated continuum of care, while ensuring that implementation responds to the diverse realities of states, health workers, families, and communities. The roundtable also emphasised the need to identify those who remain unreached and address gaps along the pathway from vaccination and screening to diagnosis, triage, and treatment.

5. **National Consultation on Health Economics: Current Evidence, Emerging Challenges, and Future Pathways**

Location: Kenilworth Hotel, Kolkata, West Bengal | Date: September 25th, 2026

CPHR, in collaboration with the National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Legal Aid Society (LAS), and National Law University of Tripura (NLUT), with technical support from Vital Strategies, organised the *National Consultation on Health Economics: Current Evidence, Emerging Challenges, and Future Pathways*. The consultation brought together experts from economics and public health to deliberate on the role of health economics and fiscal policies in advancing public health. Dr. Nirmalya Mukherjee, Chief Executive, CPHR-MANT, delivered the welcome address and introduced the objectives of the consultation, while Dr. Amit Yadav, Deputy Director, Vital Strategies, provided an overview of the objectives and expected outcomes.







The inaugural session featured a keynote address by Dr. Son Dao, Technical Consultant, Vital Strategies, on *'Tobacco Taxation in Global Perspective'*. Dr. Paramita Bhattacharya, Director-Research, CPHR-MANT, presented the key findings of the factsheet *'Tobacco Tax Reform 2.0: Tracking Price Changes and its Potential Fiscal and Health Impacts'*, which was subsequently released at the consultation.



The consultation further featured panel discussions on *'Sin Products, Taxes and Public Health: Navigating India's Economic, Legal and Policy Landscape'* and *'Tobacco Taxation and Pricing in India: Balancing Public Health, Revenue and Equity'*, bringing together perspectives on the economic, legal, policy, and public health dimensions of tobacco taxation in India. The programme concluded with an open discussion focused on key deliberations, priority policy issues, recommendations, and future directions.



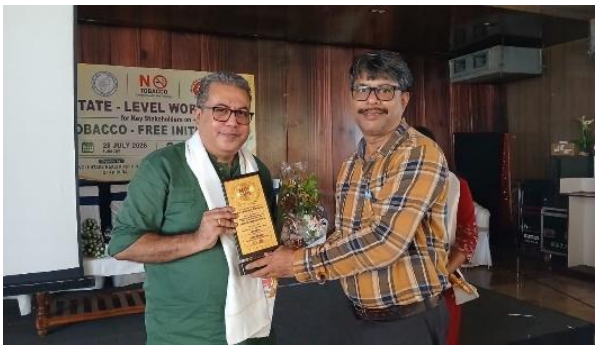


Workshop & Training

1. **State-Level Workshop for Key Stakeholders on Tobacco-Free Initiative**

Location: Agartala, Tripura | Date: July 28th, 2026

A State-Level Workshop for Key Stakeholders on Tobacco-Free Initiatives was held on 28 July 2026 in Agartala, Tripura, organised by the Tripura Voluntary Health Association in collaboration with the State Tobacco Control Cell (STCC), National Health Mission (NHM), Tripura. Dr. Nirmalya Mukherjee from CPHR-MANT served as a **Resource Person** and delivered a lecture on "Tobacco-Free Tripura Initiatives: WHO FCTC Article 5.3, ToFEI, and Tobacco-Free Village."





The workshop brought together key stakeholders to strengthen understanding of tobacco control initiatives and facilitate discussions on coordinated approaches towards advancing tobacco-free environments and communities across Tripura.



2. **6th National Workshop to Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation of NTCP and MPOWER Strategies in India**

Location: Ronil Goa, Goa | Date: August 17th–20th, 2026

Vital Strategies organised the 6th National Workshop to Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation of NTCP and MPOWER Strategies in India in Goa, with participation from CPHR-MANT. Ms. Suraya Roy joined the panel for the session titled *'From Reporting to Action: Why Does Tobacco Control Data Often Fail to Drive Decisions?'*, contributing to the discussion on strengthening the use of tobacco control data for informed decision-making.



The national workshop brought together tobacco control stakeholders, programme implementers, and experts to reflect on monitoring and evaluation of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and MPOWER strategies in India. The discussions highlighted the importance of moving beyond routine reporting towards the effective use of data to strengthen programme implementation and guide evidence-informed action.

Announcements

Upcoming Training: Scoping Review Workshop

JBI Evidence-Based Indigenous Health India, in collaboration with the JBI Ekurhuleni Clinical Research Centre, South Africa, and the Nottingham JBI Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare, England, is organising a Scoping Review Workshop on 24th and 25th November 2026. An expert in Evidence-Based Healthcare from the University of Nottingham will guide participants through the step-by-step process of conducting a scoping review, equipping them with the knowledge and skills required to undertake evidence synthesis systematically.

The training will be offered in both in-person and online modes, providing flexibility for participants to attend. This initiative aims to strengthen participants' understanding of scoping review methodology and support the development of evidence-based research.

Workshop Flyer

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