



PRESS RELEASE

Headline: ICMR-SHINE 2026- School students explore Science and Public health research at ICMR-NINE

[Bengaluru, 13/08/26]: The ICMR- National Institute of NCD Epidemiology (ICMR-NINE), Bengaluru, successfully hosted an engaging and informative “**ICMR-SHINE 2026**” on 11-12 Aug 2026 under the ICMR- Science and Health Technology for Nextgen Explorers (SHINE) initiative.

The event, held in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Prof. V. Ramalingaswami, a stalwart in Indian medical research, welcomed around 200 enthusiastic students on each day from Classes 9th to 12th from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya-Bengaluru urban, Delhi Public School- Bengaluru North, Carmel Jyothi High School-Doddaballapura, Government Boys High School-Malleswaram 18th Cross and Swami Vivekananda Vidya Kendra-Hosakote. The initiative aimed to spark interest in science, technology, and public health among the next generation of learners.

The students were first addressed by Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Director General of ICMR, who shared inspiring success stories from ICMR’s research journey. He encouraged the students to step into the shoes of scientists for a day and explore the exciting world of research. The students also watched short films showcasing ICMR’s pioneering work—ranging from the development of the COVID-19 vaccine to the innovative use of drones for delivering vaccines, blood, organs, and human corneas for transplantation, as well as collecting medical samples like sputum. Highlights also included ICMR’s significant contributions to tuberculosis control and the development of i-Scope, an AI-enabled microscope that assists in early detection of cervical cancer in women

The students also witnessed first-hand, the Institute’s ongoing research in the field of noncommunicable diseases, including cancer, stroke, diabetes and hypertension. They participated in interactive demonstrations and hands-on sessions to understand how **information technology** and **data analytics** are used in disease surveillance and epidemiological research. A special session on **biostatistics in health research** offered students a fun and simplified approach to understanding how numbers tell the story of health trends. The highlight of the event was a **quiz on noncommunicable diseases**, exposure to **technologies** used for developing **survey tools**, development of **dashboards** and plotting of **geospatial** data to create maps, followed by interactive Q&A sessions with ICMR-NINE scientists, where students explored potential career paths in biomedical research and data science.

The event provided a unique platform for school children to witness real-world research, interact with scientists, and develop a deeper appreciation for evidence-based science and innovation.

Dr. Prashant Mathur, Director of ICMR-NINE, emphasized, “This initiative is about planting the seeds of scientific curiosity early. We hope these students leave inspired to pursue careers that contribute to India’s scientific and public health goals.”

The **SHINE 2026** activities were part of a nationwide programme being held across all **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** institutes under the SHINE initiative, reaffirming the commitment to build a scientifically literate and research-oriented young India.

As part of the initiative, a national-level competition is also being organised by ICMR. Participating students can enrol and submit their research papers. The 100 best papers will be recognised and awarded, providing young learners with an opportunity to showcase their scientific ideas and research interests at the national level.

About ICMR-NINE, Bengaluru: ICMR-NINE is a permanent institute of the Indian Council of Medical Research which undertakes and coordinates programs of surveillance on NCDs through the development of national databases on noncommunicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, stroke, diabetes and its risk factors. The mandate is to generate reliable data on the magnitude and patterns of disease, patterns of patient care, survival and cause of death, and risk factors on NCDs, through multicentric registry/collaborative studies, to answer questions on disease burden and risk factors of NCDs in different population and demographic settings.

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