



Indian Association of Preventive & Social Medicine

Estd. 1974

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Dr. GM Muhammad

Ref-IAPSM/HQ/MAY /006

Date- 16/05/2026

Minutes of Meeting

IAPSM Governing Council Meeting- 14th May 2026

(Held Online)

The Governing Council meeting of IAPSM was held online on 14th May 2026. The meeting was chaired by Maj. Gen. Prof. (Dr.) Atul Kotwal - President IAPSM. The meeting was attended by all GC members. Prof. (Dr.) Sumitra Patnaik - Organising Chair Person, IAPSMCON 2027 & Prof. (Dr.) Lipilekha Patnaik - Organising Secretary IAPSMCON 2027 were special invitee. Following agenda points were deliberated upon:

Agenda 1: Welcome Address by the President - The meeting commenced with a welcome address by the President - IAPSM, Maj. Gen. Prof. (Dr.) Atul Kotwal. He welcomed all Governing Council members and appreciated their continued support, cooperation, and active participation in the functioning of the Association. The President highlighted that the discipline of Community Medicine and Public Health is currently at a critical juncture, with the nation facing multiple public health concerns, particularly the increasing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), communicable diseases, and emerging public health challenges. He emphasized that IAPSM must play a stronger, visible, and action-oriented role in addressing these concerns through coordinated academic, field-based, advocacy, and policy-level initiatives.

He further stressed that IAPSM is much more than an academic body and should continue expanding its contributions in all dimensions of public health practice and community engagement. The President particularly emphasized:

- Capacity building of junior members, residents, and young public health professionals.
- Active mentorship and guidance from senior members.
- Strengthening field-level public health action and community-based initiatives.
- Enhancing the public image and visibility of the discipline through meaningful public engagement.
- Encouraging every member to contribute actively toward strengthening the Association.

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The President also highlighted the need for unity, collaboration, transparency, and collective responsibility in achieving the organizational goals of IAPSM and appealed to all members to move forward together with dedication and mutual support.

Agenda 2: Update on Developments Till Date -Dr. Manish Kumar Singh, Secretary General -IAPSM presented a comprehensive update regarding major developments, achievements, collaborations, and organizational activities undertaken since 1st April 2026. He briefed that

- The National World Health Day Quiz 2026 Finale was successfully conducted on 7th April 2026. It received widespread appreciation from IAPSM members from across the country. The event was registered in the ASIA Book of Records as a record- Maximum Number of Medical Colleges participating simultaneously in a nationwide quiz. A total of 503 medical colleges participated in the Quiz

- The National IAPSM PG Quiz was successfully organised by GMC Nagpur on 23rd April 2026, to commemorate 60 years - Diamond Jubilee of commencement of its MD Community Medicine Course under the able leadership of Prof. Dr Uday Narlawar, Prof & Head, GMC Nagpur. The quiz had participation of 48 teams from across the country. The team from ESIC Joka, West Bengal was the winner

- State Chapter share of membership has been transferred till 31st March 2026 to the following chapters of IAPSM – UP & UK, Rajasthan, West Bengal, South Central, Gujarat, Karnataka

- The Jharkhand and Telangana Chapters have been formally registered and have got their PAN Card also. They are expected to open the bank account shortly and their respective state shares will be transferred.

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• IAPSM has received the Income Tax Refund of Rs 5,73,460/- for 2025-26. He also updated that we are actively pursuing with the Income Tax Department through our CA for dissolving the previous penalty and getting the Income Tax refund of previous Tenure. He said we are hopeful that the same will be sorted in the coming months

• He also briefed that all the corpus amount of membership for the year 2025-26, till 31st March 2026, has been invested in FD and Mutual Funds in 60:40 ratio

• Total 58 new members have been added since 1st April 2026. The membership drive was affected, as the Membership Information System was non- functional from 1st May 2026 till 12th May 2026.

• Intimation has been sent to Fellowship & Orations recipients for the year 2025-26

• Minutes of GC Meeting -26th Feb & GB Meeting -28th Feb have been shared with all members and put on website

• MOU is in progress with RCTC and a Tripartite MOU between ICMR-NAMS - IAPSM is being planned.

• There is a proposal from Pfizer for conducting nine Workshop across various zones of IAPSM on Life Course Vaccination. Pfizer has committed for an amount of Rs 9 lakh as educational grant to be shared in 2 phases - Rs 5 lakh in 1st Phase and Rs 4 Lakh in 2nd Phase.

Dr. Sarit informed that the FD of Punjab state chapter membership corpus amount could not be done. It was conveyed that the matter is under active consideration and is expected to be resolved shortly.

Dr. Manish Singh emphasized on Registration of Bihar chapter. Dr. Santosh Kumar Nirala briefed that the application was rejected due to some spelling errors in name of GC members. He assured that that necessary steps would be initiated on a priority basis.

Secretary General emphasized, that state chapters during their conferences should ensure that awards, paper/poster presentation/ Speaker invitation are given exclusively to IAPSM members and also there should be a minimum difference of Rs 1000 in PG registration between IAPSM member and non-member.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj - Immediate Past President suggested that members should prominently mention their IAPSM membership number during scientific presentations and academic activities.

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The Governing Council appreciated the ongoing developments and acknowledged the efforts of all office bearers, chapter representatives, and committee members.

Agenda 3: Approval of Minutes of previous GC Meeting - Minutes of GC Meeting held on 26th Feb 2026 was unanimously approved.

Agenda 4: Co-opting Members for Vacant Editorial Board Position – South 2- Secretary General briefed that he has not received any formal expression of Interest for the vacant position in Editorial Board of IJCM. It was unanimously decided to keep the post vacant in view of no formal expression of Interest.

Agenda 5: Update on preparations for IAPSMCON 2027 and Young Leaders Conclave 2026 -Prof. (Dr.) Sumitra Patnaik - Organising Chair Person, IAPSMCON 2027 & Prof. (Dr.) Lipilekha Patnaik - Organising Secretary IAPSMCON 2027 presented updates regarding preparations for the upcoming IAPSMCON. They briefed that expected number of registrations is approximately 1200–1500 delegates. Registration has started; however, support is desired from all. The venue and other major logistical arrangements have been finalised. Necessary administrative and hospitality arrangements are being planned comprehensively. A tentative budget of ₹2.5 crores has been worked out and detail planning is currently under process. Approximate expected expenditure per participant is around ₹10,000. The organizing committee plans to connect individually with medical colleges and institutions to encourage broader participation. The Governing Council assured complete support to the organizing committee to ensure successful conduct of the conference.

Regarding IAPSM Young Leaders Conclave, Secretary General informed that, he was briefed that preparations are on with full Vigor and enthusiasm. Approval of DGAFMS is in process and will be completed soon. The initiative was appreciated by the Governing Council, and members encouraged timely planning and coordination for effective execution.

Agenda 6: Finalisation of Dates and Venue for Offline Governing Council Meeting- It was unanimously decided to have the next offline Governing Council meeting of IAPSM at AFMC Pune on 23rd June 2026, from 9am – 5pm.

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Agenda 7: President's Action Plan and New Initiatives

Student and Young Faculty Empowerment Initiatives aimed at empowering undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG) students, and young faculty through mentorship, competitions, leadership development, and research support.

• Proposed Activities

o **Leadership & Management in Healthcare (Online Course)** Duration: 6 months.

o **National Mentorship Initiative for PG Capacity Building in Public Health-** Focus areas -Scientific publication, Grant writing, Research methodology. Proposed Budget: ₹50,000.

• **PG Refresher Course-** There was a very encouraging response to continue with Structured fee model incorporating: Organizational share, State chapter share & National share.

• PG Scholarship / Elective Observer Program (EOP)

o Duration: 5–7 days

o Institutes of Eminence to provide boarding and lodging under MoU arrangements.

o IAPSM to provide travel support. (PG student to contribute at least 20 of expenditure).

o PG students to be shortlisted on a set criterion.

• Case Study Challenges

o PG students to present innovative public health interventions.

• Young Faculty Debate Series

o Focus on contemporary health policy issues.

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• PG & Faculty Research Grants

o Proposed support: ₹20,000 each for 10 PG students and 10 faculty members.

o Total proposed allocation: ₹4,00,000.

• Public Health Hackathon

o Proposed national event with IAPSM support of ₹1,00,000.

o Proposed venue: Delhi.

o Expressions of interest to be invited and shortlisted participants selected.

• Zone-wise offline IAPSM PG Quiz - To be conducted across 4 zones: a). North & North Central, b) South 1 & South 2, c). East & North East and d) West, Central & South Central.

o Preference to host to be given to Departments of Community Medicine celebrating landmark events (Silver Jubilee, Diamond Jubilee, etc.).

o Winning teams from each zone to participate in the final IAPSM Quiz at IAPSMCON.

• Additional initiatives proposed:

o Career Pe Charcha- Monthly podcast with eminent personalities in different job profiles

o Citizen Health - Community Awareness on Important Health issues to be renewed

Academic Excellence and Capacity Building -strengthening academic excellence through regular educational activities, collaborative learning, and faculty development.

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Proposed Activities

• Monthly Webinar/CME Series

- o One topic every month.
- o Recorded lectures to be archived for future access.

• Quarterly National Webinars

- o Themes to include:
 - Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
 - Climate Change
 - Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Emerging public health challenges.

• Faculty Development Workshops

- o Focus areas:
 - Pedagogy
 - Research methodology
 - Leadership development.

• Skill-Building Modules

- o Short courses on:
 - Implementation science
 - Health economics
 - AI in health
 - Grant writing
 - Policy advocacy.

• Capacity Building Workshops on Implementation Research

- o One workshop per region.
- o Proposed collaboration with:
 - Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
 - National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS)

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• NCD Workshops

o In collaboration with the World NCD Federation to be conducted with minimal registration fees and IAPSM support.

Members emphasized that webinars and academic activities should be conducted with adequate planning and quality assurance mechanisms.

Research and Innovation initiatives to strengthen research culture among students and faculty.

Proposed Initiatives

• Annual Research Awards

o Recognition for best:

- UG research
- PG research
- STS projects

Dedicated allocation: ₹50,000.

• Collaborative Research Clusters

o Promotion of multi-institutional projects on:

- Trauma prevention
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Health equity.

o Grants to be explored through:

- Indian Council of Medical Research
- Department of Biotechnology
- Anusandhan National Research Foundation

Public Health Days and Community Outreach - A dedicated budget of ₹1,00,000 was proposed for prizes and activities related to national public health observances, including:

- World No Tobacco Day – May (Being coordinated with RCTC, PGIMER)
- World Breastfeeding Week – August
- World AIDS Day – December
- World Tuberculosis Day – March

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Dr Pradeep Kumar, President Elect, mentioned that maximum importance should be given to WHD as compared to the other days. Dr. GM Muhammad suggested conducting year-round sub-activities aligned with World Health Day themes. It was agreed upon by all

Community Outreach and Health Systems Engagement –

Proposed Activities

- Community outreach camps, screening camps, referral, health education activities, Walkathons/cyclothons, IEC/BCC campaigns led by UG and PG students.

- o 300 camps (approximately one per college)

- o Estimated support: ₹1,000 per camp

- o Total proposed allocation: ₹3,00,000.

Additional Proposals -Adoption of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) / villages, Capacity building activities, IPHS assessment, NQAS support.

Strengthening RHTC/UHTC Activities -Dr. Pankaj, Chief Editor IJCM, emphasized on recognition of good work being done at RHTC /UHTC. It was suggested to have Competitive awards for best-performing RHTC /UHTC. Criteria of Kayakalp can be adopted. It was further decided to work on the certification process Dr. Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj suggested that additional budget can be allocated from IAPSM for outreach health camps and some budget can be earmarked under the President Action plan for the above initiative

Policy and Technical Engagement

- Policy Roundtables engagement with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NITI Aayog, State health departments to be emphasized

• Technical Support to States

- o Alignment with Union Budget 2026–27 provisions regarding emergency and trauma care strengthening at district hospitals.

- o Faculty deputation for: NQAS, Kayakalp, LaQshya, Ayushman Bharat AAM assessments.

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• Capacity Building Programs

- o Training district-level health officers in: Surveillance, Program evaluation, Trauma care.

Collaboration with other Professional Associations -Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), Indian Public Health Association (IPHA). The need for stronger interdisciplinary engagement was emphasized.

All proposed activities under President Action Plan were approved in principle. Detailed implementation guidelines and SOPs to be developed. Additional suggestions and innovative ideas may be formally communicated to the Secretary General.

Agenda 8: Urgent Intervention Regarding Non-Handover of IJCH and Financial Irregularity

It was briefed that Secretary IAPSM UP & UK chapter has sought urgent intervention from National body via his email dated 18/04/2026, addressed to President IAPSM and Secretary General IAPSM based on their Governing Council Meeting Minutes dated 9th April 2026.

It was briefed, that the Chief Editor for IJCH 2026-29, did not receive any formal handover of the journal. In view of the untimely demise of the previous Chief Editor - Late Prof. (Dr.) S.K. Singh in January 2026, he had formally communicated on 1st April 2026 to the Ex Editor, Prof. (Dr.) Monika Agarwal, requesting handover of all essential documents, access to journal submission portal, manuscript records, official email credentials, and facilitation of transfer of the journal bank account to Lucknow. Prof. (Dr.) Monika Agarwal, in her reply dated 4 April 2026, expressed her inability to provide the requested details, citing lack of access.

He further subsequently sent communications to other office bearers of the previous editorial team, including Dr. Sandip Kumar (then Managing Editor), Dr. Manish Manar, Dr. Tanveer Bano, and Dr. Pradeep Aggarwal. Dr. Tanveer Bano also expressed inability to provide the required details due to lack of access. It was informed by Dr. Sandip Kumar that all work related to the journal was managed by Dr. Pradeep Aggarwal and that he himself did not possess the relevant information or credentials.

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It was further noted with concern that no response was received from Dr. Pradeep Aggarwal and Dr. Manish Manar (Non IAPSM member), and that there was likewise no response from the official email ID of the Chief Editor. Dr Pradeep Aggarwal was called by President IAPSM UP UK - Dr. HS Joshi and Secretary - Dr Sandeep Kumar but he did not respond.

Reminder mail was again sent on 10th April and 12th April 2026, but Dr Pradeep did not respond Dr. Manish Kumar Singh, further informed the Council that the submission portal of IJCH had been closed on 1st April without any prior intimation to the President or Secretary IAPSM UP UK Chapter, editor, managing editor and other ex -office bearers of the journal, thereby disrupting the normal functioning of the journal and the act is likely to effect the indexing of the Journal

He reiterated concerns raised earlier during the Editorial Board Meeting and the Governing Council meeting of the state chapter regarding selective opening of the portal and lack of transparency in manuscript handling. It was also noted that previous issues of the journal had been dispatched from the address of Dr. Pradeep Aggarwal, Additional Professor, CFM at AIIMS Rishikesh, and that the submission portal had not been kept open uniformly but was reportedly activated selectively upon telephonic requests. The Council observed that such practices, if true, were highly unethical and discriminatory towards members of the association.

It was brought to notice that, the email id of Chief Editor was being used even after his demise and publication charges were being collected in the account of IJCH.

The present chief editor, had requested for transfer of IJCH bank account to Lucknow, however when enquired from bank manager, SBI Jolly Grant Campus, it was discovered that the existing IJCH account had already been closed on 31st March 2026 and an amount of approximately ₹4.5 lakh was withdrawn by Dr Pradeep Aggarwal. When enquired regarding the signatory for the account as payments were reported to be done even after death of chief editor, it was unofficially revealed to the shock of the editorial board of IJCH, that the signatory were Dr Pradeep Agarwal and Dr Rakesh Kakkar, who has moved out of Uttarakhand long back and is not a member of IAPSM UP UK. The deliberate closure of the account and signatory being someone outside the state chapter raises serious concern with regards to financial integrity and transparency on part of Dr Pradeep Aggarwal. The concerned bank manager reportedly advised that an FIR be lodged in the matter, only then he will be able to share further details.

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It was further brought to notice by Dr Sandeep Kumar that the Journal was bi-monthly and January February Issue was brought out in Feb. Hence, the next issue had to be brought out in April by the new editorial board. However, Dr Aggarwal brought out the March issue without consulting anyone. Also, it was noticed that the number of articles was deliberately increased in the issues over the last 6 months. There have been complaints with regard to incomplete articles being published in a hurry, with missing tables. The new editorial board has no information regarding number of articles accepted for publication, number of articles under review and was forced to collect articles on mail.

President, Maj Gen Dr. Atul Kotwal, emphasised that the handover process should have been facilitated smoothly. He stressed that the foremost priority is to ensure the transfer of the submission portal, related records, and resolution of pending financial matters. Thereafter, a fact-finding exercise may be undertaken regarding the functioning and operations of the journal, following which appropriate action, if warranted, may be considered.

Dr Pradeep Kumar, also stressed on immediate handover of journal. The fact-finding committee constituted be asked to place before GC meeting scheduled in June its findings on the matter.

The Governing Council discussed at length the concerns regarding non-handover of IJCH related accounts, domains, documents, records, and associated materials, along with allegations of financial irregularities. Members expressed serious concern over the matter and emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and immediate corrective measures.

After detailed deliberation, the following proposals were placed before the Council:

- A three-member independent committee shall be constituted to facilitate transfer of accounts, domains, documents, and all related materials within one week.
- The same committee shall undertake a fact-finding exercise and submit its report within 20 days, regarding operations of the journal.

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It was further decided that the committee members would be independent and would not belong to Uttar Pradesh or Uttarakhand. Dr. Pradeep Kumar, President-Elect, would chair the committee. The remaining members of the committee would be finalized and communicated by the President, Dr. Atul Kotwal. The Governing Council authorized the President to finalize the remaining members.

Agenda 9: New MOUs - It was briefed by Secretary General that following MOU are being worked upon

- A tripartite MOU between IAPSM, ICMR & NAMS for Implementation Research
- MOU with RCTC for Tobacco Control Initiatives.
- Pfizer for Zonal workshop on Life Course Immunisation. The GC appreciated the potential of these collaborations in strengthening academic exchange, research, training, advocacy, and national public health initiatives.

Agenda 10: Updates on IJCM -Dr. Pankaj Bhardwaj, Chief Editor -IJCM briefed that the journal currently plans six regular issues & three supplementary issues annually.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar suggested that a dedicated one-hour session should be devoted to discuss the detailed budget and functioning of IJCM.

Sharing of IJCM meeting minutes & uploading of audited financial statements on the official website was also approved for transparency and accountability.

Agenda 11: Constitution Update and Amendment Committee - It was briefed that the committee chaired by Maj. Gen. Dr Atul Kotwal had a series of meetings. A composite document with all approved amendments over the years and proposed amendments is being prepared. The document will be shared prior to the mid-term meeting for review and suggestions to GC members.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar emphasized that all constitutional amendments should be evidence-based, carefully justified, and aligned with the long-term organizational interests of IAPSM.

Agenda 12: Disruption in Functioning of Member Information System- It was briefed by Secretary General that the Member Information System managed by Accrete InfoSolutions Technologies LLP was disrupted for around 2 weeks, from 01/05/2026 to 12/05/2026 adversely affecting the membership drive. The agency was reached out via mail and telephone, but there was no response from the service provider. There have been issues with OTP generation in the past election aswell.

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Members highlighted concerns regarding operational disruptions affecting membership, accessibility issues and need for uninterrupted and transparent services.

After detailed deliberation, it was decided to issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) for onboarding a new vendor. Bids and presentations may be invited from shortlisted vendors, preferably the top three applicants.

Once a new vendor is finalised, the present services may be discontinued and refund of advance payment done to be demanded.

Dr. Krupal emphasized on the importance of transparency and accountability in selection of vendor.

Agenda 13: Website Updating Committee- It was agreed upon that there is a need for website restructuring, modernization, member interface enhancement. A website management committee was proposed with following members

Dr. Arkaprabha Sau – Chair Person

Dr Sharon Basil – Co Chair

Dr Sunil Kumar Panigrahi - Member

Dr Aastha Kalra - Member

The committee to work out on technical specifications desired for the website and manage the website once it is developed.

Agenda 14: Any Other Issue with Permission of the Chair

It was informed that an inquiry committee was constituted on complain of Dr Bharti Korla and it has nearly completed its proceedings and the final report is awaited. It was agreed that the committee be requested to complete its proceedings and submit the report to GC.

It was further deliberated to develop a SOPs for members involved in book writing and academic publications.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj requested for IAPSM members actively supporting the ongoing “100 Days Campaign.”. He further proposed a collaborative tuberculosis-related project with an estimated funding support of approximately ₹1 crore.

It was decided that a one pager with details about the campaign and role expected of an IAPSM member be prepared and the same can be shared with members for more enthusiastic participation.

Dr Atul Kotwal emphasized on the importance of documentation. There should be documentation of contribution by means of geo tagged photographs, feedback etc.

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Dr Pradeep Kumar, mentioned about the points he had shared earlier. Dr Manish Singh said that those have already been covered to a large extent in the preceding deliberations and a detailed discussion may be taken up during the offline meeting of GC, to which all members agreed.

Agenda 15: Vote of Thanks- The meeting concluded with Vote of Thanks by Secretary General, IAPSM. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the President, Governing Council members and invited guests for their active participation and valuable contributions.

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