

GLOBAL INDIAN PHYSICIANS IN THE NEWS (MARCH 2026)



DIGITAL OUTREACH PARTNER

DR MUJEEB RAHMAN AND DR PANKAJ SINGHAI RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIAN SCHOLAR AWARD AT AAHPM 2026

Dr Mujeeb Rahman (Director, Institute of Palliative Medicine, Kozhikode) and Dr Pankaj Singhai (Professor and Head, Department of Palliative and Supportive Medicine, Sri Aurobindo Medical College and PG Institute, Indore) were honoured with the International Physician Scholar Award at the Annual Assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM 2026), held in San Diego, USA.

Dr Singhai presented his work on the current status of palliative care in India, while Dr Rahman delivered a presentation titled “Scaling Palliative Care Through Community - The Kerala Experience,” highlighting the impact of community-based care models in advancing palliative services.

Both physicians have made significant contributions to improving quality of life for patients with serious illnesses through clinical excellence, research, and advocacy in palliative care.

This recognition reflects the growing global impact of Indian physicians in advancing hospice and palliative medicine and underscores the importance of collaborative, patient-centred approaches in modern healthcare.

Source: *Palliative Care, March 2026*

Link: <https://www.palliativecare.in/awards-and-recognitions-april-2026/>



PROF. PROKAR DASGUPTA PERFORMS UK'S FIRST LONG-DISTANCE ROBOTIC SURGERY ACROSS BORDERS

Professor Prokar Dasgupta, an Indian-origin British urological surgeon, has performed the UK's first long-distance robotic surgery, marking a major milestone in the advancement of remote healthcare.

The procedure was conducted from London on a patient located in Gibraltar, over a distance of more than 2,400 kilometres, using a robotic surgical system connected through high-speed communication networks. The surgery involved the removal of the prostate in a patient with cancer and was successfully completed with high precision.

This landmark achievement demonstrated the potential of advanced robotic systems to enable expert surgical care across geographical boundaries, reducing the need for patients to travel long distances for specialised treatment.

Professor Dasgupta, a leading figure in robotic urological surgery, highlighted that such innovations could significantly improve access to healthcare, particularly for patients in remote and underserved regions.

The successful procedure represents an important step forward in the evolution of telesurgery and reflects the growing role of technology in transforming global healthcare delivery.

Source: : Times of India, 08/03/2026

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/uk/indian-origin-british-surgeon-performs-uks-first-long-distance-operation-from-2400-km-away-using-robotic-equipment/articleshow/129228778.cms>



DR C. PALANIVELU TO BE CONFERRED LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY

Dr C. Palanivelu, an eminent laparoscopic and robotic surgeon, is set to be honoured with the Dr M.R. Hulinaykar-Smt Shantadurga Devi Hulinaykar Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to medical science.

The award acknowledges his pioneering work in minimally invasive surgery, particularly in advancing laparoscopic and robotic surgical techniques. Dr Palanivelu, founder of GEM Hospital in Coimbatore, has played a key role in establishing it as a leading centre for advanced gastrointestinal and laparoscopic procedures.

Widely regarded as a global pioneer in laparoscopic surgery, he has contributed significantly to expanding its adoption worldwide. His work includes introducing innovative surgical techniques and authoring numerous research publications that have received international recognition.

A Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and a two-time recipient of the prestigious Dr B. C. Roy National Award, Dr Palanivelu's contributions have had a lasting impact on surgical practice and patient care. This recognition highlights his enduring legacy in advancing minimally invasive surgery and strengthening India's presence in global surgical innovation.

Source: : The Hans India, 12/03/2026

Link:<https://www.thehansindia.com/karnataka/renowned-surgeon-to-receive-hulinaykar-lifetime-achievement-award-1055898>



DR JITENDRA SINGH HONOURS YOUNG MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS FOR EXCELLENCE

Dr Jitendra Singh honoured 26 young medical professionals from across India in recognition of their excellence across various medical specialities, including oncology, paediatrics, endocrinology, orthopaedics, and emergency medicine.

The awards acknowledged early-career doctors who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and performance in their respective fields, highlighting the importance of recognising talent at the beginning of professional journeys. During the event, Dr Singh emphasised that early recognition plays a crucial role in motivating young doctors to pursue excellence and remain committed to improving healthcare services. He noted that nurturing emerging talent is essential for strengthening the future of India's healthcare system.

He also highlighted the transformative impact of technology and artificial intelligence in modern medicine, while reaffirming the continued importance of clinical expertise, judgement, and patient-centred care.

The initiative underscored the significance of continuous learning, specialisation, and adaptability in an evolving healthcare landscape, particularly in the post-COVID era.

Dr Singh expressed confidence in the next generation of doctors, noting that such recognition would inspire them to achieve greater milestones and contribute meaningfully to the medical profession and society.

Source: : The Indian Practitioner, 06/03/2026

Link:<https://theindianpractitioner.com/dr-jitendra-singh-honours-young-medical-professionals-for-excellence/>



DR DIBYA SINGHA DAS HONOURED FOR ADVANCING ROBOTIC JOINT REPLACEMENT SURGERY

Dr Dibya Singha Das, a renowned orthopaedic surgeon, has been conferred with a prestigious Achievement Award in recognition of his significant contributions to robotic joint replacement surgery. The award was presented by the Honourable Health Minister of Odisha, acknowledging Dr Das's role in introducing and advancing robotic-assisted orthopaedic procedures in the state, bringing world-class surgical precision to patients.

Widely regarded as a pioneer in orthopaedic innovation, Dr Das has been instrumental in transforming joint replacement care by integrating advanced robotic technology. His work has enabled greater surgical accuracy, improved patient outcomes, and faster recovery times.

With extensive experience and thousands of successful surgeries to his credit, Dr Das has contributed to establishing Odisha as an emerging hub for advanced orthopaedic care and medical tourism.

Source: : The Wire, 05/03/2026

Link: <https://thewire.in/ptiprnews/dr-manu-sharma-honored-as-emerging-joint-replacement-surgeon-of-gujarat-by-dy-cm-harsh-sanghavi-at-the-healthcare-excellence-awards-2026>



DR SANDIP SONARA RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ADVANCING ENDOMETRIOSIS CARE

Dr Sandip Sonara, a laparoscopic gynaecological surgeon from Ahmedabad, has received international recognition as India's first "Master Surgeon in Multidisciplinary Endometriosis Care," accredited by the Surgical Review Corporation (USA).

This recognition acknowledges his expertise in advanced minimally invasive gynaecological surgery and his commitment to delivering high standards of patient care in complex endometriosis management. Over the years, Dr Sonara has performed thousands of surgeries and has contributed significantly to improving clinical outcomes through precision-based laparoscopic techniques.

He has also played an important role in training surgeons through hands-on surgical programs and has been actively involved in research and innovation in the field of gynaecological surgery.

Beyond clinical practice, Dr Sonara has been instrumental in promoting awareness on early diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis, contributing to improved women's reproductive health outcomes.

This recognition highlights his growing global impact and continued contribution to advancing women's healthcare and surgical excellence.

Source: Republic World, 12/03/2026

Link: <https://www.republicworld.com/science/ahmedabad-based-doctor-running-campaign-on-endometriosis-awareness-gets-special-recognition-in-us-and>



DR MANU SHARMA HONOURED WITH SANDESH HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE AWARD 2026

Dr Manu Sharma has been conferred the Sandesh Healthcare Excellence Award 2026 and recognised as the “Emerging Joint Replacement Surgeon of Gujarat” for his outstanding contributions to knee replacement surgery.

The award was presented by Gujarat’s Deputy Chief Minister at a distinguished ceremony, acknowledging Dr Sharma’s growing impact in advancing orthopaedic care in the region.

With over 15,000 successful joint replacement surgeries to his credit, Dr Sharma has emerged as one of the leading high-volume knee replacement surgeons in Gujarat. His consistent performance and clinical excellence have significantly contributed to strengthening Surat’s reputation as a centre for advanced joint replacement procedures.

Known for integrating advanced surgical techniques, including precision-based and robotic-assisted approaches, Dr Sharma has focused on improving surgical outcomes, enabling faster recovery, and enhancing patient care. His patient-centric approach, combined with a strong emphasis on innovation and quality care, continues to position him as a key contributor to the evolving orthopaedic landscape in India.

Source: : The Wire, 05/03/2026

Link:<https://thewire.in/ptiprnews/dr-manu-sharma-honored-as-emerging-joint-replacement-surgeon-of-gujarat-by-dy-cm-harsh-sanghavi-at-the-healthcare-excellence-awards-2026>



NISHA MEHTA APPOINTED NEPAL’S HEALTH MINISTER, MARKING MILESTONE FOR NURSING LEADERSHIP

Nisha Mehta, an alumna of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, has been appointed as Nepal’s Health Minister, marking a significant milestone for the nursing profession.

A trained nurse, her journey from clinical practice to national leadership reflects the growing importance of frontline healthcare experience in shaping health policy and governance. Her appointment is seen as a moment of pride for the nursing community and a recognition of the critical role nurses play within healthcare systems.

Known for her disciplined and consistent approach, her rise underscores the value of professional grounding, leadership, and dedication in advancing healthcare outcomes.

This development highlights a broader shift towards more inclusive and diverse leadership in healthcare, reinforcing the role of nurses in influencing policy, strengthening health systems, and improving patient care at a national level.

Source: : Times of India, 31/03/2026

Link:<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/aiims-delhi-trained-nurse-nisha-mehta-appointed-as-nepal-health-minister/articleshow/129913372.cms>



DR SHOUPTIK BASU AWARDED THIRD PRIZE FOR BEST ORAL PAPER AT SINGHEALTH ONCOLOGY CONFERENCE

Dr Shouptik Basu, Consultant Surgical Oncologist at Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre and Research Institute, has been awarded the Third Prize for Best Oral Paper at the SingHealth Peritoneal Oncology Conference held at the National Cancer Centre, Singapore.

His presentation focused on research in cytoreductive surgery (CRS) and HIPEC, highlighting advanced surgical strategies aimed at improving outcomes for patients with peritoneal surface malignancies.

The session was chaired and evaluated by leading international experts in peritoneal oncology. Notably, Dr Basu was the only researcher from India shortlisted for the presentation, reflecting the global relevance and quality of his work.

His recognition at this prestigious international platform underscores the growing contribution of Indian clinicians to advanced oncological research and surgical innovation.

Dr Basu noted that such achievements highlight the importance of continued research, knowledge exchange, and international collaboration in enhancing the safety and effectiveness of complex cancer treatments.

Source: Onco Daily, 14/03/2026

Link: <https://oncodaily.com/voices/shouptik-basu-469195>



INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM HONOURS PHYSICIAN LEADERS AT 15TH WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS GALA IN NEW YORK

The Indian American Forum (IAF) hosted its 15th Women's Achievement Awards Gala in Hicksville, New York, recognising the achievements of women leaders across healthcare, public service, entrepreneurship, and community development.

*Among the honourees was **Dr Dolly Manwar**, a physician and philanthropist, highlighting the significant contributions of doctors in advancing healthcare and community well-being. Other awardees included leaders from diverse fields, reflecting the wide-ranging impact of women within the Indian diaspora.*

The event also recognised young student achievers for academic excellence, emphasising the importance of nurturing future leaders.

Attended by physicians, elected officials, and community leaders, the gala underscored the growing role of healthcare professionals alongside other changemakers in shaping inclusive and resilient communities.

Source: : News India Times, 05/03/2026

Link: <https://newsindiatimes.com/iaf-honors-six-women-young-achievers-at-15th-womens-achievement-awards-gala-on-long-island/>



DR PRABHA S. CHANDRA ASSUMES CHARGE AS INTERIM DIRECTOR OF NIMHANS, BENGALURU

Dr Prabha S. Chandra, a renowned psychiatrist and former Dean, has assumed charge as the Interim Director of the prestigious National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, with effect from 14 March 2026. A Senior Professor of Psychiatry and one of the senior-most faculty members at the institute, she has previously served as Head of the Department of Psychiatry.

Beyond psychiatry, Dr Chandra has made significant contributions to palliative care in India, particularly in the domains of education and research.

An internationally recognised expert, she is known for her pioneering work in women's mental health, reproductive psychiatry, and research on issues such as intimate partner

has led several national and international research initiatives and currently heads the Bangalore Child Health and Development Study, a landmark longitudinal cohort study focusing on maternal and child mental health.

Dr Chandra has also played a key role in establishing the NIMHANS Centre for Well Being, expanding access to community-based mental health services.

A pioneer in palliative care, she continues to contribute as a National Faculty member of the Indian Association of Palliative Care, strengthening academic and educational initiatives in the field. Her contributions, including her role as former Editor of the Indian Journal of Palliative Care, are widely acknowledged.



Source: Palliative Care, April/2026

Link: <https://www.palliativecare.in/awards-and-recognitions-april-2026/>



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