

VPCI NEWSLETTER

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Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute Newsletter

VPCI Newsletter (1st January – 30th June 2017)

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FROM THE EDITORS DESK



It is with great pleasure; we are presenting the VPCI Newsletter to you for the period January-June 2017. The Issue provides an overview of the wide range of activities and achievements of the Institute.



Prof. A. Ray took charge as Director (Acting) VPCI, on 1st June 2017 from Prof. S.N. Gaur who superannuated on 31st May 2017. In continuing with its objectives, the V.P. Chest Institute organised many Symposiums, Orations, Conferences, Workshops, Public Lectures and other programmes during the period. These included VPCI Sports & Cultural Activity - 2016, Institute Day Celebration and Prof. H.S. Randhawa Oration, Republic Day function, International Conference on Recent Advances in Cardiovascular Research: Impact on Health and Disease, 42nd Workshop on Respiratory Allergy:

Diagnosis and Management, 19th Prof. Raman Viswanathan-VPCI Oration, World Environment Day and 3rd International Yoga Day. On 20th February 2017, the VPCI Indoor Games Centre was inaugurated by Prof. S.N. Gaur.

Prof. A. Ray, Director (Acting), congratulates all the VPCI faculty, staff and students on their achievements and wish them all the very best in all their future endeavours.





EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

VPCI Sports & Cultural Activity - 2016



The Institute conducted the VPCI Sports & Cultural Activity - 2016 programme from 1st to 6th January 2017. It



was inaugurated by Prof. S.N. Gaur, Director (Acting), VPCI. The Sports events included Musical Chair, Table Tennis, Badminton, Bench Press (Weight Lifting), Carom and Chess; and the Cultural events included Play, Dance, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music and Poem Recitation. Most of the staff members,

students and family members of VPCI participated in this Programme. The Institute distributed Trophies and Certificates (First, Second and Third) to the winners. Mr. Tarun Thakur [PhD (Pharmacology) Student] was adjudged as the Best All-Round Sportsman and Ms. Deepa, (Stenographer, Joint Registrar Office) was adjudged as the Best All-Round Sportswoman for the year. Prof. A. Ray, Dept. of Pharmacology, VPCI, was the Convener of this Programme.

Institute Day Celebration







The 63rd Institute Day was celebrated on 12th January 2017 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium of the Institute. Prof. P.N. Tandon, former Chairman, Governing Body, VPCI and President, National Brain Research Centre, Gurugram was the Chief Guest. Prof. A. Ray, Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Delhi, Delhi, was the Guest of Honour of this Programme. Prof. S.N. Gaur, Director (Acting) delivered the Welcome address as well as a brief report on the Institute. On this day former faculty, staff and students of the Institute were felicitated. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Mandira Varma-Basil, Department of Microbiology, VPCI.

3rd Prof. H.S. Randhawa Oration





During the Institute Day celebration (on 12th January 2017), the Institute organized the 3rd Prof. H.S. Randhawa Oration in honour of our former Director, Prof. H.S. Randhawa, an internationally acclaimed medical mycologist. Prof. Subrata Sinha, Director, National Brain Research Center, Manesar, Gurugram, Haryana, delivered this Oration (Titled; "Molecular Heterogeneity and Tumour Behaviour – Connecting the Lab to Clinic").

68th Republic Day Celebration





The 68th Republic Day function was celebrated on 26th January 2016 at the VPCI campus. The ceremony was attended by VPCI staff with their family members. The indoor patients of VPCI also attended this function.

Swachhata Action Plans (SAP)





Swachhata Action Plans (SAP) observed for fortnight from 1st - 15th February 2017. During the fortnight, several activities were done in the Institute to bring success to the Swachhata Action Plans (SAP). Prof. S.N. Gaur, Director (Acting) administered the Swachhata Pledge to all the Staff members and Students of the Institute. The Institute displayed banners and posters on Swachhata elements. It also conducted plays on Swachhata mission and distributed T-shirts and Caps (Printing with Swachhata Abhiyan

photographs) to the participants. The SAP programme was supervised by Prof. S.K. Bansal, Dept. of Biochemistry, VPCI, Nodal Officer, SAP and Mr. P.R. Santhanam, Joint Registrar, VPCI.

International Conference on Recent Advances in Cardiovascular Research: Impact on Health and Disease







The International Conference on Recent Advances in Cardiovascular Research: Impact on Health and Disease was held on 9th -11th February 2017. Prof. P.N. Tandon, Chairman, National Brain Research Society & former

Chairman, Governing Body, VPCI was the Chief Guest. Prof. N. S. Dhalla, Executive Director, IACS, Winnipeg, Canada, and Prof. Ramesh K. Goyal Vice Chancellor, DPSRU, New Delhi were the Guests of Honour of this Conference. Prof. Kavita Gulati, Dept. of Pharmacology, VPCI was the Organising Secretary of this Conference.

Inauguration of VPCI Indoor Games Center









The VPCI Indoor Games Center was inaugurated by Prof. S.N. Gaur, Director (Acting), VPCI on 20th February 2017. The Center is fully equipped for playing the following games: Billiard, Squash, Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Carom, Chess, etc.

19th Prof. Raman Viswanathan-VPCI Oration





The Institute organised the 19th Prof. Raman Viswanathan-VPCI Oration on the occasion of 68th Foundation Day on 6th April 2017. The Oration (titled: "Air Pollution – The Silent Killer") was delivered by Prof. S.K. Katiyar, former Principal & Dean and Professor & Head, Department of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial (G.S.V.M.) Medical College, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar, Chairman, Governing Body, VPCI was the Chief Guest.

Allergy Workshop





The Institute organised 42nd Workshop on "Respiratory Allergy: Diagnosis and Management" from 24th - 28th April 2017 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, VPCI, Delhi. The Workshop was jointly organised by the National Center of Respiratory Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (NCRAAI), VPCI and the Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology, Delhi. During the event a practical Training Manual with details of skin testing and pulmonary function testing procedures was released. Prof. Raj Kumar, Head, NCRAAI and Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, VPCI, was the Organising Secretary of the Workshop.

Public Lecture on Asthma



On the eve of the World Asthma Day, the Institute conducted a public awareness programme on Asthma on 2nd May 2017, in association with Society for Tobacco Control, Delhi and National College of Chest Physicians (India). There were extensive public interactions with the VPCI specialists who answered a variety of queries from patients. Participants were thankful for the interactive session. Prof. Raj Kumar, Head, (NCRAAI), VPCI and Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, VPCI was the Coordinator of this programme.

World Environment Day





The Director, staff and students of VPCI celebrated the World Environment Day on 5th June 2017 by planting saplings in the Institute premises.

3rd International Yoga Day







The Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute's Yoga Therapy & Research Centre, in collaboration with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) celebrated "3rd International Yoga Day" event at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium of the Institute on 21st June 2017. The event was inaugurated by Prof. A. Ray, Director (Acting), Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute (VPCI). The importance of Yoga and how it helps to improve the quality of life in humans, was highlighted. The faculty staff, students, patients of VPCI and general public participated in the yoga session conducted by the trained yoga teachers of MDNIY. The practical session was for 40 minutes and was in accordance with the module prepared by the AYUSH for the International Yoga Day.

CME Programme on Clinical Trials: Perspectives and Trends



A CME Programme on "Clinical Trials: Perspectives and Trends" was observed in collaboration with Indian Society

for Clinical Research (ISCR) on 30th June 2017, at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium of the Institute. Prof. Ramesh K. Goyal, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU), was the Chief Guest of this event. Dr. Kavita Gulati, Dept. of Pharmacology, VPCI was the Convener of this CME.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Multi-disciplinary Research Unit



The VPCI-DHR-ICMR-Multi-disciplinary Research Unit (MRU) is a part of the Government of India approved initiative for establishment of multidisciplinary research units in Government medical colleges/research institutions during the 12th plan period. Under this scheme, financial assistance of upto 5.25 crores is being provided to VPCI.

The VPCI-DHR-ICMR-MRU aims to (1) undertake research in non-communicable diseases and other need based research employing newer tools, (2) promote and encourage quality multi-disciplinary medical research in the Institution, (3) improve the overall health status of the population by creating evidence based application of diagnostic procedures/processes/methods.

Prof. S.K. Bansal was appointed as the Nodal Officer of the VPCI-DHR-ICMR-MRU since May 2017. Two research proposals on lung cancer and lung fibrosis are presently ongoing. Dr. V. Rohil, Department of Biochemistry (Clinical Biochemistry), is assessing the role of Ellagic acid and its derivative, peracetate, in epigenetic regulations leading to apoptosis in lung cancer. Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha, Department of Pathology, is working on extracellular matrix remodelling, matrix metalloproteinase expression and their targeting by nanoparticle mediated drug delivery for ameliorating pulmonary fibrosis. The work is being carried out with active participation of the MRU Research Scientists, Dr. Kakuli Purkayastha and Dr. Jyoti Batra.

Extramural Research Projects

Presently, 16 extramurally research projects (funded by ICMR, DBT, INSA, DST, DST-FIST, AYUSH, WHO,

CCRUM, APACI, AAYUSH / CCRAS, UGC-BSR) and 2 VPCI-DHR-ICMR Multi-disciplinary Research Unit (MRU) funded research projects are ongoing in the Institute. In addition, two new extramurally funded research projects & one Research Fellowship was additionally sanctioned during the period.

New Project Details

Isolation and characterization of anerobic bacteria causing lower respiratory tract infections in patients attending V.P. Chest Institute

Department of Microbiology P.I.: Dr. Malini Shariff Grant: 16.73 (lakhs) (Funding agency: ICMR)

Effect of outdoor air pollution on acute respiratory

Department of Pulmonary Medicine

P.I.: Dr. Raj Kumar Grant: 22.48 (lakhs) (Funding agency: ICMR)

Senior Research Fellowship

Molecular charcterization of multi-drug resistant bacterial uropathogens in South-Eastern Nigeria Dr. Malachy Chigozie Ugwu, PDF

Department of Microbiology P.I.: Dr. Malini Shariff

Grant: 2.70 (lakhs)

(Funding agency: NAM S&T Centre)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- **Dir. Prof. A. Ray, Director (Acting)** was presented with "Distinguished Services Award in Cardiovascular Sciences, Medicine and Surgery" by International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, Winnipeg, Canada, 2017.
- **Dir. Prof. A. Ray, Director (Acting)** was the Organizing Chairman for International Conference on "Recent Advances in Cardiovascular Research: Impact on Health and Disease", 9th Annual Conference of International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS India Section) VPCI, Delhi, 9th -11th February 2017.
- **Dir. Prof. A. Ray, Director (Acting)** was the Organizing Chairman for Pre-Conference Workshop cum Brainstorming Seminar on "Ayurveda and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disorders", VPCI, Delhi, 9th February 2017.
- **Dir. Prof. A. Ray, Director (Acting)** delivered Invited talk on and Chairperson at IUPHAR-GI(International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology) Section Meeting, Novigrad, Croatia 8th-10th June 2017.

- Dir. Prof. Raj Kumar delivered two Guest lectures on "Improving outcomes in allergic rhinitis and allergic asthma" and "Allergy diagnosis: Global recommendations and its correlation with clinical practice" in Skin Prick Test: Newer Paradigms in Allergy Diagnosis at Ramadan Hotel, Gurugram on 29th January 2017.
- **Dir. Prof. Raj Kumar** delivered Guest lecture on "Respiratory allergy and applied immunology" at Eco Club of Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi on 25th February 2017.
- **Dir. Prof. Raj Kumar** was the Chief Guest in 2nd National Conference on Environmental Concerns of 21st Century: Indian and Global context at Zakir Husain College, Delhi on 29th March 2017.
- **Dir. Prof. Raj Kumar** delivered Guest lecture on "How can I get rid of my allergies? Book to beside " during Childhood Allergies programme organised by, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in association with IAP Respiratory Chapter at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi on 4th March 2017.
- **Dir. Prof. Raj Kumar** Masterclass in Allergy Diagnosis and Allergen Immunotherapy at University Hospital, Munster, Germany from 5th -8th April 2017.
- **Dir. Prof. Raj Kumar** received Achievers Award for his exemplary contribution and commitment for protecting the environment, on the eve of World Environment Day 2017 at Indian Eye International Human Right Observer & UN Information Centre for India & Bhutan, New Delhi on 5th June 2017.



- **Prof. Mandira Varma-Basil** was the member of the Ethics Committee of Rajan Babu Institute of Pulmonary Medicine and Tuberculosis.
- **Prof. Mandira Varma-Basil** was the Secretary of Indian Association of Mycoplasmologists.
- Prof. Mandira Varma-Basil received Travel Award and presented paper titled, "Contribution of efflux

- pumps in rifampicin resistance in clinical isolates of M.tuberculosis'' at the 38^{th} Annual Congress of European Society of Mycobacteriology, Sibenik, Croatia on 25^{th} 28^{th} June 2017.
- **Prof. Madhu Khanna** received Travel Award and presented paper titled, "Suramin a potent ameliorating agent to inhibit Influenza A virus replication" at the 5th ISIRV- AVG Conference in Shanghai, China on 14th-16th June 2017.
- **Prof. Kavita Gulati** delivered Invited talk on "Pharmacovigilance:A tool for drug safety" in AICTE Sponsored XXI Quality Improvement Programme on "Trends in Pharmaceutical Sciences" at DIPSAR, DPSRU, Delhi on 30th January-10th February 2017.
- **Prof. Kavita Gulati** was presented with "Distinguished Services Award in Cardiovascular Sciences, Medicine and Surgery" by International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, Winnipeg, Canada on February 2017.
- **Prof. Kavita Gulati** delivered Faculty lecture on "Biomarkers of cardiovascular diseases: Practical consideration during methylxanthine induced cardiotoxicity" during Preconference cum Brainstorming Seminar on "Ayurveda and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disorders', Delhi on 9th February 2017.
- **Prof. Kavita Gulati** was the Chairperson and Judge for best E-poster presentation at 5th National conference of Pharmacoeconomics & Outcome Research, DPSRU, Delhi, 3rd-4th March 2017.
- **Prof. Kavita Gulati** delivered Invited talk on "Clinical and experimental studies to evaluate the complementary role of traditional medicine in obstructive airway diseases" in AIGJCONIPS-2017, Patna, Bihar, 13th-15th March 2017.
- **Prof. Kavita Gulati** delivered Invited talk and Chairperson on "Adaptogenic effects of Unani herbs and gastric cytoprotection: molecular mechanisms at IUPHAR-GI Section Meeting, Novigrad, Croatia 8th -10th June 2017.
- **Dr. Vishwajeet Rohil** was External Expert, DIPAS, "Project Monitoring and Review Committee Meeting to Review the Progress of XIIFYP Projects" held in DIPAS (DRDO), Delhi on 16th 17th March 2017 and on 7th June 2017.
- **Dr. Vishwajeet Rohil** delivered five lectures under the

Faculty Development Programme, "From chemistry of life to chemistry of diseases: understanding clinical biochemistry" organized by Dept. of Chemistry, Daulat Ram College at Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi during 15th - 21st June 2017. The faculty members were given practical demonstration on AutoAnalyzer at Clinical Biochemistry Department, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute by Scientist, Dr. Jyoti Batra and staff under the supervision of Dr. Vishwajeet Rohil.



- **Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha** delivered Guest lecture on "EGFR mutations from blood and tissue of Stage 3 and 4 lung cancer patients from Indian population" in 10th Asia Pacific International Academy of Pathology (APIAP) at Bali, Indonesia form 24th 27th April 2017.
- **Dr. Shilpi Bhardwaj, SRF,** Dept. of Pathology presented poster entitled, "Micro-RNAs (miR) and basal fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) influence bleomycin induced lung injury". Authors: Bhardwaj S, Kulshrestha R, Pandey A, Ravi K in the 6th Annual Conference of Molecular Pathology Association of India at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, India from 10th -12th February 2017.
- **Dr. Shilpi Bhardwaj, SRF,** Dept. of Pathology presented poster entitled, "Cigarette smoke and bleomycin induced caveolin-1 expression in lungs". Authors: Bhardwaj S, Kulshrestha R, Pandey A, Ravi K in the IndoUS Workshop and International Symposium on "Biological Timing and Health Issues in the 21st Century," being held at University of Delhi, Delhi from 21st -24th February 2017.



stry received 2nd prize for Young Scientists Oral Presentation entitled "Changes in erythtocytic membrane protein profile in asthma". Authors: Kumar M, Chhabra S.K., Prasad R, Bansal SK in 6th Annual CME of Clinical Biochemistry-2017 on "Trace Elements - The Forgotten Essentials" organized by the Department of Biochemistry, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi on 17th March 2017.

- **Dr. Bhagwan Singh Patidar**, MD student, Dept. of Biochemistry received appreciation prize for Young Scientists Oral Presentation entitled, "Alteration in the activity of adenosine deaminase and its isoenzymes in serum, lymphocytes and erythrocytes of COPD patients". Authors: Patidar BS, Menon BK, Rohil V, Bansal SK in 6th Annual CME of Clinical Biochemistry 2017 on "Trace Elements The Forgotten Essentials"organized by Department of Biochemistry, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi on 17th March 2017.
- Mr. Kamal Shrivastava, Ph.D student, Dept. of Microbiology presented poster entitled," Isolation and antimicrobials susceptibility testing of clinically relevant rapidly growing mycobacteria in a clinical mycobacteriology laboratory". Authors: Shrivastava K, Narang A, Kumar C, Chaudhary A, B. Visweswaran, Prasad R, Mandira Varma-Basil, in Delhi Chapter Meeting, AIIMS on 25th March 2017.
- Mr. Chanchal Kumar, Ph.D student, Dept. of Microbiology presented poster entitled," Comparison of an in-house Duplex PCR assay with the MGIT TBc ID assay for identification of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex". Authors: Kumar C, Shrivastava K, Yadav J, Mandira Varma-Basil, in Delhi Chapter Meeting, AIIMS on 25th March 2017.



Ms. Pooja Singh, Ph.D student, Dept. of Microbiology presented poster entitled, "Increased accumulation of lipids due to overexpression of cholestrol import gene in *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv". Authors: Singh P, Sinha R,

- Tyagi G, Sharma N, Saini NK, Chandolia A, Prasad AK, Varma-Basil M, Bose M, in Delhi Chapter Meeting, AIIMS on 25th March 2017.
- Ms. Astha Giri, Ph.D student, Dept. of Microbiology presented poster entitled," Polymorphisms upstream to embA lead to high-level ethambutol resistance in clinical isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from North India". Authors: Giri A, Gupta S, Narang A, Sharma N, Bose M, Mandira Varma-Basil, in Delhi Chapter Meeting, AIIMS on 25th March 2017.
- Ms. Astha Giri, Ph.D student, Dept. of Microbiology participated and was awarded with a Travel Grant and presented poster entitled, "Mutations in Rv3805c (aftB): A probable cause of high-level ethambutol resistance in clinical isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*". Authors: Giri A, Gupta S, Narang A, Sharma N, Bose M, Mandira Varma- Basil at the 38th annual Congress of European Society of Mycobacteriology, Sibenik, Croatia on 26th June 2017.



MEDIA REPORTS

- Prof. Raj Kumar, interview was quoted in an article "Toll-free 'Quitline' helped 40% smokers quit tobacco: Data" in Hindustan Times, Delhi Edition, on 8th January 2017.
- **Prof. Raj Kumar**, interview was quoted in articles titled, "NCR me badhte pradushan par bishesgyan ne jatai chinta" in Amar Ujala, Delhi Edition, "Bayu pradushan aur hamara swasthya" in Dainik Bhavisata, Ghaziabad Edition, "Badhta pradushan ban raha logon ko dama ka rogi" in Dainik Jagran, Delhi Edition, on 9th March 2017.
- **Prof. Raj Kumar**, interview which was quoted in an article "Air pollution 2nd major killer in city" in The Pioneer, Delhi Edition, on 11th March 2017.

- **Prof. Anita Kotwani,** interview was quoted in an article "Retail margin on generic drugs may be as high as 1000%, claims study", in the Times of India (Delhi Edition) on 19th April 2017.
- Prof. Raj Kumar, interview was quoted in an article "World No Tobacco Day: Do you want to quit smoking? Try this helpline" in Hindustan Times, e-paper, on 31st May 2017.
- **Prof. Anita Kotwani,** recorded a talk programme (Sanjeevni Baat Sehet Ki) with Vividh Barati, FM channel 100.1, All India Radio, New Delhi, it was about "Antibiotics, antimicrobial resistance and appropriate use of antibiotics". It was in Hindi language. This programme was broadcasted on 11th June at 11.00 a.m. and repeat broadcasted on 17th June at 5.30 p.m.

PROMOTIONS AND NEW RECRUITMENT



Dir. Prof. Arunabha Ray, Head, Dept. of Pharmacology, VPCI joined as the Director (Acting) VPCI on 1st June 2017. Prof. A. Ray took charge from Dir. Prof. S.N. Gaur (Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine) who superannuated on 31st May 2017 from VPCI.

SUPERANNUATION AND FAREWELL



Smt. Chanchal K Rajput, Assistant Matron, superannuated from her services on 28th February 2017 after a successful completion of almost 36 years in VPCI.



Smt. Kusum Malhotra, Personal Assistant, superannuated from her services on 28th February 2017 after a successful completion of almost 35 years in VPCI.





Director Prof. K. Ravi, Dept. of Physiology superannuated from his services on 30th April 2017 after a successful completion of almost 34 years in VPCI.



Smt. Sushil Batra, Senior Assistant, (Administration) superannuated from her services on 30th April 2017 after a successful completion of almost 36 years in VPCI.

Sh. Umesh Soni, Assistant, took voluntary retirement from his services on 18th April 2017 after a successful completion of almost 32 years in VPCI.



Director- Professor S.N. Gaur, Acting Director, VPCI superannuated from his services on 31st May 2017 after a successful completion of almost 37 years in VPCI.

OBITUARY



Dr. Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics, VPCI passed away on 6th May 2017 due to illness. Dr. Rahman joined the Institute on 9th August 2002 and served here almost 15 years. He used to provide the statistical needs of all the research

activities conducted at VPCI. His accessibility to colleagues at all levels was as legendary as were his impeccable manners. All the VPCI Staff members shall remember him with gratitude and reverence.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT VPCI

- 22nd September 2017: 13th Prof. Autar Singh Paintal Memorial Oration will be organized at Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium.
- 24th October 2017: 3rd Dr V.K. Vijayan Oration will be organized at Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium.
- 30th October 4th November 2017: Vigilance Awareness Week-2017.
- 24th November 2017: Public Lecture on Effect of Air Pollution on Lungs will be organized at Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium.
- 27th 29th November 2017: Workshop on Good Inhalation Therapy Practices for Nursing Staff.
- 30th November 2017: Workshop on Update on Bronchial Asthma & Nebulization Practice will be organized at Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium.

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