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Prof. (Dr.) Pankaj Bhardwaj is currently serving as the Director of the ICMR–National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), Jodhpur. Prior to joining ICMR, he served at AIIMS Jodhpur for over 13 years, holding several key leadership positions including Professor, Academic Head of the School of Public Health, Dean (Officiating), Research Section.

His research focuses on implementation research, health systems strengthening, epidemiology, NCD prevention and control, tobacco control, HIV/AIDS programme evaluation, geriatric health, and health policy. He has successfully led more than 63 nationally and internationally funded research projects supported by agencies including ICMR, WHO, NIH/NIHR, NACO, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. He has published 378 peer-reviewed scientific papers with an H-index of 85 and has been recognised among the Top 2% Most-Cited Scientists in the World (Stanford University rankings) for 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Prof. Bhardwaj is actively involved in national health policy and capacity-building initiatives and serves on several academic and editorial platforms. He is the Chief Editor of the Indian Journal of Community Medicine, an Editorial Board Member of Scientific Reports (Springer Nature) and Archives of Public Health (BMC), and an Honorary Professor at Amity University Rajasthan. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (FAMS), Indian Academy of Preventive & Social Medicine (FIAPSM), Indian Public Health Association (FIPHA), FAIMER, and the International Medical Sciences Academy (FIMSA).

An alumnus of M.L.N. Medical College, Prayagraj (MBBS) and Government Medical College, Surat (MD – Community Medicine, University Gold Medalist), he has undergone advanced training in public health leadership and policy from premier institutions including the University of Washington, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, NHS London, Ludwig Maximilian University (Germany), ECDC Sweden, Singapore General Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh, and JIPMER Puducherry. His outstanding contributions have been recognised through several prestigious honours, including the Padam Shri Prof. Kamlakar Tripathi Oration (2025), Dr. Sajjan B. Somappa Endowment Oration (2026), and the N.R. Mehta Gold Medal for Academic Excellence.