

NEWS LETTER

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WELCOME DR. D. S. GANGWAR, IAS (RETD.) - A NEW CHAPTER OF LEADERSHIP

Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCIRC) welcomes Dr. D. S. Gangwar, (Retd. IAS) as its new Chief Executive Officer — a leader whose distinguished career in the Indian Administrative Service brings with it a rare combination of policy depth, institutional vision, and an unwavering commitment to public good.

Dr. Gangwar's decades of service as an IAS officer have equipped him with something that is difficult to cultivate in any single domain: the ability to see complex systems as a whole — to understand how governance, resource allocation, people, and purpose must align before meaningful change becomes possible. These are precisely the capabilities that a premier oncology institution like RGCIRC needs as it navigates one of healthcare's most demanding frontiers.

Cancer care in India stands at an inflection point. Rising disease burden, evolving treatment modalities, expanding patient expectations, and the imperative of equitable access demand leadership that can hold clinical excellence and institutional accountability together — without compromise.

His arrival comes at a time of significant momentum for our institution. From strengthening our digital

infrastructure and daycare capacity to deepening our multi disciplinary care pathways, RGCIRC is actively reimagining what patient-centred oncology care can look like — and what it must look like — for the patients and families who place their trust in us.

We invite every member of our clinical, administrative, and support community to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Gangwar. His leadership will be defined not by the authority his role confers, but by the shared mission that draws us all here: to deliver the finest cancer care, with the deepest compassion, to every patient who walks through our doors.

We look forward to the journey ahead.



Dr. Anubha Dhawan, Head - Operations, RGCIRC
Dr. A. K. Dewan, Director - Surgical Oncology

RGCIRC HOSTS COLORECTAL CANCER WARRIORS MEET TO STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

RGCIRC (Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre) successfully hosted the Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Warriors Meet on Saturday, 28th March 2026 at the Indraprastha Hall, RGCIRC, Rohini, Delhi. The event brought together survivors, caregivers, and leading experts for an inspiring and emotionally uplifting gathering that provided a shared space where families affected by colorectal cancer could engage directly with clinicians, exchange experiences, and draw strength from a supportive community. Under the theme "Stronger Together: Celebrating Survivorship & Hope," the meet served as a vital platform for patient empowerment and medical education.

The programme began with a traditional lamp lighting



and Saraswati Vandana, followed by a warm welcome address by Dr. Shivendra Singh - the Chief of GI Oncosurgery & Liver Transplant Services and Director of Academics at RGCIRC. From the outset, the atmosphere was one of open dialogue and mutual

encouragement. Throughout the morning, attendees participated in specialised sessions led by senior specialists from the institute. These conversations focused on evolving approaches in colorectal cancer diagnosis, current treatment protocols, and the critical importance of coordinated, multidisciplinary care.

Reflecting on the institute's commitment to its patients, Mr. D. S. Negi, CEO of RGCIRC, delivered a heartfelt message to the survivors. He emphasised that the journey does not end with clinical treatment, stating:

"To our warriors, your resilience is our greatest inspiration. At RGCIRC, our mission extends beyond the operating theater; we are dedicated to ensuring that every survivor feels heard, supported, and empowered to reclaim their life with confidence. This meet is a testament to our enduring partnership in your health".



Furthering this vision of comprehensive care, Dr. D. S. Gangwar, Interim CEO, highlighted the strategic focus on long-term survivorship. He remarked:

"Our vision is rooted in providing continuous support and a clear path forward for every survivor. Seeing this community come together strengthens our belief that colorectal cancer is not just treatable, but navigable with the right guidance. Integrating clinical excellence with the empathy required to navigate life after cancer remains our foundational goal".

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Mr. Ashok Mohan, Governing Council Member, RGCIRC shared his words of wisdom on the healing power.

"Medical science provides the cure, but the community provides the strength to heal. When we share our stories of struggle and success, we transform individual journeys into a collective movement of hope. This spirit of togetherness is the most potent medicine we have in the fight against cancer.

The scientific program, titled "Beyond Cure: Life After CRC," addressed the practicalities of post-treatment life. Dr. Jaskaran Sethi shared vital insights on nutrition and lifestyle, while Dr. Sumit Goyal discussed the

necessity of ongoing screening and prevention. A particularly impactful session featured Dr. Priya Vyas, who provided practical tips on living with a stoma to ensure a high quality of life.



A key highlight of the event was the moving "Voices of Strength" segment, where colorectal cancer survivors and caregivers shared their personal journeys. Their heartfelt accounts of resilience, uncertainty, hope, and recovery resonated deeply with the audience, offering much-needed reassurance to newly diagnosed patients and their families. These stories underscored how the combination of expert medical care, emotional support, and personal determination can make a meaningful difference in long-term outcomes.

To address common misconceptions, the session "CRC Exposed: Myths, Mistakes & Medical Truths" featured a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Shaifali Goel. Panelists including Dr. Gurudutt Gupta, Dr. Jaskaran Sethi, Dr. Sumit Goyal, Dr. Bharat Gupta, and Dr. Amit Tanwar engaged with the audience to debunk myths and provide evidence-based medical truths.



The meet concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sumit Goyal and a community lunch. This gave attendees the opportunity to connect informally, share conversations, and build lasting bonds. By hosting the Colorectal Cancer Warriors Meet, RGCIRC reaffirmed its foundational values of "Ethics, Empathy, and Excellence", continuing its mission to provide compassionate care and continuous knowledge sharing in the fight against cancer.

CME WITH IMA GHAZIABAD, UP

RGCIRC in association with Indian Medical Association, Ghaziabad organized an Oncology CME on Thursday, 16th April 2026 at Hotel Fortune, Ghaziabad, UP.

Dr. Sunny Malik, Consultant In-Charge, Department of Oncoanaesthesia, Pain and Palliative Medicine, RGCIRC, Niti Bagh, South Delhi, delivered an insightful

lecture on **“Pain Management and Palliative Care in Carcinoma Pancreas.”**

Dr. Kapil Goyal, Consultant, Department of Medical Oncology, RGCIRC, Niti Bagh, South Delhi presented on the topic **“Role of Genetics in Cancer,”** highlighting the growing importance of genetic insights in cancer diagnosis and treatment.



SH D. S. NEGI — CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RGCIRC (18.5 YEARS · 6,700+ DAYS · ONE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT)



On 31st March 2026, RGCIRC bids farewell to Sh.D.S.Negi (CEO) not merely to an administrator, but to the architect of its modern identity. He led this hospital, as those who worked alongside him will attest, not from its board-room alone, but from its wards — walking corridors, asking patients how they felt, and reminding every member of his staff, through example rather than instruction, why this institution exists. Under his stewardship, RGCIRC did not merely expand — it evolved, acquiring the depth and breadth of a world-class oncology centre while never losing sight of the patient at the centre of every decision.

Among the most visible landmarks of Negi Sir's tenure was the development and commissioning of the C Block and D Block — a significant infrastructural addition that expanded RGCIRC's capacity to serve a growing patient population. The C, D Block brought with it new clinical spaces,

enhanced diagnostic infrastructure, and critically, the ability to reach more patients from across the country who make their way to RGCIRC as most trusted hospital. The years under Negi Sir saw RGCIRC consolidate its reputation as one of India's premier cancer care facilities. The institution achieved recognition for excellence across multiple specialties and expanded its research portfolio. Accreditations were earned and renewed; rankings improved; and RGCIRC's name became synonymous across Northern India with the standard of care that patients deserve and families can trust. His tenure saw sustained investment in training, development, and the welfare of staff at every level. He instituted practices that recognised the emotional and physical burden borne by healthcare workers — particularly in an oncology setting where proximity to suffering is daily and unrelenting. His open-door policy was, in many ways, an HR strategy as much as a personal value: it created channels of communication that flattened hierarchies and ensured that problems reached his desk before they became crises.

Under his watch, RGCIRC strengthened its outreach programmes to ensure that cancer care was not a privilege limited to those who could afford to seek it. Efforts to make early detection, diagnostics, and treatment accessible to patients from underserved and remote communities reflected his abiding

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WHEN CANCER MET COURAGE: A LITTLE GIRL'S JOURNEY THROUGH ILLNESS TO INNER STRENGTH - ARYA SINGH

I was **six years old** when I was diagnosed with **Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia**. I used to have low-grade fever frequently. It would improve with medication, but after a few months, my parents noticed that I was having difficulty in breathing. My health was deteriorating day by day, and there were a few lumps in my neck and nose. No medication was helping.

One of the doctors suggested that a few tests be done, and the results indicated the possibility of blood cancer. My parents were informed that it was curable and were advised to visit RGCIRC. Being from a middle-class family, it was not easy for my parents to seek treatment at a private hospital. They were even advised by some people to save money for my younger siblings, who were four years and two months old at that time, rather than spending on such expensive treatment, as according to their perception, cancer could not be cured. It was a very tough decision for my parents, and they chose "Not to Give Up."

My parents brought me to RGCIRC, where I met the second hero of my life, Dr. Gauri Kapoor.

After careful clinical examination, she counselled my parents about my disease and the treatment process. Her words gave them hope and reassurance. I was admitted to the hospital, and our battle began.

During the treatment, I used to get high fevers, became very weak, and started losing weight and hair. Food became tasteless, and irritation peaked. My parents patiently counselled me about the side effects and encouraged me to do whatever I could during the treatment. I could not understand everything they said at that time, but their body language always communicated what needed to be done for me to get better soon.

We stayed in Delhi, away from our home in Bihar, for the next six months. During my maintenance therapy, I was allowed to travel back home with precautions and continue my schooling.

I was demoted to the previous class, which broke my heart. However, my new friends and teachers were very supportive. Gradually, I started feeling comfortable and did well in both academics and co-curricular activities. By the end of 2002, my treatment was completed.

The Department of Pediatric Hematology & Oncology at RGCIRC became like a family to me.

Even after completing my treatment, the stigma related to cancer stayed with me and my parents for a very long time. Although the doctors allowed me to attend school and live like a normal person, my parents were always worried about my health and future. One of their biggest concerns was, "Will I ever get married?" They were well aware of how unwelcoming society can be towards cancer survivors.

I consider myself very fortunate to have met a man who did not change even after knowing that I am a childhood cancer survivor. He never looked at me with pity, nor did he ever make me feel different from others. He has been positive and supportive throughout. We got married in the year 2020.

I am 31 years old. I completed my Master's in Computer Applications (MCA) from IGNOU and currently work as an HR Admin (Work From Home) with DPS, Muzaffarpur, Bihar. My journey was far from easy, but I emerged victorious along with my loved ones who stood by me throughout. Today, I am cancer-free, and cancer is just a chapter of my life, not my identity. I am happily married, living a beautiful life, and have recently completed my MCA and applied for a PhD, ready to embrace the next phase of my journey.



When I look back, I realise that in return for all our sacrifices, cancer has given my family and me a new vision towards life. It has given me mental strength, positivity, patience, and strong determination.

I am grateful to each and everyone who stood by my side throughout this journey. I am a proud Childhood Cancer Warrior. Just because of cancer, today I am strong enough to face any challenge that life brings, with no fear of losing, because I know I have already won the biggest battle of my life, and I have the power to conquer anything that challenges me.

I dance, travel, and play, and I am also one of the team leaders of the "Childhood Cancer Support Group - Aashayein," which was formed by the Department of Pediatrics at RGCIRC.

WHEN LIFE BECAME PRECIOUS: WHAT SOCIETY NEVER TAUGHT US ABOUT CANCER - SAKSHAM KATIYAR

I was diagnosed with **medulloblastoma, a brain tumour**, at the beginning of my teenage years. At an age when life is usually about school, friendships, and discovering who you are, my world changed completely. Like many others, I had grown up in a society where cancer is often perceived as a pathway to death due to lack of awareness and understanding. I soon realised that the real struggle for a cancer patient is not always the treatment itself, but the life that comes after it.

My journey of fighting cancer lasted nearly one and a half years, and medically, it was relatively painless. The real war was still to be fought after the treatment ended. Cancer impacts an individual's life in two major ways physical and emotional. We often talk about surgeries, chemotherapy reactions, and radiation side effects, but what is rarely discussed is the emotional burden a survivor carries. Your identity changes drastically from who you were before and who you become after cancer. I found myself navigating an existential crisis, trying to rediscover who I was beyond my diagnosis.

Being diagnosed at around the age of twelve meant that my personality was still being shaped. Friendships at that age, though immature, are deeply emotional and dependable. Dropping out of school during treatment felt like a nuclear bomb had gone off in my life. To avoid the pressure of watching classmates move ahead a year and to protect myself emotionally, I chose to step away from school temporarily while staying in touch with a few close friends.

As a young boy undergoing treatment for **Stage IV cancer** at RGCIRC, I faced challenges not just medically, but socially as well. Society often attacks from multiple fronts, fear, misinformation, and stigma all of which can deeply affect a survivor's mindset. From my experiences, I have learned that people who endure intense struggles often become more mature, patient, and understanding.

The lack of awareness about cancer in our society became very clear to me. Informing people about my diagnosis often felt like announcing my demise. The public mindset still equates 'Cancer = Death'.

Reactions from people close to me ranged from extreme negativity to excessive sympathy. Even

today, many of my school classmates do not know about my survivor story because I remain uncertain about how they might react and how it could affect our relationships. As survivors, we do not seek sympathy or fear we seek neutrality. We have fought and won our battle and are ready to face the world with determination. Our experiences have equipped us to handle future challenges more efficiently.

Standing so close to life-and-death situations taught me that life is extremely precious. Concepts like revenge and hatred lost all meaning for me. Positivity and willpower played a crucial role in getting me through treatment. I have always been outspoken and willing to stand up for what is right, even when it meant standing alone. While this trait sometimes made forming deeper connections difficult, my cancer journey helped me refine it with wisdom.

Shaking hands with death turned out to be a powerful teacher. I learned the value of choosing the right company in a world that can often feel toxic and overwhelming. One genuine friend is far more valuable than many superficial ones. Meaningful relationships are built on mutual understanding, not transactions. Creating a likeminded community and staying connected with them has worked greatly in my favour.

Cancer was undeniably a roller-coaster ride, full of twists and turns. Yet, in hindsight, it was a profound learning experience and, in many ways, a blessing. From the day I completed my treatment, I made a promise to myself never to devote even a single moment of my precious life to negativity.

I am 26 years old. I completed my MBA from IIM Rohtak and am currently working as a Chief Manager at TATA AIG (Insurance) in Mumbai. Today, I am living a healthy and purposeful life, carrying forward the resilience, clarity, and strength that my cancer journey has given me. Life is no longer something I take for granted, it is something I truly cherish.



conviction that the hospital's obligation did not end at its front gate. Every patient who walks through RGCIRC's doors — regardless of their background — was entitled, in his view, to the very best that the institution could offer.

Mr.Negi left behind a legacy — the sum of thousands of small decisions, habits, and values that outlast any individual's tenure. Shri Negi left RGCIRC as a different place from the one he found: larger, stronger, and more deeply committed to the philosophy that clinical excellence and human compassion are not competing priorities, but inseparable ones. The phrases he repeated over the years have become the institution's DNA. The discipline he modelled is now a standard. The empathy he demonstrated has shaped how an entire generation of RGCIRC staff understands their vocation. These are inheritances that no successor can revoke, because they live not in policy documents but in people. Leadership is, at its finest, a relay race.

The torch Shri Negi has passed on 31st March 2026 was not a diminished thing — it is brighter for having been

carried by him. The foundation he leaves is strong enough to build something even greater upon. That is not a small gift. That is perhaps the most generous thing a leader can do.

Almost two decades ago, Shri D. S. Negi walked into RGCIRC as a leader. He leaves today as a legend. He taught this institution that a hospital is not made of bricks and machines, but of empathy and compassion. He absorbed the fears of his staff and returned confidence. He absorbed the anxieties of patients and returned hope. He absorbed the pressures of governance and returned grace.

We wish Shri D. S. Negi the very best of health, happiness, and continued fulfilment in every chapter that follows. His legacy of kindness will remain in every ward and every heartbeat of this hospital — long after the last round has been done and the last corridor has been walked.

Dr. Anubha Dhawan
Head - Operations, RGCIRC
Acknowledgement - **Dr. A. K. Dewan**

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