

IRB MEETING
23rd OCTOBER 2026

International Institute for Population Sciences
Mumbai 400088

Meeting Brief

A meeting of the IIPS-IRB was held on 23 October 2026, commencing at 2:00 P.M., in online mode, under the chairpersonship of Dr. Shireen J. Jejeebhoy. The members present were Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, Prof. Archana K. Roy, Prof. (Dr.) Gajanan D. Velhal, Dr. Lalita S. Savardekar, Ms. Sushmita Das, Prof. M. Sivakami, and Ms. Vijaya S. Durdhawale.

The Convener welcomed the members to the third IRB meeting of the year, with a special welcome to the newly appointed Chairperson, Dr. Shireen J. Jejeebhoy, and to Ms. Vijaya S. Durdhawale, who joined as a community/lay member.

- The Convener briefed the members on IRB activities during May–September 2026: the Research Ethics Workshop (28 July 2026), revision of the SOPs, updating of the constitution of the Board, and a desk audit of all research proposals reviewed by the IRB since 2024.
- Documents were submitted to the Department of Health Research (DHR) for final certification, and responses were provided to the minor queries received from DHR.
- The Convener reported that the two research proposals presented at the April 2026 Full Board Meeting had received ethical clearance. The authors of a research paper had sought ethical clearance from IIPS-IRB but did not pursue the matter further and obtained clearance from another ethics committee.
- Members noted increased exemption requests for publicly available secondary datasets. The Chairperson proposed that the Chairperson and Member Secretary-cum-Convener jointly decide such requests, subject to IIPS-IRB SOPs, referring cases requiring further scrutiny to the Full Board.

Proposals reviewed

Five research proposals were placed before the Board for review and discussion.

S. No.	Name of the project	Principal Investigator	Submitted by
1	Nature and extent of stigma among persons living with LF-related disability: Opportunities and processes for integration with community-level interventions and District Mental Health Program (DMHP)/Tele-Manas	Dr. Sajini B. Nair	PRC, Kerala
2	Role of Mahila Arogya Samitis in Strengthening Urban Healthcare Access among Vulnerable Communities: Evidence from selected Indian states	Dr. Bal Govind Chauhan	PRC, Pune

S. No.	Name of the project	Principal Investigator	Submitted by
3	Barriers and Enablers to Maternal Healthcare Service Utilization in Tribal-Dominant Blocks of Kerala, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana: A Multicentre Study	Dr. Oommen P. Mathew	PRC, Kerala
4	Bridging the Life Expectancy Gap of Sanitation Workers in India: Evidence → Action → Measurable Life Gains using Available Large-Scale Secondary Datasets	Dr. Srinivas Goli	Project based on secondary data
5	Health and Livelihoods of Women Beedi Workers: A Case Study of Gondia District in Maharashtra	Prof. Dewaram A. Nagdeve	IIPS Project

The Principal Investigators presented their proposals, and the members raised ethical, methodological and documentation-related issues. The PIs were advised to revise their proposals in line with the comments and resubmit them, along with a point-wise response to all comments and the requisite supporting documents, for further review by the IRB. No final ethical clearance was granted at this meeting.

Other matters relating to the functioning of the IRB were also discussed.

The next Full Board meeting is tentatively planned for 18 December 2026.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

IRB Members

S. No.	Name of the official	IRB Committee	Approval
1	Dr. Shireen J. Jejeebhoy	Chairperson	Approved via email on 28.10.2026.
2	Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay	Member Secretary-cum-Convener	Approved on 28.10.2026.
3	Prof. Archana K. Roy	Member	No Response
4	Prof. (Dr.) Gajanan D. Velhal	Member	Approved via email on 28.10.2026.
5	Dr. Lalita S. Savardekar	Member	Approved via email on 28.10.2026.

S. No.	Name of the official	IRB Committee	Approval
6	Ms. Sushmita Das	Member	Approved via email on 28.10.2026.
7	Prof. M. Sivakami	Member	Approved via email on 27.10.2026.
8	Ms. Vijaya S. Durdhawale	Member	Approved via email on 28.10.2026.

