



सत्यमेव जयते

DO NO.V-25011/139/2014-HR
30th, April, 2015

In order to reduce the diagnostic time in various viral diseases e.g. H1N1, influenza, swine flu etc. and to put in place an early warning system for various viral epidemics, the Union Cabinet has approved a Centrally Sponsored Plan scheme on 27th June 2013 for establishing a network of regional, state and local Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) across the country.

2. At the regional level, JIPMER, Puducherry has been assigned the important role of keeping surveillance on existing as well as new strains of viruses. Accordingly it is proposed to establish a VRDL equipped with BSL-3 facilities. The other important function assigned to JIPMER, Puducherry is to act as a mentor and lead the other VRDLs of the region.

3. 100% funding assistance is provided by DHR for the VRDLs which inter alia includes civil works/ furnishing and equipment etc. for microbiological and epidemiological diagnosis for serology, polymerase chain reaction, isolation, tissue culture and sequencing for all viruses, in addition to equipment like DNA sequencer, Micro array, Liquid chromatography mass spectrometer, etc. to carry out basic and applied research at a total estimated cost of Rs.15 crores. As a start-up, funds to the tune of Rs. 1.00 crore have already been released to JIPMER, Puducherry on 24th April, 2015 to take up civil works/renovation.

4. The foremost objective of the scheme, of sending early warning of any new viral out-break, can be achieved only once the chain of VRDLs is complete at all levels across the country. It is, therefore, requested that a proposal for setting up a regional level VRDL may please be forwarded to DHR at the earliest so that funds for the same could be tied up. I am also attaching a list of major administrative issues for your information and urgent action in this regard.

5. For the sake of convenience, the approved guidelines for the scheme can also be accessed at the website of Department of Health Research at www.dhr.gov.in. For any clarification, the undersigned or Dr. Nivedita Gupta,

Scientist E /Deputy Director, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029 (Mobile No.9313978049/ Office No.26589397) may also be contacted.


Yours sincerely

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(R. P. Meena)

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Copy to:
Shri Ali R. Rizvi
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Govt. of India
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

✓ Copy also to:
Nivedita Gupta, Scientist E /Deputy Director,
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(R.P. Meena)
Joint Secretary.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN RESPECT OF JIPMER, Puducherry

1.	Identification of 740-940 sq. mt. of space for setting up the Laboratory
2.	Appointing a Nodal Officer from JIPMER, Puducherry for interaction with DHR
3.	2 nd instalment will be released as soon as the details of equipment are worked out by the institute, having regard to the equipment that may already be available with the institute.
4.	Estimate cost of civil works/ renovation may be forwarded.
5.	Manpower requirement may also please be work out.
6.	The demand for more funds may be raised as early as possible so that funds could be tied up within the current financial year.