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Government of India

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
(Department of Health Research)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi

Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

**Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of November, 2019-Reg.**

The undersigned is directed to circulate herewith a copy of the unclassified portion of the **Monthly Summary for the Cabinet** pertaining to the Department of Health Research (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) for the month of November, 2019.

  
(Aruna Bahl Sen)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

Email: dhrhq.icmr@gmail.com

To

1. All members of Council of Ministers
2. Deputy Chairman, NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. The Principal Information Officer, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi

Copy to:

The Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Copy also forwarded for information to:

1. Secretary to the Government of India, All Ministries/Departments.
2. The Chairman, UPSC, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.
3. Secretary to the President of India (Rashtrapati Ke Sachiv), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary to the Vice-President of India (Up-Rashtrapati ke Sachiv), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. PS to Prime Minister of India, South Block, New Delhi
6. Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat, MHA, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for November, 2019**

The Monthly report on important issues/development for the month of November, 2019 in respect of Department of Health Research/Indian Council of Medical Research is submitted herewith for your kind perusal:

**1. Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month:**

- b) Issued National Guidelines for Gene Therapy Product Development & Clinical Trials and Guidelines on 'Antimicrobial Stewardship'.**
- c) Approval and implementation of India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) program in Andaman and Nicobar Island.**
- d) Submitted policy brief on "Provision of Intravenous Immunoglobulin replacement therapy free of cost as life-saving treatment for patients with Primary Immuno-deficiencies" to Govt. of Maharashtra.**
- e) Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka, Bangladesh for Collaboration in Research and Development, on 4th November 2019".**
- f) A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between National Health Authority and Department of Health Research & Indian Council of Medical Research to ensure adequate access to and delivery of safe and quality health services to the beneficiaries of AB – PMJAY through Standard Treatment Workflows and rationalization of Health Benefit Packages.**
- g) Signed a Declaration of Intent (DoI) with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD) of the National Institutes of Health, USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) on an ongoing collaborative research and training program between India and US, including enhancement of research capacity.**
- h) The Standard Treatment Workflows of India developed by Department of Health Research and ICMR in partnership with WHO and NHA were release by Member NITI Aayog- Dr.Vinod Paul,Secretary DHR & DG ICMR-Dr.BalramBhargava, CEO NHA- Dr.InduBhushan, WHO Country Representative to India-Dr.HenkBekedam and Co-Founder Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-Mr Bill Gates.**



- i) **Development of Serodiagnostic assays and monoclonal antibodies for Nipah virus (NiV) diagnosis & surveillance:** The serological assays for Nipah virus (IgM and IgH) and a point of care test were validated by NIV team in collaboration with the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka, Bangladesh. All the tests were found to be very specific and sensitive.
- j) **Initiated/completed 16 projects** including ‘Explorative study to assess the health status of lead smelting plant workers at Udaipur’ Occupational health survey among coal mine workers in Jharkhand; Improving the health care access and quality in the context of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) among Scheduled Tribes: An implementation research; Improving the capacity of health system and community for screening and management of some non-communicable diseases (Hypertension, Diabetes and COPD) among Scheduled Tribes: An implementation research; Assessment of risk factors for the development of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in patients with active HCV infection; Evaluation of the impact of antiretroviral therapy under National AIDS Control Programme in India; A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind, three arm Placebo controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of two vaccines VPM1002 and Immuvac(Mw) in preventing tuberculosis (TB) in healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed sputum positive pulmonary TB patients; etc.
- k) **Published 25 lead papers** on various subjects including ‘National Burden Estimates of healthy life lost in India, 2017: an analysis using direct mortality data and indirect disability data’; Ethical challenges of Big data and digital health technologies in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC): Lessons from AADHAR, India; ‘Risk factors for cardiovascular disease in rural South India: cohort study’; Current status of human papillomavirus vaccination in India's cervical cancer prevention efforts; Cholera outbreak in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, Western India; A cross-sectional study to assess reproductive and child health profile of working women residing in urban slums of Rajkot city; Malaria risk map for India based on climate, ecology and geographical modeling; Laboratory surveillance of Chikungunya in Madhya Pradesh, India: results of two years study; Spatio-temporal distribution analysis of circulating genotypes of dengue virus type 1 in western and southern states of India by a one-step real-time RT-PCR assay; Cholera outbreak in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, Western India.
- l) **ICMR lifetime achievement award for outstanding achievement in healthcare** presented by Mr. Bill Gates to three game-changers of the country in the field of health: Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Chairman and Managing Director, Serum Institute of India; Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman and Managing

Director, Biocon India and Dr Prakash Baba Amte, Director, Lok Biradari Prakash.

- m) **Organized Health Research Conclave (HRC)** and several outreach programmes under the India International Science Festival (IISF)-2019.
- n) **Published a document/book** on Operational Research and programme evaluation on elimination drive of Malaria in Odisha
- o) **Published an Op-ed** on “E-cigarettes cause more harm, not less” in Business Standard
- p) **Conducted 3 important meetings** with **WHO Investigators** with reference to ‘Long term excretion of polioviruses in children with primary immunodeficiency in India’; **International meeting** on tobacco advertisement, promotion and sponsorship ban for smokeless tobacco” with **Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University(MAFSU)** under the umbrella of One Health; meeting of National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) members on Anti microbial resistance (AMR)
- q) Developed IEC material for outreach programs under the “**Nutrition Bharat**” for conducting awareness programs for NGOs, ASHA workers, Anganwadis, elected representatives of Panchayatraj and for Media Professionals.
- r) **Initiated Cancer screening and training programs** for Gynecologists and Medical Officers.
- s) Conducted awareness and audit training on **Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) 18001:2007**.
- t) **Pilot provision of British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) module** at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
- u) Hands on training to ASHA workers and village volunteers on proper ‘**Blood slide preparation**’ and “**Mosquito Larva screening**” at Gurudhan, Shikaribari and Karnamani Subcentres in Tripura.
- v) **Organized ‘Immunocon 2019’, “Advances in Immunology Research: Impact on Healthcare”,** at Mumbai and ‘**World Congress on Leptospirosis**’ at Port Blair.
- w) Observed ‘**Vigilance Awareness Week**’; **Swach Bharat Abhiyan**’ activities at Belagavi, Jabalpur and took ‘**Integrity Pledge**’ on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas by the employees at Delhi, Jabalpur and Mumbai.