

No.Q-11030/01/2022-HR/eoffice-8146114  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
(Department of Health Research)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi  
Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

**Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of August, 2023-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 August, 2023.



(H C Mondal)

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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 (RashtrapatiKeSachiv), Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary to the Vice-President of India (Up-RashtrapatikeSachiv), 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.

Monthly Report in the format on important issues/ developments for the month of August, 2023 is submitted herewith for kind perusal.

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

**a. Policy Decisions:**

1. Ministerial Meeting on prioritization and negotiation of drugs/therapies for Rare Diseases.
2. I-RISE Meeting to discuss the policy, portal and Charges for using ICMR Research Infrastructure Sharing Ecosystem (I-RISE).
3. ICMR- Brainstorming on Indigenization of therapies in Rare Diseases.
4. ICMR Scientist from NIV Pune served as a 'temporary advisor' for the establishment of the BSL-3 facility at the New National Health Laboratory at Male, Maldives.
5. ICMR-RMRC, Bhubaneswar is identified as ICMR-TB Diagnostic Validation Centre by ICMR.

**b. Major achievements:**

**i. Major publications with significant health impact (More than 46, some of the important publication topics are listed below):**

1. Identification and molecular characterization of Culex flavivirus in Culex quinquefasciatus (Diptera: Culicidae).
2. Immunomodulation of cytokine signalling at feto-maternal interface by microRNA.
3. Association of dietary sodium intake and hypertension among older adults in India.
4. Effect of Carpaine, a major alkaloid from Carica papaya leaves, on dengue virus-2 infection and replication-an in vitro.
5. Nutritional supplementation to prevent tuberculosis incidence in household contacts of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis in India (RATIONS): a field-based, open-label, cluster-randomised, controlled trial.

**ii. Major events hosted (Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings etc):** More than 48 meetings, workshops, webinars and conferences were hosted by various ICMR Institutes, some of the important ones are listed below:

1. ICMR-WHO-VHAI program on Social Media Misinformation Handling trainings were imparted to schools in Lucknow, Guwahati and Bhubnewshar.
2. Pilot Focus Group Discussion follow-up meeting conducted and discussion about challenge in conducting FGD with the participant that include health care provider, TB patient and care giver and FGD guide testing.
3. Assessment of neonatal screening approaches for sickle cell disease and the effect of early intervention in management of the disease in tribal populations.
4. Meeting with a team from the Pasteur Institute of India on Viral vaccine development.

**iii. Technology/ Kits launched: 1**

Haemophilia A Rapid Card Test VON WILLEBRAND DISEASE (VWD) Rapid Card Test. It is the first POC worldwide. Licensed to Bhatt Biotech Ltd.

**iv. Training and capacity building programmes, courses etc.: More than 55 training and capacity building programs were taken for students, trainers, state level officer engaged in the health programs by ICMR and ICMR institutes. Some of them are listed below.**

1. ICMR-RMRC, Bhubaneswar organized the project initiation meeting for “acceleration of TB elimination in selected districts of India” in Bhubaneswar.
2. “A Phase II, Multicentre, Randomized, Two-arm blinded study to assess the efficacy and safety of two LXE408 regimens for treatment of patients with primary Visceral Leishmaniasis”.
3. National Tuberculosis Elimination Program through State Health Society, Bihar and TB Demonstration & Training Centre, Patna at RMRIMS.

**v. Patent filed/Approved: 2**

1. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of HIV and HSV infection by Dr. Anupam Mukherjee Sc-D & Head, Div. of Virology, ICMR-NARI & Team- Patent.
2. Metal-based Nano-compositions of Phytoconstituents for Inhibition of HIV-1 Infection- Dr. Anupam Mukherjee, Sc-D & Head, Div. of Virology, ICMR-NARI.

**vi. MoU Signed: 4**

1. ICMR-NIRTH Jabalpur and AIIMS, Deogarh, Jharkhand for Indigenous youth as agent of change for self determination.
2. Between Global Alliance for TB Drug Development and ICMR-NIRT for exchange of confidential information related to the Diarylquinoline TBAJ-876 and sutezolid solely for the purpose of exploring a potential research collaboration.
3. School of Public Health, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar and ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar. Teaching, training, faculty/student exchanges, collaborations, organizing conferences, establishment of centre of excellence, conducting collaborative research, and advocacy in public health.
4. Between Pennsylvania University and ICMR-NIRT for development of joint research initiatives and pursuit of a joint proposal and submission to international sponsors and foundations (Proposed Project Title: Estimation of risk associated with Zoonotic Tuberculosis in Tamil Nadu, India).

**vii.** 31<sup>st</sup> Technical Appraisal Committee for Health Technology Assessment was held on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 to discuss the studies completed.

**viii.** Technical Evaluation Committee meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2023 to review the DHR-ICMR Advanced Molecular Oncopathology Diagnostic Services (DIAMONDS) Scheme.

**2. Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged Inter-Ministerial consultations: NIL.**

**3. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government: NIL**

**4. No. of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months: NIL**

**5. Status of ongoing Swachta Abhiyan (progress under Special campaign):**

Various aspects of the Swachhta like monitoring day to day cleaning work and digitization of office records are regular activities of DHR & ICMR.

**6. Status of Rationalization of Autonomous bodies: NIL**

**7. Information on specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in Governance and Development: NIL**

**8. Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/Department, including Autonomous Bodies/PSUs:** positions advertised for the post of Additional Director General, Head of three divisions and Directors of 5 ICMR Institutes.

**9. List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL.**