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

2nd Floor, Red Cross Building, New Delhi
Dated: 19th February, 2024

Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of January, 2024-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 January, 2024.



(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 of the Department of Health Research to Cabinet Secretariat on Significant Developments for the Month of January, 2024.

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

a. Policy decisions:

ICMR-NIV, Pune became one of the reference laboratories under the CoViNet Reference Laboratory Network of the WHO Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses Unit Epidemic & Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention.

b. Major achievements:

i. Major publications with significant health impact: More than 35, some of the important publication topics listed below:

1. Evaluation and Immunogenicity of Combined Liposome-Based Vaccine Candidates against Hepatitis E and B Viruses.
2. Phylogenomics of Mycobacterium leprae, atomistic and holistic model of anthropometric failure among children under five years.
3. Diagnostic validation study of rapid urinary tract infection diagnosis kit at peripheral health facilities of West Bengal.
4. Comparative evaluation of different tissues and molecular techniques for the zoonotic surveillance of Scrub typhus.
5. Outcomes of 3-year follow up with induction vs first-line chemotherapy in oral cancer patients,
6. Meta-analysis on Plasmodium falciparum sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine resistance-conferring mutations in India identifies hot spots for genetic surveillance.
7. A robust and comprehensive tool for screening pathogenic proteomes for drug targets, Susceptibility loci identified in Han Chinese influence genetic predisposition of PCOS in Indian women.

ii. Major events hosted (Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings etc): More than 50 meetings, workshops, webinars and conferences were hosted by various ICMR Institutes, some of the important one listed below:

1. AccEND TB review meeting with WHO consultant and DSU.
2. The second "Molecular Immunohematology Workshop".
3. Meeting for SOP Development Workshop for Task force establishment of reference Intervals in Indian Population (TERIIP).
4. ICMR-Inserm collaboration discussion held with Inserm, France officials.
5. Exploratory study of effect of lead and cadmium exposure on oral microbiome due to occupational exposure to metal fumes among welders.

6. Stakeholders' meet cum workshop on Occupational Health and Safety among Construction Workers.

iii. Major projects undertaken: More than 8 new projects initiated, some of the important one listed below:

1. Multi-location field testing to assess acceptability of bottle bio-assay to monitor susceptibility in prevalent vector species with WHO discriminating concentrations of different insecticides.
2. Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) shape immunity against cerebral malaria via induction of novel subsets of T helper-17 cells.
3. Validation study of Indigenous HPV Tests for cervical cancer screening (iHPV).
4. Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) of hemoglobinopathies by a targeted next generation sequencing assay.
5. Pan-India antigenic characterization of Dengue viruses: Early warning signal for a potential pandemic.

iv. Policy brief published: 1

'Laboratory Biosafety guidance related to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)', part of the WHO interim guidance for SARS-CoV-2 published.

v. Training and capacity building programmes, courses etc.: More than 45 training and capacity building programs were taken for students, trainers, state level officer engaged in the health programs by ICMR and its Institutes. Some of them are listed below.

1. Training Program for DM (Virology) students.
2. Training Program for VRDLs.
3. 5th National NICPR-ECHO Online Certificate Course on Cervical Cancer Screening for Pathologists.
4. Four High Schools participated under the Gunotsav program and were given exposures to the research activities conducted at ICMR-RMRCNE Dibrugarh.

vi. Patent filed/Approved: 1

Prevention and treatment of warts and cancer through prediction of papilloma virus early gene and protein levels in papilloma virus infected numbers.

vii. MoU Signed: 2

1. ICAR-National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune and ICMR -NIV to jointly undertake research activities to understand the differential spectrum of volatile human skin emanations that influence attractiveness to mosquitoes.
2. ICMR-NIOH and artificial intelligence unit of National Entrepreneurship Network for providing "Occupational Health" to the workers engaged in all occupations, minimize

deterioration of the workplace environment through research, education, and assist the regulatory authorities to take necessary policy decisions for the control of occupational and environmental health-related problems.

viii. 39th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) under HTAIN was held on 12th January, 2024.

ix. Maharashtra State Consultative Meeting under the aegis of HTAIN was held on 16th January, 2024.

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 and 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:** one post of Assistant Director General (Administration) in the Pay Level-12.

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