

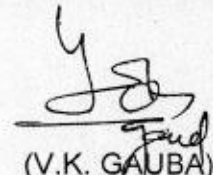
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Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
(Department of Health Research)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, IRCS Building,  
Red Cross Road, New Delhi-110001  
Dated the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**Subject: Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of December, 2018-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 December, 2018.



(V.K. GAUBA)

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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 (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 DECEMBER 2018**

An update on the Principal activities and key initiative undertaken by the Department of Health Research (DHR) during the month of December, 2018 is indicated below:-

**I. IMPORTANT ISSUES /SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**1. Outbreak investigations and diagnostic services for referred samples of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever/ Unknown etiology:**

(i) **Canine Distemper Virus:** Following the Canine Distemper outbreak in Asiatic lions of Gir Forest, Gujarat, 1094 samples of 313 lions were screened for Canine Distemper virus by RT-PCR.

ii) **Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) virus:** Clinical samples of a recovered case of CCHF with travel history from Dubai (referred from Kerala) and another sample from suspected case of CCHF from BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat were referred for CCHF testing which were found positive for anti-CCHF human IgM and IgG antibodies by ELISA assay.

iii) **Investigation of encephalitis (Japanese Encephalitis) outbreak and routine diagnosis:** Of the 44 (19 sera and 25 CSF) samples from 30 cases of AES received from various states, none tested positive in JE IgM ELISA.

iv) **Diagnosis of Influenza virus:** A total of 79 samples were referred during December 2018 by various Government and designated private hospitals for influenza virus testing.

**2. Creating a laboratory network for enhancing diagnostic capabilities for surveillance, outbreaks and epidemic investigations of a high-risk group of viral pathogens causing respiratory infections:** 50 clinical samples were collected from ARI and SARI cases and tested for a panel of respiratory viruses. Of these, 24% samples tested positive for respiratory viruses,.

**3. Etiology of childhood pneumonia in India:** Of the thirteen pediatric samples referred from KEM Hospital, Pune for respiratory virus testing, 4 samples were found positive:.

**4. Establishing a network of population-based influenza surveillance platforms for elderly persons in India:** During surveillance for respiratory

viruses, out of 26 samples of elderly patients with ARI collected in the month, two samples were tested positive for rhinovirus.

5. **The Resource Centre for VRDLs (RCVRDL)** supplied positive controls required for influenza virus real-time RT-PCR tests to the VRDLs at Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, Karnataka and Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati.
6. Signed a **MOU on Inter-ministerial cooperation** between CSIR, DBT and ICMR for promotion and facilitation of innovative research on **'Phytopharmaceuticals'**
7. **Published 39 research papers** in the area of cancers , tuberculosis , HIV , Nipah virus , dengue virus , leprosy , Human Parvovirus , rubella among pregnant women, hypertension, Alzheimer's disease, sickle-cell anaemia, thalassemia, etc.
8. **Conducted 10 workshops/ seminars/ conferences/ CMEs** on 'Clinical data management Molecular diagnostic techniques for dengue, chikungunya; Hospital based sentinel surveillance for bacterial pneumonia and meningitis etc
9. Undertaken/initiated **17 major projects** including Strengthening laboratory surveillance for pneumococcal meningitis in India to understand the impact of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) rollout; Human pulmonary paragonimiasis in crab eating communities and smear negative suspected TB cases from some states of India;
10. Dissemination of the research findings of **"The impact of air pollution on deaths, disease burden, and life expectancy across the states of India: the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017"** through leading media (both print and electronic).
11. Conducted **Health Awareness** talk on Hygiene related Common Preventable Diseases and Menstrual Hygiene at the Garacharma Anganwadi, Andaman.
12. **Organized field visit for 'WHO Informal Consultation** on treatment of reactions and prevention of disability in leprosy at Chennai.