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Subject: - Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the month of July, 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 July, 2019.


(Anu Nagar)

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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:

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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 July, 2019

An update on the Principal activities and key initiative undertaken by the Department of Health Research (DHR) during the month of July, 2019 is indicated below:-

- 1. Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2019:** The Surrogacy (Regulation Bill), 2019 proposes to regulate surrogacy in India by establishing National Surrogacy Board at the Central Level and the State Surrogacy Boards and Appropriate Authorities in the States and Union Territories.

The Surrogacy Bill 2019 has been approved by the Cabinet on 3rd July 2019. The Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 15th July 2019 for consideration in the ongoing session.

- 2. Health Technology Assessment:** To facilitate the process of transparent and evidence informed decision making in the field of health, Government of India has set up **Health Technology Assessment in India (HTAI)** under the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). It is entrusted with the responsibility to analysis evidences related to cost effectiveness clinical effectiveness and equity issues regarding the deployment of health technologies viz medicines, devices and health programmes by means of HTA in India. 5 HTA studies have been approved and sent for implementation by the Central and State Government.
- 3. Under the scheme of Establishment of Network of Viral Diagnostic & Research Laboratories for Managing Epidemics (VRDLs)** three (03) new VRDLs were funded in July. Twenty participants from five VRDLs were trained at National Institute of Virology, Pune. Twelve VRDLs qualified External Quality Assessment for scrub typhus.
- 4. Outbreak investigation of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Muzaffarpur, Bihar:**

- (i)** Scientists from ICMR Institutes (National Institute of Virology, National Institute of Epidemiology and Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna) visited Muzaffarpur, Bihar for investigating the AES

outbreak, in June, 2019. Investigations were undertaken as part of the central team as well as independently

- (ii) **Three day training programme** was organized to sensitize the clinicians of BRD on treatment and management of critically ill AES patients to improve the overall management of AES patients in the forthcoming endemic season.

(iii) **AES outbreak the state of Assam :**

ICMR-RMRC, Dibrugarh is involved in providing laboratory diagnosis to the AES cases in Assam and other NER states. Out of a total of 243 cases of AES tested during Jan-July 2019, 127 cases (52.3%) tested positive for JE: - 109 (44.9%) were positive for Scrub typhus:- a total of 7 cases (2.9%) were positive for West Nile.

5. **Proposed ICMR Model of Health Account Scheme** which is a blue print under the National Health Stack launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Niti Aayog. ICMR will be implementing the strategies for National Health Stack by evaluating the grass root efficiency using translational research at ICMR sites. 10 sites have been proposed to do field testing on modified Health Account Scheme (HAS).
6. **Launched the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF)** in partnership with Population Council, India and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on 'Challenges and Solutions to Improve Data Quality in India.
7. **Initiated Stunting Hub project on anemia and stunting in children** in three countries viz., India, Senegal and Indonesia. In India initiated at Hyderabad, Gandhinagar and Orissa.
8. **Established Nutrition Surveillance System** at Gania block in Nayagarh district of Odisha with distribution of Mobile tablets and digitalization of 81 Anganwadi Centres to collect real-time data on ICDS reporting system using a triple A approach of Assessment, Analysis and Action plan to reduce child malnutrition.
9. **Initiated mission SHAKTTI** (School based Health Awareness, Knowledge Test and Training Initiative) in collaboration with National Gandhi Museum and Directorate of Education, Govt. of Delhi.
10. **Presented outcome of the Occupational health surveillance programme** on coal mine workers before officials of BCCL, Coal India, Dhanbad.

11. **Initiated/completed 42 projects** on Phase III preventive TB vaccine trial; survey of new cluster for National TB Prevalence; Application of statistical tools using spatial modeling method to assess the health effects of pollutants in Bangalore city; National Environmental Health Profile (Bangalore City) field study; Evaluation of impact of pesticide usage through environmental and biomonitoring of farm workers with special reference to urinary metabolites and many more different subjects.
12. **Published policy brief** on Presumptive Paediatric TB patients and Gastric Aspirate Specimen Collection in Primary and Secondary Health Care Facilities in Rajnandgaon district, Chhattisgarh.
13. **Published 11 lead papers** on "Temporal trends and differential patterns in the prevalence of severe anaemia in India: Observations from country-wide haemoglobin determinations 2008-2018 etc.
14. Signed an **MoU with Amity Medical University, Gurugram** for capacity building and training in histopathology to MLT graduate students at ICMR-National Institute of Pathology, New Delhi.
15. **Initiated a 14 week online training course on cancer screening** for primary medical officers nominated by MOHFW and state governments of Chhattisgarh, Goa, Tripura and Bihar.