



## **INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Department of Health Research – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India

**Media report (05 October to 11 October 2019)**  
**(ICMR IN NEWS)**

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Information Interface Officer

## **Preface**

*The PR Unit/PRO office of ICMR since last one and half years have reached from (where is ICMR located) to (everyday mention of ICMR and DG ICMR in National Media). This change from where to why signifies the media visibility and importance of our organization within this stipulated time duration.*

*Every week Indian Council of Medical Research and Director General ICMR are mentioned by dozens of daily news papers, periodicals and magazines including online editions.*

*This week report (ICMR IN NEWS dated (05 October to 11 October 2019) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 30 news papers including top news papers such as Hindustan Times, Economic Times, The Indian Express, Jagran Josh, The week and among others.*

*As an organization we first need to fill internal information vacuum at the headquarters as well as the Institutes for better visibility of ICMR which will pave way for complete dilution of external information gap between ICMR and external public including media, government and other related organizations.*

*Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi  
Information Interface Officer/PRO  
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## **HEADLINES** (As it is)

### **Rs 1.2 crore for research on Parkinson's disease**

05 October 2019 / The New Indian Express

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**Avon launches Take A #BreastBreak' campaign to fight breast cancer**

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**JNU inks pact with ICMR for educational collaboration**

07 October 2019 / Outlook India

**JNU signs MoU with ICMR for collaboration in education and research**

08 October 2019 / India Today

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**India provides 10,000 anti-rabies vaccines to Myanmar**

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**JNU inks pact with Indian Council of Medical Research for educational collaboration**

08 October 2019 / Hindustan Times

**JNU, ICMR ink MoU for education, research collaboration**

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**India mulls radical change for faster vaccine availability**

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**Unmeasured burden: Drug-resistance in farm animals threatens human health in India**

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**KGMU convocation on October 25: Nineteen women among 43 medal winners**

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**JNU and ICMR sign MoU for collaboration in education and research**

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**Grand challenge for cancer research announced**

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**Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019-2023**

09 October 2019 / India Education Diary

**Grand challenge for cancer research announced**

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**Deaths of Children Under Age 5 Due to Malnutrition Declined Only by 2% in 20 Years**

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**Grand challenge for cancer research announced**

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**Menace of Malnutrition needs Humane Solution – Smriti Zubin Irani**

10 October 2019 / Odisha Diary

**Boost egg consumption, handle sustainability issues: IEC Chief**

11 October 2019 / The Hindu BusinessLine

## **ICMR IN NEWS** (As it is)

### **Rs 1.2 crore for research on Parkinson's disease**

05 October 2019 / The New Indian Express

KOCHI: The **Indian Council of Medical Research** has sanctioned Rs 1.2 crore as Extramural Fellowship grant to two researchers from the state. The grant has been awarded to Baby Chakrapani P S, assistant professor, Biotechnology Department and Dr Shyam K Nair, additional professor, Department of Neurology, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology. The grant has been sanctioned to research the links between the gut microflora alterations and Parkinson's disease pathogenesis.

### **Single regulatory framework likely for all medical devices**

05 October 2019 / Economic Times

All imported and locally-made medical devices will have to meet certain standards of quality and efficacy to enter the Indian market. The government has begun framing the rules and a draft notification to this effect is likely to be put out soon, people aware of the matter told ET. Currently, only 23 categories of medical devices are regulated in India under the Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Act. The change to bring all medical devices under regulation will be implemented in a phased manner. According to the persons cited earlier, certification of devices by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), regulatory authority in this case, will be on voluntary basis up to 18 months from date of notification, and thereafter it will be made mandatory. The rules for regulation are being worked out as per a roadmap that the health ministry has chalked out in consultation with the department of pharmaceuticals, government think tank Niti Aayog, the department of biotechnology, the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, the Bureau of Indian standards and industry experts and associations. The roadmap mandates every manufacturer and importer of medical devices to report serious adverse events to the drug regulatory authority and the materio-vigilance programme.

## 10 million miners exposed to silica dust, 50% suffer from deadly silicosis, ministers told

05 October 2019 / Counterview

A recent seminar in Delhi, held in the presence of two Union ministers, Fagga Singh Kulaste and Ashwini Kumar Choubey, has been told that a whopping 10 million workers working in the mining sector are exposed to silica dust, with 50% of them suffering from silicosis, a deadly incurable lungs disease. Participants, who included representatives of top civil society groups mines, minerals & People (mm&P) and Samata, doctors, labour unions and silicosis affected workers, referred to radiological investigations conducted by the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, which found that 56% of mine workers in Rajasthan are affected with silicosis or silica-tuberculosis. Ashok Shrimali, secretary general, mm&P, said, though some states like Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana have come up with a silicosis rehabilitation policy for the affected families, the implementation is skewed. Administrative bottlenecks bog the process of identification, diagnosis and compensation to the silicosis victims. Workers are told to produce their job cards, certificate of registration with their employers or mine owners, which is impossible to obtain in most cases, Shrimali added.

## ART of birth

05 October 2019 / THE WEEK

On September 5, Erramatti Mangayamma, 74, and her husband Raja Rao, 80, became the world's oldest parents. Mangayamma had twin girls at the Ahalya Nursing Home in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, following in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment. While it brought joy to the parents, the news perplexed many medical professionals—they wondered why IVF was administered to such an elderly couple. Many others asked: “What will become of the children in the future?” The Union government is all set to introduce the Assisted Reproduction Technology (Regulation) Bill in the next Parliament session. The bill proposes a 50-year age limit for women seeking IVF to get pregnant. Louise Brown, born on July 25, 1978, in Oldham, England, is the first baby to be conceived through IVF. English physiologist Robert Edwards and gynaecologist Patrick Steptoe pioneered the conception through IVF. The second ‘test tube’ baby, Durga aka Kanupriya Agarwal, was born in India on October 3, 1978—just 67 days after Louise was born. But her creator Dr Subhash Mukhopadhyay did not get recognition. The government did not allow him to share his achievements with the world. In 1981, he committed suicide in Kolkata. The physician’s work was finally recognised in 2002 by the **Indian Council of Medical Research**.

## **Ayurvedic medicine to treat dengue to be launched by 2021: AYUSH Ministry**

05 October 2019 / Medical Dialogues

An ayurvedic medicine to treat dengue is undergoing the third and final phase of clinical trials and will be launched within the next two years, a senior official of the Ayush Ministry said. Ayush Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said the research on this was being carried out by Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy) Ministry and the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. It is made of a variety of ayurvedic herbs grown in India and is likely to hit the market within the next two years in the form of a pill. "The research is in the third phase (final phase) of clinical trial. It will be done in the next two years. Once finished, this will be the world's first medicine against dengue," he said on the sidelines of a press conference on the achievements of the ministry in the last 100 days.

## **'E-cigarettes ban, ordinance against vaping epidemic'**

06 October 2019 / Deccan Herald

Bringing an ordinance to ban e-cigarettes was an urgency as vaping was turning into an epidemic amongst the youth and allowing such products would have seriously undermined the government's tobacco control efforts, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said. Voicing confidence that the ban on e-cigarettes will be highly effective as the consumer base is small at present, he said taking the ordinance route was an approach to nip the problem in the bud. On September 18, the government issued an ordinance making the manufacturing, production, import, export, distribution, transport, sale, storage or advertisements of such alternative smoking devices a cognizable offence, attracting jail term and fine. "The success of ban depends upon the size of consumer base. Larger the size, lesser is the success rate of a ban...e-cigarettes have a small consumer base and bans will be highly effective," the minister told PTI in an exclusive interview. Quoting Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS 2) 2016-17, Vardhan said there are 270 million adult tobacco users in India who require their nicotine fix many times in a day while an estimated 0.02 per cent Indian adults use e-cigarettes. by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in which it concluded that ENDS or e-cigarettes and other like devices contains nicotine solution, which is highly addictive and contains harmful ingredients and thus recommended a complete ban on such products. The ICMR emphasised that use of ENDS or e-cigarettes has documented adverse effects on humans which include DNA damage, carcinogenesis, cellular, molecular and immunological toxicity, respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological disorders and adverse impact on foetal development, pregnancy, infant and child brain development. Nicotine exposure during adolescence can affect learning, memory, and attention, he said.

## [Ban on e-cigarettes: Harsh Vardhan says ordinance route taken to nip problem in bud](#)

06 October 2019 / Deccan Herald

The government has also introduced larger pack warnings, expanded cessation services, strict enforcement of COTPA and revised guidelines for tobacco free educational institutions, he added. Bringing an ordinance to ban e-cigarettes was an urgency as vaping was turning into an epidemic amongst the youth and allowing such products would have seriously undermined the government's tobacco control efforts, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said. Voicing confidence that the ban on e-cigarettes will be highly effective as the consumer base is small at present, he said taking the ordinance route was an approach to nip the problem in the bud. On the other hand, there is ample evidence of harm due to use of e-cigarettes, both on personal and public health," he said. He referred to a white paper published by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in which it concluded that ENDS or e-cigarettes and other like devices contains nicotine solution, which is highly addictive and contains harmful ingredients and thus recommended a complete ban on such products.

## [Experts urge for increase in iodine consumption in state](#)

07 October 2019 / OrissaPOST

With studies indicating Odisha as one of the worst states in consumption of iodised salt, medical experts here have urged the government to formulate policies on proper enforcement and monitoring of consumption of the same. In a first of its kind, a study conducted by Nutrition International in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Coalition for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) last month stated that Odisha, with only 65.8% households consuming iodine salt, rated fourth in top five worst states. Tamil Nadu, the third biggest producer of salt in the country, with 61.9% featured the top state with the lowest consumption of iodised salt. This was followed by Andhra Pradesh (63.9%) and Rajasthan (65.5%). Jharkhand (68.8%) was one of the worst states, the study said. The state's apathy against iodine consumption can also be assessed from the fact that when a survey conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, **Indian Council of Medical Research** in October last year found that 17 out of 30 districts were found to be massively under consuming iodine in their diets.

## [NatureFresh® Acti Heart™ Cooking Oil launches ‘Adhura Gyan’ campaign](#)

07 October 2019 / Exchange4Media

On World Heart Day, NatureFresh® Acti Heart™, the newest product brand offering of Cargill’s edible oils business in India, has launched a digital campaign ‘Adhura Gyan’. Built around the concept of being cautious of ‘Adhura Gyan’, the campaign aims to create awareness among consumers regarding incomplete information about their current life choices and its implications. Positioned as a cooking oil that gives Complete Heart Care, NatureFresh® Acti Heart™ aims to urge consumers to question their current cooking oil and seek complete information when it comes to their heart health. The Adhura Gyan campaign highlights the misconceptions that exist among consumers when it comes to their cooking oils. It educates consumers on the fact that cholesterol reduction is not enough for complete heart care. It focuses on how NatureFresh® Acti Heart™ takes complete heart care+ with its power of 5 warriors, namely, Omega-3, MUFA, Vitamin A, D, E, oryzanol and an ideal omega 6: omega 3 ratios. NatureFresh® Acti Heart™ has also been accredited by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for having the ideal Omega 6 to Omega 3 ratio, reiterating it being a healthy oil for consumers. Its high smoking point makes it ideal for all types of Indian cooking – sautéing as well as frying.

## [EVI and Hilleman Labs announce vaccine project support from EDCTP](#)

07 October 2019 / The Pharma Letter

The European Vaccine Initiative (EVI) and Hilleman Laboratories, an equal joint-venture partnership between US pharma major Merck & Co (NYSE: MRK) and the Wellcome Trust, today announced that a multidisciplinary, international consortium coordinated by EVI has now received support from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) to advance a safe, efficacious and affordable Shigella vaccine being developed by Hilleman Laboratories. Dr Davinder Gill, chief executive of Hilleman Laboratories, said: “Hilleman Labs has developed a low-cost, easy-to-administer Shigella vaccine in collaboration with National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Disease (NICED) Kolkata and **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** Institute, New Delhi, India. Considering the huge disease burden carried by Shigella, and given that there is no licensed vaccine currently available to address the disease, we are pleased to partner with EVI to further advance our vaccine with funding support from EDCTP and technical support of our consortium members. ShigOraVax will be the first-ever Indian vaccine developed to benefit people living in low and middle-income settings. We look forward to testing safety and immunogenicity of our vaccine and to establish clinical proof-of-concept in endemic setting.”

## **Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Know what foods can be dangerous**

07 October 2019 / TheHealthSite

Breast Cancer is the most common form of cancer in India as per a statistic by Breast Cancer India. It also goes on to say the horrifying rise in the number of cases amongst young generation. The website says ‘25 years back, out of every 100 breast cancer patients, 2% Breast cancer cause were in 20 to 30 years age group, 7% were in 30 to 40 and so on. 69% of the patients were above 50 years of age. Presently, 4% are in 20 to 30 years age group, 16% are in 30 to 40, 28% are in 40 to 50 age group. So, almost 48% patients are below 50. An increasing number of patients are in the 25 to 40 years of age, and this definitely is a very disturbing trend.’ Adding to these figures, **Indian Council for Medical Research** reports ‘1.5 lakh new breast cancer cases in India, of which 70,000 succumb every year.’

## **JNU inks pact with ICMR for research in areas of ‘national interest’**

07 October 2019 / The Indian Express

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Monday for institutional collaboration in education and research. JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar said the main objectives of the collaboration were to promote and enhance interactions and collaborations between the faculty, staff and students of the university with the ICMR institutions through visits and exchange programmes, joint academic and research programmes. The MoU was aimed at enhancing technological collaboration in the areas of national interest, the university said. The cooperation will focus on faculty and student exchange programmes, increasing the opportunities for interaction among the members of the faculty and students between the schools and centres of the JNU.

## **Avon launches Take A #BreastBreak’ campaign to fight breast cancer**

07 October 2019 / Exchange4Media

Women’s beauty brand Avon continues its crusade to prevent and fight breast cancer with the launch of Take a BreastBreak’ campaign for Indian women as well as their families. A global initiative by Avon, Take a BreastBreak is to help support early detection of breast cancer around the world. To spread its campaign across a larger number of people in India, Avon has collaborated with the India Runway Week to host an exclusive fashion show with designer Anupama Dayal with the ‘Pink’ theme — which has today come to represent breast cancer awareness. There were 2 million new cases of breast cancer reported globally last year<sup>1</sup> and the **Indian Council for Medical Research** reports 1.5 lakh new breast cancer cases in India, of which 70,000 succumb every year.

### [JNU inks pact with ICMR for educational collaboration](#)

07 October 2019 / Outlook India

New Delhi, Oct 7 (PTI) The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) signed an MoU with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Monday for institutional collaboration in education and research. JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar said the main objectives of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) were to promote and enhance interactions and collaborations between the faculty, staff and students of the university with the ICMR institutions through visits and exchange programmes, joint academic and research programmes. The MoU was aimed at enhancing technological collaboration in the areas of national interest, the university said. The cooperation will focus on faculty and student exchange programmes, increasing the opportunities for interaction among the members of the faculty and students between the schools and centres of the JNU and the ICMR institutions as well as creating visiting or adjunct faculty positions and short visits, it added.

### [JNU signs MoU with ICMR for collaboration in education and research](#)

08 October 2019 / India Today

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### [JNU inks pact with ICMR for educational collaboration](#)

08 October 2019 / ETHealthworld

New Delhi: The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) signed an MoU with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Monday for institutional collaboration in education and research. JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar said the main objectives of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) were to promote and enhance interactions and collaborations between the faculty, staff and students of the university with the ICMR institutions through visits and exchange programmes, joint academic and research programmes. The MoU was aimed at enhancing technological collaboration in the areas of national interest, the university said.

## [India provides 10,000 anti-rabies vaccines to Myanmar](#)

08 October 2019 / DNA India

India has handed over 10,000 anti-rabies vaccines to Myanmar in a goodwill gesture in the neighbouring country's fight against the deadly disease. It was handed over by India's Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian mission in Myanmar Dr. Sumit Seth to Zaw Than Htun, Director General of Department of Medical Research, Myanmar Government. A statement from Indian mission in Myanmar said, "The Director-General thanked the Government of India for its initiative and recalled the growing bilateral health cooperation between the two countries." India also plans capacity building programmes for Myanmar's doctors and paramedics with the help of the **Indian Council for Medical Research** or ICMR. New Delhi is considered a world leader when it comes to its pharmaceutical sector that provides high-quality vaccines at competitive prices. India is also upgrading Yangon Children's Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital and constructing 200-bed women's hospital at Monywa in the neighbouring country. When it comes to the health sector, India is providing development assistance to countries in the neighbourhood. India-financed Emergency Ambulance Service (1990 services) in Sri Lanka has been expanded to all provinces of the country.

## [JNU inks pact with Indian Council of Medical Research for educational collaboration](#)

08 October 2019 / Hindustan Times

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) signed an MoU with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** on Monday for institutional collaboration in education and research. JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar said the main objectives of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) were to promote and enhance interactions and collaborations between the faculty, staff and students of the university with the ICMR institutions through visits and exchange programmes, joint academic and research programmes. The MoU was aimed at enhancing technological collaboration in the areas of national interest, the university said. The cooperation will focus on faculty and student exchange programmes, increasing the opportunities for interaction among the members of the faculty and students between the schools and centres of the JNU and the ICMR institutions as well as creating visiting or adjunct faculty positions and short visits, it added. Kumar emphasised on priorities to undertake joint research projects in the areas of bioinformatics, genomics, medical health economics, chemoinformatics, drug discovery, science policy, social medicine and community health etc. He also said the possibilities of establishing a joint research centre would be explored for long-term collaborations.

## JNU, ICMR ink MoU for education, research collaboration

09 October 2019 / BSI bureau

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has signed a MoU with **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for institutional collaboration in education and research. The main objectives of the MoU are to promote and enhance the interaction and collaboration between faculty, staff and students of JNU with ICMR institutions through visits and exchange programmes, joint academic and research programmes. MoU is aimed at enhancing the technological collaboration in the areas of national interest. The cooperation will focus on faculty and student exchange programmes, increasing the opportunities for interaction among members of faculty and students between Schools/Centres of JNU and ICMR institutions as well as creating Visiting/Adjunct Faculty positions and short visits. Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, VC, JNU, emphasized on priorities to undertake joint research projects in the areas of Bioinformatics, Genomics, Medical Informatics, Health economics, Chemoinformatics, Drug Discovery, Science Policy, Social Medicine and Community Health, Application of Machine Learning and other advance data analytics in medical research, Data Analytics Capacity, Image Analytics, developing and evaluating medical devices and technologies and other areas of mutual interest.

## India mulls radical change for faster vaccine availability

09 October 2019 / Economic Times

India wants to halve the time taken to get vaccines approved for use from the 15 years that the process usually takes by introducing new protocols and sidestepping animal testing to improve public health. Vaccine makers, however, advised abundant caution and adherence to high standards of medical ethics before allowing such a radical departure from standard practice. The health ministry is working with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Department of Biotechnology and the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) on the changes, according to people with knowledge of the matter. This exercise is being watched closely by key international health regulators, which are meeting next month in India to discuss controlled human infection model (CHIM) guidelines. India is working on a framework that will allow scientists and clinicians to observe the progress of infection in healthy volunteers and the efficacy of a vaccine-induced immune response. Gagandeep Kang, a scientist credited with working on India's indigenously produced rotavirus vaccines, is spearheading the efforts under the India Volunteer Infection Research Consortium.

## [Unmeasured burden: Drug-resistance in farm animals threatens human health in India](#)

09 October 2019 / Mongabay-India

Wary of chicken pumped with antibiotics making its way into Manipur's markets, a section of poultry and dairy farm owners in the Indian state recently appealed to the state government to ban imports from other states, apprehending "health and economic havoc." Manipur is in northeast India, one of the regions charted by researchers as a "hotspot of multidrug-resistance in animals," in a study published in September. Hotspots of multidrug-resistance in farm animals were also seen in north-eastern China, northern Pakistan, Iran, eastern Turkey, the south coast of Brazil, the Nile River delta, the Red River delta in Vietnam and the areas surrounding Mexico City and Johannesburg. And areas, where resistance is just starting to emerge, are Kenya, Morocco, Uruguay, southern Brazil, central India, and southern China. Kamini Walia, program officer Antimicrobial Resistance at the **Indian Council of Medical Research's** Division of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases, agreed, stressing on an integrated surveillance program to monitor AMR in humans, animals, and the environment just like other countries have. "We don't know how much of drug resistance we see in humans is actually contributed by excessive use of antimicrobials in the animal sector. This requires in-depth transmission dynamics studies in our country settings," Walia, who was not associated with the study, told Mongabay-India.

## [KGMU convocation on October 25: Nineteen women among 43 medal winners](#)

09 October 2019 / Hindustan Times

Sana Mohsin's hard work will be rewarded with the prestigious Hewett medal at the convocation of the King George's Medical University (KGMU) on October 25, while co-student Akarshi Gupta will bag the Chancellor's and the University Honours medals. These three medals make for the top three honours awarded by the medical university, said officials at a press conference here on Wednesday. "I came to know about it only on Wednesday morning," said Sana, daughter of Mohd Mohsin, owner of a private diagnostic centre in Indira Nagar. Having scored the highest marks in medicine, Sana said she wanted to pursue higher studies in radiology. "The University Honours medal is bagged by the student who gets the maximum number of honours and certificates in all the four MBBS professional examinations in the batch and passes all in the very first attempt," said Prof Goel. Governor Anandiben Patel, medical education minister Suresh Khanna and director general, **Indian Council of Medical Research**, Dr Balram Bhargava would grace the event, said Dr Vinita Das, dean of medicine at KGMU. "About 1,200 students will get their degrees and 43, including 19 women, will be awarded medals on the occasion," she said.

## [JNU and ICMR sign MoU for collaboration in education and research](#)

09 October 2019 / Jagran Josh

Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate for education and research. The MoU was signed between both the institutions on Monday. JNU Vice-Chancellor, M Jagadesh Kumar while speaking on the occasion said that the main objective of the Memorandum signed is to promote and enhance the interactions and collaborations between the faculty members, staff and the students of the university and ICMR. This he added will be made possible through visits and exchange programmes along with joint academic and research programmes. The Memorandum of Understanding is signed with an aim to enhance technological collaborations in areas of national interest. The co-operation between both the institutions will help in focusing on the faculty and students exchange programmes along with increasing the opportunities for interacting with members of the faculty and the students of the schools and centres of Jawaharlal Nehru University and the **Indian Council of Medical Research**. The MoU is also aimed at creating visiting faculty positions and short visits. The VC also took the opportunity to emphasize the priorities of undertaking joint research projects in the fields of bioinformatics, genomics, medical health economics, chemo-informatics, drug discovery, science policy, social medicine, and community health. He also added that the possibilities of establishing a joint research centre will be explored keeping in mind long term collaborations of both the institutions.

## [Grand challenge for cancer research announced](#)

09 October 2019 / The Hindu BusinessLine

An estimated one million new cases of cancer are reported in India every year. Almost a third of them are preventable cancers. The use of innovative approaches for screening, early diagnosis as well as treatment and palliative care can save many lives. To develop such approaches that are cost effective and affordable, the India Cancer Research Consortium (ICRC) has announced a grand challenge for researchers. Best research ideas will get funding of up to Rs 1.5 crore a year for three years. The grants will be given for ideas in six thematic areas - prevention and epidemiology, diagnostics, therapeutics, palliative care, basic biology and innovation. The objective will be to produce outcomes that are translatable into practice. Those having multidisciplinary collaborative approach will be preferred. ICRC has been floated by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the Department of Health Research to “promote, articulate and prioritize cancer research” in the country. “We have so many research institutions engaged in research in basic biology of cancer. Moreover, research is mostly done in isolation and there is no integration.

## [Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023](#)

09 October 2019 / India Education Diary

New Delhi: “The country is passing through a phase of not only transition, but also immense productive transformation in the health sector”. This was stated by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan as he launched ‘The WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023: A Time of Transition’, here today. The India CCS is one of the first that fully aligns itself with the newly adopted WHO 13th General Programme of Work and its ‘triple billion’ targets, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WHO South-East Asia Region’s eight Flagship Priorities. It captures the work of the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for 2018–2022. The CCS outlines how WHO can support the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and other allied Ministries to drive impact at the country level. The strategy document builds on other key strategic policy documents including India’s National Health Policy 2017, the many pathbreaking initiatives India has introduced — from Ayushman Bharat to its National Viral Hepatitis programme and promotion of digital health amongst others. Also present at the event were Shri. Manoj Jhalani AS&MD (MoHFW), Dr. Balram Bhargav (DG-**ICMR**), Shri. Lav Agrawal (JS, International Health, MoHFW), Mr. Alok Kumar (Director, NITI Aayog), Ms. Payden (Deputy WHO Representative to India), Dr. Roderico Ofrin Director-Programme Management-WHO-SEARO), Dr. Bilali Camara (Country Director, UNAIDS) and heads of other UN bodies.

## [Grand challenge for cancer research announced](#)

09 October 2019 / Down To Earth Magazine

An estimated one million new cases of cancer are reported in India every year. Almost a third of them are preventable cancers. The use of innovative approaches for screening, early diagnosis as well as treatment and palliative care can save many lives. To develop such approaches that are cost effective and affordable, the India Cancer Research Consortium (ICRC) has announced a grand challenge for researchers. Best research ideas will get funding of up to Rs 1.5 crore a year for three years. The grants will be given for ideas in six thematic areas — prevention and epidemiology, diagnostics, therapeutics, palliative care, basic biology and innovation. The objective will be to produce outcomes that are translatable into practice. Those having multidisciplinary collaborative approach will be preferred. ICRC has been floated by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the Department of Health Research to “promote, articulate and prioritize cancer research” in the country. “We have so many research institutions engaged in research in basic biology of cancer. Moreover, research is mostly done in isolation and there is no integration. The idea behind ICRC is to include all aspects of cancer research like prevention, diagnostics, therapeutics, palliative care and innovation along with basic biology, and produce outcomes that can find ready applications,” said Ravi Mehrotra, chief executive officer of ICRC, while speaking to *India Science Wire*.

## [Deaths of Children Under Age 5 Due to Malnutrition Declined Only by 2% in 20 Years](#)

10 October 2019 / The Swaddle

In two decades, the proportion of children under five who died due to malnutrition decreased only by 2%, according to a report by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**. “Malnutrition is a major contributor to disease burden in India,” states the report, which published recently in the journal *The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health*. Per the researchers, who tracked maternal and child malnutrition data from every state in India between 1990 and 2017, malnutrition caused 68% of deaths of children under age 5 during this time period. Malnutrition was also a leading risk factor for poor health across all ages, responsible for about 17% of the collective number of years lost by a population due to ill-health, disability or early death, a metric known as DALYs. The highest rates of malnutrition among women and children were observed in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Rajasthan. All in all, the report stated that although the overall death rate of children under 5 has come down significantly between the years 1990 and 2017, that due to malnutrition declined only by 2%. One of the most prominent markers of continued malnutrition in children is low birth-weight; 21% of children born in 2017 weighed less than they should have at birth. Other markers include child growth failure that is characterized by stunting, wasting (low weight for height) and being underweight.

## [Grand challenge for cancer research announced](#)

10 October 2019 / Indus Dictum

An estimated one million new cases of cancer are reported in India every year. Almost a third of them are preventable cancers. The use of innovative approaches for screening, early diagnosis as well as treatment and palliative care can save many lives. To develop such approaches that are cost effective and affordable, the India Cancer Research Consortium (ICRC) has announced a grand challenge for researchers. Best research ideas will get funding of up to Rs 1.5 crore a year for three years. Given the fact that India has a huge burden of tobacco-related cancers and cancers among women, new ideas should focus on common cancers like tobacco-related, cervical cancer, breast cancer etc. Considering the high incidence and paucity of data on cancers in the North-East, projects from North-East region will be given preference. ICRC has been floated by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the Department of Health Research to “promote, articulate and prioritise cancer research” in the country. “We have so many research institutions engaged in research in basic biology of cancer. Moreover, research is mostly done in isolation and there is no integration. The idea behind ICRC is to include all aspects of cancer research like prevention, diagnostics, therapeutics, palliative care and innovation along with basic biology, and produce outcomes that can find ready applications,” said Dr Ravi Mehrotra, chief executive officer of ICRC, while speaking to India Science Wire.

## **Menace of Malnutrition needs Humane Solution – Smriti Zubin Irani**

10 October 2019 / Odisha Diary

New Delhi: The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani, chaired the 5th National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges today in New Delhi. In her keynote address Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister said that a humane solution has to be developed to tackle the menace of malnutrition in India and for this the economic benefits of investing in nutrition has to be highlighted and propagated. WCD Minister quoted the World Bank Global Nutrition Report – 2018 which says that malnutrition costs India at least USD 10 billion annually in terms of lost productivity, illness and death and is seriously retarding improvements in human development and further reduction of childhood mortality. POSHAN is an exercise for life for all citizens and should not be limited to women and children, she further stated. The 5th National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges was attended by Secretary WCD, Rabindra Panwar, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Swati Singh, WCD Minister, Uttar Pradesh, Mamta Bhupesh, Minister of WCD, Rajasthan and other senior officials from Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Agriculture, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Rural Development, Tribal Affairs, Panchayati Raj, Consumer Affairs and Food, Finance, Human Resource Development, Housing and Urban Affairs, Information and Broadcasting and Environment Forest and Climate Change. The Council was also attended by representatives of **Indian Council of Medical Research**, National Institute of Nutrition, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India, Tata Trust, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and World Bank.

## **Boost egg consumption, handle sustainability issues: IEC Chief**

11 October 2019 / The Hindu BusinessLine

An average Japanese eats 340 eggs per year. The Chinese consume 300 eggs per capita. What's your guess on the per capita consumption of an Indian? According to estimates, the per capita consumption is around 70 eggs per year, with a total production of about 84 billion eggs. The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** recommends at least 180 eggs per head per annum. While the adage "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" was popularised to promote health, attempts are on to encourage consumption of "An egg a day for good health and nutrition". Taking into account the nutritional value of having an egg and the growth of the poultry industry, Suresh Rayudu Chitturi, the newly-elected Chairman of the International Egg Commission (IEC), wants to give a big push for the growth of the sector, keeping in mind the global environmental and sustainability issues. In an interaction with *BusinessLine*, Suresh Chitturi, who took over the post in Copenhagen recently, said his top three priorities would be, one, to expand the IEC membership from the present 80 nations so that more poultry farmers, especially in the developing countries, can participate.

With regards,

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